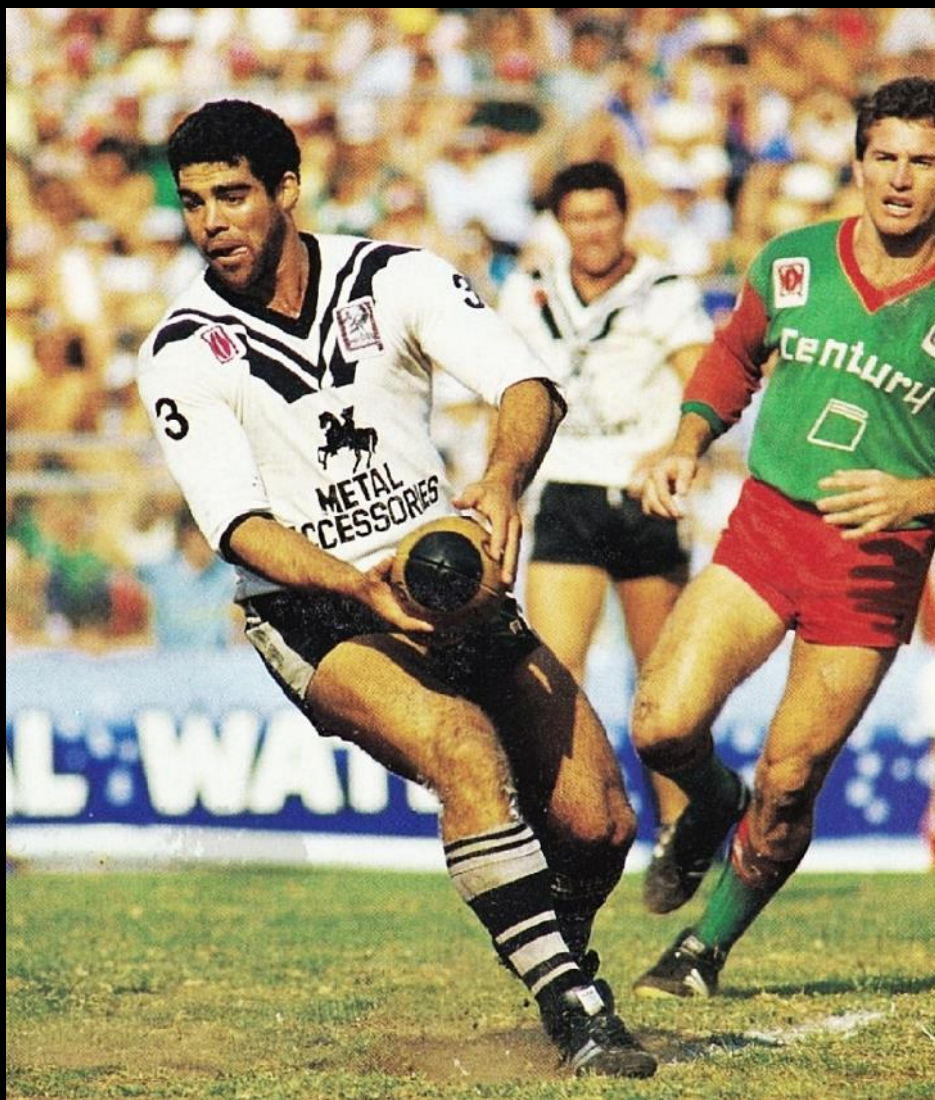




# GLORY GLORY TO THE MAGPIES

A History of Southern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club





## **A MESSAGE FROM SOUTHS CEO, JIM McCLELLAND**

After reflecting on my 40 plus years involvement in the club it is hard to believe the changes I have seen to the park and West End over that period. The change from an industrial footprint on the fringe of the city to a densely populated residential area and a main street that was once a thriving community hub for small business now a café precinct, one of the largest in Brisbane.

In fact when I was a school boy at West End State School our local swimming pool was at Davies Park, a fifty metre pool on the river's edge where the rowing sheds now stand, a large viewing mound where the volleyball courts are now situated, twenty junior sides playing at Davies Park, a cricket pitch in the middle of the number one oval that was so much fun to be tackled on.

Saturday and Sunday, Davies Park was the place to be if you lived in West End and the surrounding suburbs. In those days all the kids played footy and then came back to watch the first grade side do battle with the enemy. Life was much slower then so people would line up at the ground from 10am to grab the best vantage point, with local club footy regularly seeing crowds of seven thousand plus attend the games. In winter Rugby League was the main attraction and if you lived in the area of your local side you knew every player and win, lose or draw your team was the talking point of the community. It was a dream of every young player in West End to one day play for the Black and Whites and the support from the local community was what kept the club going.

With the introduction of the Broncos in 1988 the Brisbane competition really struggled financially and through the lack of publicity and profile that we once enjoyed we quickly saw the demise of our once great competition and the loss of Valleys, Wests and Brothers from the Rugby League landscape, all very proud clubs with such great tradition and history that no longer exists but their contribution to our game should never be forgotten.

The introduction of the State League, which is now the Intrust Super Cup, has breathed a new life into our competition and through the benefit of gaming and dual registration our competition is now seen as the second best competition in the country and through its development pathways a direct stepping stone to the NRL competition.

While our players don't enjoy the profile and the publicity that our competition once offered every player who wears the jersey knows the history and shares the same traditions and passion for this great club that is the Magpies. Players and administrators will always come and go and many will leave their mark. Meninga, Crocker, Veivers, Bath, Bennett, Astill, Testa, Brandon, Larkin, Tyquin and Lyra Lister will always be remembered and acknowledged as part of the story that has been evolving for 105 years and still has many more chapters to be written.

While the current Board acknowledges and respects the great history they are very aware that without a future the past and traditions are lost forever and are working very diligently to secure our long term tenure and financial stability at Davies Park. I believe their vision and efforts will become a major part of the story that is the Magpies for future generations to enjoy Davies Park and what it means to be a Magpie.

I know one thing, the little boy who walked into Davies Park at ten to watch his first game of Footy and went on to wear the jersey so proudly, will strive to ensure that when his watch is over the club will be in the best possible position to continue to provide our young athletes the best opportunity to progress their personal and sporting lives through the Magpies.



## INTRODUCTION

Souths have been near and dear to my heart ever since I started following them as a boy back in 1980. The Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) competition was in its heyday and, while many Queensland players had followed the poker money offered by the Sydney clubs, many Queensland and Australian test players could still be seen each week playing in the Brisbane club competition.

After many years struggling through the 60's and 70's, Souths had become a major force again in the Brisbane Rugby League premiership right across all grades. In the top grade Souths reached the grand final in 6 out of 7 years from 1979 to 1985. We won two epic grand finals in 1981 and 1985 and picked up three reserve grade, three third grade premierships and also won three club championships.

For Souths we had great players like Mal Meninga, Gary Belcher, Peter Jackson, Bob Lindner, Norm Carr going up against Wynnum with "The King" Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Greg Dowling and Colin Scott and then there was Redcliffe with Artie Beetson and Mark Murray and Valleys who had Ross Strudwick and Wally Lewis before his switch to Wynnum. It was a glorious era but it came to a sad conclusion for the Brisbane premiership when the Brisbane Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition in 1988.

Interest and attendances for the Brisbane premiership plummeted much to the disappointment of many diehard fans like myself who grew up on the wonderful BRL competition of the 80's. Souths, always one of the poorer clubs in the competition, has battled on and financially survived on the smell of an oily rag thanks, in large part, to the courageous and long-suffering efforts of our CEO, Jim McClelland. Gradually there has been a resurgence in the club in the same way that the Queensland (Intrust Super) Cup is slowly but surely reviving the interest of league fans seeing the Brisbane clubs battle each other again in the now statewide competition.

Souths are the only foundation club still going after over 100 years of the Brisbane-now-Queensland competition and Souths are still playing out of their original home ground at Davies Park over 100 years after the birth of the Brisbane competition in 1909. It is a very proud and wonderful history that the club has. If we include the 1913 win by West End, Souths (formerly Carlton) have won 11 premierships. Only the now-defunct foundation club Valleys (24) and Norths (12) have won more.

Our latest premiership win was when we won the Queensland Cup in 2008 as the Souths Logan Magpies, which we are now called today. Just like in 1981 when Mick Reardon scored on the last tackle with 30 seconds left on the clock, this win was also after scoring in the last minute of the game. That premiership was made possible with the help and support of an NRL affiliation with the Canberra Raiders.

Before the inaugural Men of League Heritage Round in 2012 we felt at the club that it would be great to have available a compact history of the club for our fans along the lines of Easts more comprehensive history of their club and following on from that, I volunteered to take on this project. We hope that our fans enjoy this trip down memory lane as we look to honour those who went before us and made the club the great one that it is today.

The glory years of the 80's were a more recent chapter of the story of Souths. In this book we will go right back to trace the early beginnings of the club, the successes of the club when it was known as Carlton (Lions), the glory years of the 40's and 50's and the tough years of the 60's and 70's. We'll relive the glories of the 80's and then cover the story of the club in this post-Broncos era.

There are challenges ahead and financially the club is not out of the woods just yet. That said, there is some great promise ahead if things go our way. The establishment of the Australian Rugby League Commission is a big step forward for the game. Its first chairman is John Grant, a member of Souths Team of the Century. Recent TV deals have seen a large increase in money available to fund the game of which more will hopefully flow down to our statewide competition and its clubs. The hope is that a salary cap will be introduced for the Queensland Cup and that all clubs in the competition will receive a grant the equivalent to the salary cap, similar to the grant that is given to each NRL club.

The competition is now being televised live on Sunday afternoons by Channel 9 & GEM which is a great boost that will increase the number of people who watch the competition. Additionally, it could be a real help to boost attendances for the Queensland Cup if the QRL were able to advertise the local Brisbane games each week during the Broncos game and Intrust Super (Queensland) Cup telecast.

In 2014 an annual playoff between the winners of both the Queensland Cup and NSW Cup was introduced as the main curtain raiser to the NRL Grand Final. Additionally, I would personally love to see another short competition at the start of the season like the old Amco Cup which would have four pools of teams from the QLD and NSW statewide competitions plus WA, SA, VIC, NT and PNG and representative NSW and QLD country teams from areas not represented in the statewide competitions.

## INTRODUCTION

Like the old Woolies pre-season competition it could be played at the same time with the same number of rounds. Those four rounds could be followed by semi-finals involving the top teams from each of the four pools and then the final. Like the old State League, it could help develop additional areas right across Australia (and even the Pacific) not currently involved in the statewide competitions just like the State League did for QLD country areas.

Jim has some wonderful plans for the club that are in with the government that he may open up about later down the track. As Davies Park is a leasehold property they require government approval and government funding which may take many years to come about. The upgrade in these plans is an even more dramatic one than the wonderful recent upgrades we've seen to the Souths clubhouse. It would be great to also see a ground with facilities up to Queensland Cup standard in the Logan area in the future so the option is there for the club to take games down to the Logan area where a large percentage of Magpies fans and supporters live.

There is great promise ahead and the club greatly appreciates the support of its fans as it forges ahead in the 21st century. We hope that you enjoy this trip down memory lane and ask that you please share your support and love for the club with your family and friends and encourage them to come along to more of our games. If anyone has photos, stories, corrections and other helpful information that is worth including in future updates to this book please email me at the address below.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the following people who helped make this history of Souths available for our fans. Firstly, former Souths president, Barry Larkin, for providing various pieces of historical information and photos. Former Souths players Mick Crocker, Frank Drake and Don Cory also provided many helpful historical insights.

I would like to thank Joan Baillie for preserving much of the club's history with her scrapbook collection and good friend, Paul Hayes, who supplied a number of photos in the book. Other photos were sourced from the State Library, Courier Mail and Action Photographics who I'd like to thank for allowing me to use a number of their photos.



## THE EARLY YEARS

The Queensland Rugby Football League (originally known as the Queensland Rugby Association) was formed in February 1908 by seven rugby players who were dissatisfied with the administration of the Queensland Rugby Union, particularly the lack of compensation given for loss of income from injuries, in a meeting held on the corner of Queen and Edward Streets where the Commonwealth Bank building stands today.

The new organisation adopted the rules of the Northern Union (which broke away from rugby union in 1895) played in North England as it was believed by them that it was the most attractive form of rugby. Two years earlier in 1906 the Northern Union had introduced two laws which would become the most two distinguishing features between rugby league and rugby union - the play the ball after each tackle and the reduction of players from 15 down to 13 per team.

Some other changes to the rugby rules made by the Northern Union in these early years included dropping the value of penalty and field goals and conversions all down to 2 points (1897), line-outs were replaced with a scrum or a punt-out, which was like a soccer throw-in but kicked in (1897), punt-outs were then scrapped (1902) and a scrum would be formed from where the ball was kicked if it went out on the full (1906).

In these early days the major difference in play between then and rugby league today was that there were unlimited tackles. Unlimited tackles each time that a team had the ball was a feature of the game right up until 1967 when four tackles per set was introduced. This was changed in 1971 when it was increased to the current six tackles, the same year field goals were also reduced from 2 points to 1 point. Tries initially were worth 3 points and weren't increased to 4 points until 1983.

When the details of the formation of rugby league in Queensland were released in the local media a month after the original meeting a series of representative games were scheduled that included games by Queensland against New Zealand, Maoris and NSW as well as a test series between Australia and New Zealand. There was a gradual movement of players from rugby union across to rugby league, enough to compose a representative team from Queensland but not enough in that initial season for a club competition.

The South Brisbane club was formed in March 1909. There is some confusion over the colours worn by South Brisbane. In 1910 we see them wearing the maroon and beige jersey (though quoted in newspaper sources as red and white) as seen in the photo to the right. This same jersey with maroon and beige horizontal stripes was the same jersey worn by Carlton, the successor to South Brisbane.

The club also has a photo of South Brisbane wearing a sky blue jersey and match reports that occasionally quote the colours in the first years quote the colours as sky blue.

One possible theory is that the sky blue was worn in 1909 only and a change was motivated by a desire to show their support for Queensland and not have the same colours as the men from NSW.

In 1909, the Brisbane club competition officially began on May 8 with a double header involving the four foundation clubs of South Brisbane, Valley, North Brisbane and Toombul at the Brisbane Cricket Ground attended by a modest crowd of about 800.

W. Evans scored two tries as North Brisbane beat Toombul 8-0. South Brisbane then played Valley in the second match of the double header.

South Brisbane won its first ever game beating Valley 12 to 2. The honour of scoring the club's first try went to second rower I. Boyd. Three more unconverted tries were scored by South Brisbane. They were scored by five-eighth, F. Sewell, centre, D. Hazleton and hooker, J. Ellis.

That pioneer team for the South Brisbane club that day was the following:



## THE EARLY YEARS

### SOUTH BRISBANE:

1. J.Rowe, 2. G.Rousell, 3. D.Hazleton, 4. A.Richards, 5. A.Dreveson, 6. E.Sewell, 7. H. Nicholson 8. E.Wise, 9. I.Boyd, 10. I.Hewitt, 11. W.White, 12. J.Ellis, 13. V.Anderson

South Brisbane won its first semi-final that year defeating North Brisbane 21 to 11.

South Brisbane made the grand final that year and faced off against Valley. Though they beat Valley in that first game, Valley would go on to become the first premiers of the new competition by defeating South Brisbane 23 to 4. Second rower, H. Brackenrigg, scored the only points for South Brisbane kicking two penalty goals. According to one source it is claimed that originally Valleys weren't the Diehards but were called the Valleys Vampires.

In 1910 a second team based at Davies Park was formed called West End. This second team played in an all black jersey and competed from 1910 to 1922 alongside of South Brisbane which changed its name to Carlton in 1919.

Also briefly representing the South Brisbane area in the pre World War I days was a team called Natives which was based at Musgrave Park (though called Natives this team wasn't an Aboriginal team). Three other briefly appearing local teams were Souths United, Woolloongabba and Kurilpa.

In 1912 Natives played South Brisbane in the grand final with Natives beating South Brisbane by 10-0.

In 1913 West End played Natives in the grand final. This time West End defeated Natives in a low scoring grand final 5 to 2. While Souths traces its lineage through Carlton and then South Brisbane before that, we officially recognise this as the first of the club's premierships as West End both played out of Davies Park and represented the same district.

### THE RUGBY LEAGUE

#### OPENING OF THE SEASON.

The Queensland Rugby League opened their fixtures on the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Saturday, when there was a fair attendance of spectators. The Brisbane Concert Band was present, and played throughout the afternoon.

#### NORTH BRISBANE v. TOOMBUL

The first match of the afternoon was between the two senior teams of the North Brisbane and Toombul Clubs.

During the earlier portion of the game, the play was very even, and the ball was kept close to the half-way line. As the match progressed, however, it worked up and down the field. After several minutes play, the North Brisbane men forced their way through, and after a perilous run, Evans got over near the side line. P. Dwyer goal, North Brisbane 5, Toombul 0. Shortly afterwards, Evans again scored in almost the same spot as before, after a run of almost the whole width of the field. Dwyer failed to goal. North Brisbane 8, Toombul 0. This was the closing score.

#### VALLEY v. SOUTH BRISBANE

The second match was between the First Grade Senior Valley and South Brisbane teams.

The ball within a few minutes of the commencement of play was taken down to South's line, but saved, and a little later the performance was repeated. The game then continued uneventful except for some good passing by the South Brisbane backs.

A sharp run led to a score by Boyd. Afterwards Sewell got away and crossed the line, but Boyd did not succeed in converting. South Brisbane 6 points, Valley 0. A penalty awarded to Valley yielded a score, Cartmill, making a fair kick from almost half way. South Brisbane 6 points, Valley 2 points. The count was further altered by Hazelton, who made a dash from the 25 line and added three points for South Brisbane. Another short and sharp bout of ruck work ended in Ellis crossing, but the attempt at goal was again a failure, making the score: South Brisbane 12 points, Valley 2 points. This was the concluding score.

## 1913 Premiership





## THE EARLY YEARS

### THE LEAGUE GAME.

#### WEST END WINS THE PREMIERSHIP

The League premiership fixtures were continued on Saturday afternoon at the Brisbane Cricket Ground, when West End beat Natives, and secured the premiership.

##### NATIVES v. WEST END.

The teams were:—West End (All Black).—Full back, J. Murphy; three-quarters, T. Freese, E. Rose, J. Sargood, R. Young; five-eighth, C. Wilson (capt.); half back, J. Hyland; forwards, V. Bunting, A. Hoolahan, D. Harrower, E. Howard, T. Callaghan, T. Dean.

Natives (Red and Green).—Full back, J. Ellis; three-quarters, L. Barnes, G. Cavanagh, W. Lynch, T. Heally; five-eighth, R. Hickey; half back, E. Casey; forwards, T. Kruck, E. Barnes, P. Dwyer, F. Downie, D. Harvey, A. Mullins.

Referee, Mr. C. Turner.

Natives kicked off, and the game was fast from the outset. Hoolahan broke through a ruck, but failed to play the ball, and Downie kicked a fine goal from the free kick. Natives 2 to nil. Sargood passed to Freese, to Hyland, who kicked. Murphy took the return, and made a fine run before passing to Young, who was forced out by three men when within an ace of scoring. Both teams pressed in turn, and much excitement prevailed. Half time came with the scores unaltered.

Natives attacked on resuming, and P. Dwyer figured in a fine piece of dribbling. Barnes came out of a ruck, and kicked. Cavanagh followed and kicked past Murphy, and Natives were almost in. A unanimous appeal for a free from Wests saw Natives penalised, and Sargood found

the line on the other side of half way. Hyland beat a number of men and sent to Young, who jumped over Ellis's hands, but was brought down. Then the position was changed entirely. Lynch broke away, and a score seemed imminent. Lynch sent to Heally, who was stopped by Freese, and Harrower, snapping up, sent a long kick up field, and saved his side from what looked a certain try. Wests attacked, and took play into Natives' "25," but were soon repulsed. Dwyer and Harvey dribbled over the line, but Young kicked out of touch, and saved his side. Rose hustled past Heally and Lynch, and was within a yard of the line when he was brought down. In the ensuing scramble he secured, and crossed the line. Sargood goaled. Wests, 5 to 2. Rose attempted to goal from a mark, and, the line umpires disagreeing, Referee Turner ruled no goal. Heally broke through and got to within a few feet of the line when he was grazed. He threw the ball out, and a Natives' man, picking up, sent to R. Hickey, who went across, but the referee brought them back to a five yards scrum. A long, hard struggle ensued on Wests' line, but the Westerners eventually forced them back. Natives again attacked, and Casey sent to Lynch, to Cavanagh, who was thrown out on the corner flag. Howard broke away, and sent to Young, who kicked. A great race ensued between Hickey, Barnes, and Wilson, and though all arrived simultaneously, Barnes touched down and saved. Full time sounded a moment later, and West End had won the match and premiership by 5 to 2.

In 1914 Valleys defeated West End in the grand final 18 to 8. There was heated dispute over whether sporting bodies should play games during World War I. Rugby Union chose to not play games while the ANZACs were fighting the war while Rugby League chose to still provide games for the public. During World War II this decision was justified from the point of view of keeping up the fitness of the players. These decisions saw Rugby League outstrip Rugby Union as the more popular game in Queensland and NSW and the code has maintained that dominance ever since. That said, there was a competitive hiatus for both South Brisbane and West End. Only West End competed in 1915 and neither team played between 1916 and 1918.

Following their return to the competition in 1919 the South Brisbane club changed its name to Carlton. According to Mick Crocker, who played for Souths in the 40's and 50's, the name Carlton comes from that name being used for the locality in and around West End, much like Stones Corner is a locality but technically is not a suburb of Brisbane. Former player, Don Cory, recalls a prominent hotel in the area during his Souths days called the Carlton (there was one with this name in the City) that was possibly a remnant of when the name was being used for the area.

In their first year as Carlton (1919) they played West End in one of the semi-finals defeating them 14 to 9. Coorparoo defeated Carlton 16 to 9 in the final but Coorparoo were challenged by Valleys, the minor premiers who were knocked out in the other semi-final. Valleys then won that grand final challenge 28 to 2 to take out the premiership.



## THE EARLY YEARS

### 1921 Premiership

#### Football.

#### RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERS.

CARLTON WIN BY TWO POINTS

Despite the rain, a good crowd turned up at Davies Park last Saturday to view the Rugby League senior grand challenge final between Coorparoo and Carlton. Both teams played good games, Coorparoo retaining the lead until close on the final whistle, when Carlton turned the tables with a converted try. The opening match between teams from the Leagues' Association and the Junior Management Committee resulted in a win for the former by two points to nil. The next match was for the third grade premiership. The contestants were the Blue Stars and Nundah. At half-time Stars were leading by 3 points to nil, and the full-time scores showed that Stars had won the premiership by 6 points to 2.

#### COORPAROO v. CARLTON.

The teams took the field as follows:- Coorparoo (yellow and black): Full-back, J. Vinson; three-quarters, P. Williams, T. Sturgess, C. Thorogood, W. Ehlers; halves, J. Holbrow, J. Kennedy; forwards, J. Jennings, J. Henderson, P. Hess, H. Barnett, J. Rinaldi, H. Jacques.

Carlton (red and white): Full-back, R. Silverton; three-quarters, H. Brown, T. Brown, G. Stallard, P. Fitzgerald; halves, T. Bath, F. Hecare; forwards, J. Corkery, J. Sigley, J. Paddell, P. Menzies, P. Ivo, N. Doherty.

Before Mr. L. H. Kearney, referee, Carlton pushed the attack from the opening whistle, and Coorparoo were forced to defend strenuously. Some fine movements were unopposed by both sides. Both full-backs, Vinson and Silverton, were playing great games. Williams went off, and his place in the Coorparoo three-quarter line was taken by Abel. From a scrum at half-way, Abel received and passed to Thorogood, who passed out to Holbrow. Holbrow got as far as the Carlton 25 line, when he sent to Ehlers, who, however, lost it. Vinson snapped up and passed to Ehlers, Ehlers dodged across from the wing to the centre. His pass was intercepted by Stallard, who was offside, and, with the resultant free kick at Carlton's 25, Thorogood hoisted Coorparoo's first score. Coorparoo, 2; Carlton, nil. A fine movement on the part of the Carlton team was spoiled by a forward pass. Bath broke through and passed to Doherty, who carried the ball to within a few yards of the posts. Then he passed to Stallard. It was forward, and a scrum was ordered. A free was awarded to Carlton and Stallard hoisted the flag. Coorparoo 3, Carlton 2. From a scrum in the Coorparoo territory Abel secured and passed to Thorogood. T. Brown intercepted and ran ahead. On being stopped he kicked towards the corner. H. Brown had meanwhile run on, and he snapped up the ball and went across in good fashion. Stallard failed to convert. Carlton 3, Coorparoo 2. Then Carlton attack had reached the opposing 25 line, when Ehlers picked up and broke through. He kicked ahead and Silverton stopped the ball. Thorogood, however, had followed up and tackled Silverton near the line forced him out of touch. From the scrum which followed Hess secured and pushed his way across. Ehlers annexed the extra. Coorparoo 7, Carlton 5. What looked

like a certain score by Coorparoo was stopped by Kelly, who had taken that's place as Carlton's half-back. Thorogood kicked ahead when he was about at the opposing 25. Ehlers gathered, but lost when he was crossing the line. Kelly raced across and touched down. Just before half-time, Coorparoo again scored. Sturgess kicked ahead, and Rinaldi, coming up with the ball, punted it across Ehlers touched down, but later failed to convert. Coorparoo 10, Carlton 5.

The second half opened with a determined attack by Coorparoo, in which Thorogood, Abel, and Holbrow were prominent. Play swung from one end of the field to the other, and a fair number of penalties occurred. During even play Hess caused some intense excitement by a fine run, which somewhat relieved the pressure on his side. Kelly picked up at about half way, however, and centred to Corkery. Corkery passed to Menzies, who almost reached the line, when he was grasped. Abel gathered from the scrum and eased the position by kicking well down field. The Carlton attack had again reached the Coorparoo 25 line, when Rinaldi was ruled offside, and Kelly put the ball between the uprights, thus bringing the Carlton score to within three points of Coorparoo's. Coorparoo 10, Carlton 7. Amid clamorous harracking the ball was again set in motion, and the Coorparoo forwards, with a rush carried it as far as the opposing 25. Carlton rallied and transferred play to the other half of the field. Thorogood, with a fine kick, found touch at the red and white 25, which performance was repeated a short time later by Ehlers. Several free-kicks awarded to Carlton did not result in any addition to their score. Play became rather loose and gradually came well into Coorparoo territory. Kelly snapped up a kick from Thorogood and went across, later converting on his own behalf. The crowd was transformed into a horde of yelling derbies when the board was changed to: Carlton 12, Coorparoo 10. Determined to retrieve their lost lead, Coorparoo rushed to the attack. Carlton were just as resolute in their defence, and consequently the game to the end was fast and hard. Stallard and Kelly put in some good work, but it was not long before a scrum was ordered uncomfortably near the home line. Carlton were penalised and Thorogood took the ball. Coorparoo needed two points to bring them level with Carlton, and supporters of the former plucked up hope, for the kick was to be taken from a good position. It failed, however, and in an indescribable upturn Referee Kearney sounded the final whistle, which incidentally signalled the annexing of the 1921 premiership by the Carlton team.

Up until 1933 there was a different finals system to the one that was the dominant system in the pre-Broncos BRL competition. There was no preliminary final played between the winner of the minor semi-final and the loser of the major semi-final. There would just be two semi finals and the winners would meet in the final.

If the minor premiers won the final they would become the premiers. If the minor premiers were beaten in either of the semi-finals or the final then they could challenge the winners of the final to see who became the premiers. If you won the final but you weren't the minor premiers you would have to win again the next week against the minor premiers to become the premiers.

In this period Carlton won the premiership three times in 1921, 1925 and 1930. All three grand finals were actually played at Davies Park where Carlton enjoyed the home advantage.

In 1921 they were beaten in the final by Coorparoo 24 to 18 but as minor premiers challenged Coorparoo to a re-match and won the grand final challenge in a narrow game 12 to 10.

In 1925 Carlton beat Brothers 10 to 0 in the final and then were challenged by minor premiers Coorparoo who were knocked out in the semis. They sustained the challenge and Carlton beat Coorparoo 26 to 5 to win their second premiership.

In 1930 Carlton were beaten in the final by Valleys 10 to 0 but as minor premiers challenged Valleys to a re-match and won the grand final challenge 19 to 8.

It was a sensational decade for the Carlton club (whose emblem was the Lion) winning three premierships in 10 years.

In the 1921 season Carlton finished as minor premiers and, as mentioned above, were beaten in the final but challenged Coorparoo in the re-match. Coorparoo went into half time of that challenge final leading 10-5. Carlton kicked a penalty goal to bring it back to 10-7 and then a converted try close to full time by replacement Kelly saw Carlton sneak ahead 12-10 to win the challenge game and win the premiership.

To the right is a picture of a Carlton jersey that was donated to the club that was worn by second rower (No. 9), Harold Meston, when he played for Carlton in 1923. In the centenary year (2008) all we knew about the colours of Carlton was that they were reported in newspapers as red and white but, as you can see on the right, the red was maroon and white was really beige.

What struck me when I was holding it here on the right is just how small it was. The average height of people back then was somewhat smaller than today. For the first Kanagaroo tours the average weight of the forwards was 85 kg. The average weight of backs today is over 90 kg and forwards average just over 100 kg.

On the next pages are the team photos and grand final reports of the next two premierships wins in 1925 and 1930. They did it the hard way in 1925 beating Brothers 10-0 and then sustaining a challenge from minor premiers, Coorparoo, beating them handsomely 26 to 5.

Their defence was excellent only conceding one try in the two finals. Their forwards dominated with great driving runs to complement their excellent defence.





## THE EARLY YEARS

Carlton Football Club, 1921.  
COMBINED TEAM.



SIDNEY RILEY.

246 QUEEN ST., BRISBANE.

BACK ROW—V. Fraser, P. Hammond, J. Sigley, H. Brown, A. Drysdale, T. Ryan (Asst. Hon. Sec.), H. Cavanagh, T. Carley, W. Cavanagh, T. Brown, F. Morrison.  
SECOND ROW—V. Drysdale, E. Brennan, B. Kelly, F. Wilson, S. Cavanagh, G. Adams, F. Purcell, S. Dwyer, J. Cavanagh, C. Dwan, A. McCallum.  
THIRD ROW—H. Petrie, W. Pagan, V.P. O'Donoghue, L. O'Donoghue, O. O'Brien (V.P.), P. Moran, I. Martin (V.P.), F. Byrne, I. Crothers, I. V. Sigley (Hon. Treas.), J. Orlando, S. Dwan.  
FOURTH ROW—G. Currie, V. Brown, F. Lys, G. Statham, J. P. O'Brien, F. McManis, F. Silvester, N. Roberts, R. Allen, L. Cavanagh, J. Jordan.  
FIFTH ROW—B. Hoare, L. A. Cole (Hon. Sec.), S. Kelly, Rev. Father Barry (Patron), F. Hoare, P. W. Moran, P. Hoare, M. J. Keweenaw, M.L.A. (V.P.), T. Bath, T. Winstons (V.P.), F. Fitzgerald.  
In Front—W. Leck, "The McGuire Shield," J. Carroll.

**Below:** A bi-plane flies over Davies Park as it looked during its days of being a speedway between 1925 and 1932.





## THE EARLY YEARS

### 1925 Premiership

#### RUGBY SEASON ENDS.

#### CARLTONS' FINE FINISH

#### PREMIERS AND JENSEN SHIELD HOLDERS.

By "BEDCAP."

By 26 points (six tries and four goals) to 5 (one try and a goal) Carltons whipped Coorparoo in the challenge final for the Brisbane Rugby League premiership and Jensen Shield on Saturday at Davies Park. Six thousand people saw the challengers outclassed back and forward, Carltons' display being so convincing that they left an impression of being true premiers, even despite the fact that Coorparoo were not at full strength. At no stage of a very dull struggle did Coorparoo reveal that sparkle which has made them the most popular side in the season's competition, and Carltons, mainly because of their closing up of the game and their better condition, battered the opposition to a standstill. It was a surprising ending to a season of surprises in club, inter-city, and interstate and international football.

Carltons' performance in winning the League premiership and the Jensen Shield was like the feat of Maunfred in the Derby. They were "left at the post" by their scrappy displays in the earlier part of the season, but they struggled to the semi-finals, and came right through the field, and won magnificently by a "long head." Though not true premiers in the matter of points, for they lost six games, where Western Suburbs lost but four and Coorparoo and Brothers lost five, Carltons' form in the last three games has been so good that even had the other clubs been at full strength it is doubtful if the position would have been altered. They employed such effective "after-lunching" methods at the finish that they would have stopped any combination that has been seen in Brisbane club football this season. Their performance, when the crowd felt inclined to regard their victories over Western Suburbs and Past Brothers as accidental flashes, brought a reminder of a familiar Goldsmithian phrase.

#### ENTHUSIASM WAS MISSING.

The game was not productive of any demonstration of enthusiasm from the on-lookers. Three factors accounted for this, namely, (1) the absence of the spectacular, (2) the one-sidedness of the struggle, and (3) the lack of a strong district interest. Football lovers look for something more in a final than they received at Davies Park on Saturday. There was a thud about the proceedings that made patrons glad that the season had come to an end. This should not be. The final should be the climax of the season's enthusiasm, leaving a tinge of regret that the season has ended; but the crowd left the ground disappointed and saddened that they had not been transported into raptures over the game and some illusive sentiment about it. It was a very good crowd, but it was like a big grate without a fire in it. It must soon dawn upon the League managers that there is wanted something to fire their patrons with enthusiasm. The game is spectacular enough to attract huge crowds in the inter-city and interstate matches, but there is an abnormal shrinkage in the patronage of club games. It is evident that the missing sentiment which would have made Saturday's final a very boisterous affair, despite the one-sidedness and the absence of the spectacular, is the district system. In Melbourne the remarkable public support that is given to the Australian game is due to the district system. This district following is so powerful that attendance which would be regarded as phenomenal even in interstate matches are commonplace in club duels. There is no other reason why there were not 20,000 people at Davies Park to watch the Rugby League final except the absence of district football. It is a singular thing that over a period of nearly 15 years there have been very little increase in the gate takings at premiership finals. The Brisbane Rugby League will never gather much more while it remains knee deep in the bog of the system which leaves the patronage of the game mainly confined to the camp followers with the great army of the public as much interested in the fortunes of miscellaneous clubs as they would be in a street riot in Hongkong. The absence of popular enthusiasm in Saturday's final was the best plea that has yet been made in support of a change from the club to the district system.



The victorious Carltons team which won the Jensen Shield on Saturday by defeating their challengers, Coorparoo.

#### HOW CARLTONS WON.

So successful were Carltons with their "bottling-up" tactics against Past Brothers that they saw no reason to adopt anything different against Coorparoo. Their forwards took possession of the game right from the start, and they made it so hot that the challengers were rarely allowed to cross the halfway mark. Whenever any attempt was made to despatch the ball to Horder and the wings the Carlton raiders moved up quickly, and tackled solidly. Upon the ball being played, they would conduct rucking operations, and before the weight and force of these drives the opposition retreated sulkily. Had there been any evenness about the scrummage possessions, Carltons would have registered more than 11 to nil at the interval, but Coorparoo, mainly by superior raking, checkmated the progress made by the Carlton forwards. Horder was so well watched that he was unable to get moving, but even without his opportunism much could have been achieved by the other backs but for the lack of variety in their tactics. It is difficult to understand why, when steady methods of attack had failed, Horder did not take the stand-off half position, a change which brought much success to Brisbane against Ipswich. Had not this succeeded, a shift to the wing could have been experimented with.

#### FAULTY TACTICS.

The tactics of the inside backs was also calculated to assist Carltons. When the ball was coming slowly away from the scrum, and it was seen that the back line made so little headway, a short kick to the blank spaces by the half would have kept Carltons guessing, but they were no more required to guess than a bullock plodding along a bush track is required to guess. It is true that Did did try the short kick several times when he saw that Horder could not get into his stride, but he kicked without judgment, and instead of lobbing his shots short between the fullback and the other line to enable the breaking forwards to raid, he allowed Silvertown time to gather, and play havoc with good line kicks.

The sum-total of numerous Coorparoo back passing bouts was that little ground was gathered from the scrums to the touchline. A winger of the Arsenal or Spheer type would have tried smartly to beat the opposite winger, short-kicked or inflected the pass when threatened with a tackle, but both Coorparoo wingers were weak, and generally succumbed to the defenders. Coorparoo made the mistake of playing Brown on the wing after he had been exhausted by playing B Senior. Coorparoo to win their final. Brown was a weak link, but could not be blamed unless the circumstances. When it was seen that he was not equal to the task, Kavanagh was tried in the late stages of the game, and shaped very badly.

#### CARLTONS' FORWARDS.

Carltons depended upon forward drives to win them the game, and they were very successful in this. The backs were sound without being clever, and were

just content to tackle hard and stop the men opposite them from scoring, rather than to attempt any daring raids themselves. So it was that the battle was always kept to the forwards, and the Carlton six were always up smartly, hungry for work. A better display of hard following, rucking, and tackling has not been presented by any club in this season's games than that given by them in this final. Their condition was so good that they were always up with the ball, with several of them over when Coorparoo players were straggling listless at other parts of the field. At the final stages they were too much for the wind-blown opposition, and when Horder was the only man who was handy enough to have offered a resistance for the last try, he was too tired to bother, the rest of the Coorparoo players being at the other end of the ground, and the vanguard of the victors making four over when the try was scored.

#### PERSONAL POINTS.

Kavanagh was again the best player on the field, the quickness with which he tracked the ball being the feature. Three or four times when Coorparoo saved he was always first up. Fast following is the secret of great forward play.

Salmon, who scored ten points, was in great fettle. He was one of the fastest of the vanguard and his display was very little below that of Kavanagh's. Price, Cranston, Jaws, and Ryan played splendidly in every department of the game.

E. Silvertown gave another superb exhibition at full back, and was always a thorn. J. Morahan and H. Stewart were the ablet of other backs, all of whom performed solidly. J. Morahan scored the best try of the game by racing up to Horder, and short-kicking to regather and score behind the posts. Next season may see him develop into an exceptionally fine back.

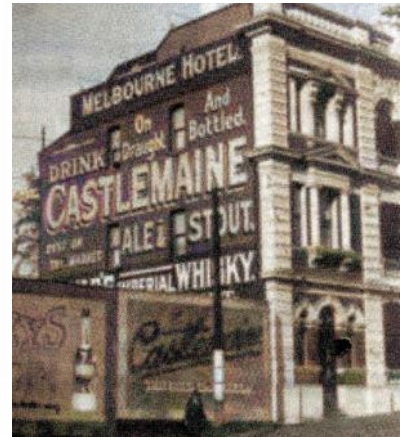
W. Thomson was again the best player on the Coorparoo side. His tackling and clearing were high class. He is a very versatile player, and should be heard of again. A. Jevons, W. Kennedy, and S. Kapper impressed among the forwards.

#### PREMIERSHIP HOLDERS.

Carltons have now won the League premiership twice. Their first success was in 1921. Following is the list of premiership holders since the commencement of League competitions:—

- 1900.—Valley.
- 1910.—Ipswich District Club.
- 1911.—Valley-Toombul.
- 1912.—Natives.
- 1913.—West End.
- 1914.—Valley.
- 1915.—Valley.
- 1916.—Western Suburbs.
- 1917.—Valley.
- 1918.—Valley.
- 1919.—Valley.
- 1920.—Western Suburbs.
- 1921.—Carltons.
- 1922.—Western Suburbs.
- 1923.—Coorparoo.
- 1924.—Valleys.
- 1925.—Carltons.

For the winners Morahan (5), Kelly, Salmon (2), and Kavanagh scored tries, and Porter (2), and Salmon (2), kicked goals. For Coorparoo, Sellars scored, and Horder goal.



Above: The Melbourne Hotel as it looked in these early years.

Below: A Carlton team photo (year unknown).

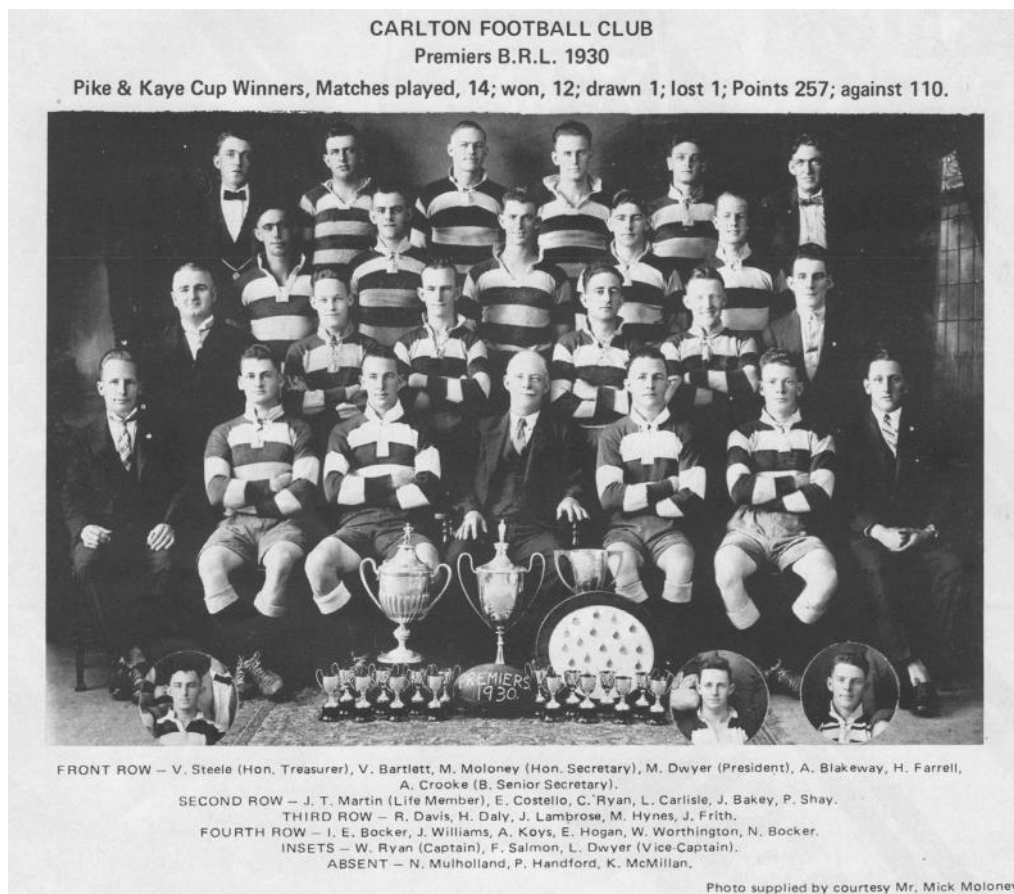


#### Did you know?

Carltons three grand final wins (1921, 1925 & 1930) were all played at Davies Park.



## THE EARLY YEARS





## THE EARLY YEARS

### 1930 Premiership

THE SUNDAY MAIL, BRISBANE, AUGUST 17, 1930.

## CARLTON PROVE TO BE CHAMPIONS OF RUGBY LEAGUE

### FINAL DEFEAT AVENGED

### Carlton Sustain Challenge

VALLEY BEATEN BY 19 TO 8

### Brothers' Success in Cup

Carlton, after suffering defeat by Valley in the final of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership, exercised their right of challenge at Davies Park on Saturday in the grand final, and completely turned the tables on their conquerors. By a brilliant and clever all-round display, they won the championship of the 1930 season by 19 points to 8.

They were vastly superior to the royal blues in every phase of the handling code, except raking, but the loss of the ball from the majority of the scrummages only helped to demonstrate their outstanding class from the fewer opportunities.

#### FORM UPSET.

	T.	G.	Pla.
Carlton .. .. .	5	2	19
Valley .. .. .	2	1	8

For the winners tries were scored by Frith (2), Stewart, Hogan and Worthington. Ryan and Hogan each converted one. For Valley tries were scored by Gilbert and Neuman. Shields converted one.

**CARLTON** (red and white).—Full-back, K. McMillan; three-quarters, J. Frith, H. Stewart, E. Hogan, W. Worthington; stand-off half, L. Dwyer; half-back, E. Costello; forwards, R. Davis, A. Blakeway, N. Mulholland, W. Ryan (captain), F. Salmon, J. Williams.

**VALLEY** (royal blue).—Full-back, M. Valentine (retired hurt, replaced by A. Clarken); three-quarters, R. Boxall, A. Donovan (captain), F. Neuman, J. Shields; stand-off half, D. Bird; half-back, P. Scott; forwards, A. Locke, J. Little, E. Robson, T. Lunnaine, N. Gilbert, W. Little.

Referee, Mr. A. Matzdorf; touch judges, Messrs. M. O'Connor and J. Quinlan.

When Carlton failed in the final prior to the playing of the inter-State and international fixtures it was suggested that they had gone stale after so long maintaining high class form at the top of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership table. This idea was rudely shattered in this game, as they got on top after 28 minutes' play, led by 11 points to five at the interval, and after countering a period of assertiveness by Valley, early in the second half, went on to win in fine style.

Their football was so vastly superior to that of the opposition that had not the scrummage favours greatly aided the royal blues there is no telling to what point Carlton's score might have soared to. Even with the limited opportunities they ran rings round the Valley men and were superior to them in loose forward play, and all phases of attacking combination and defence behind the scrummage.

#### CLEVER CONNECTING LINKS.

In a setting which contained hardly a weak unit there were a number of giants for Carlton. The most outstanding of these were Costello, Dwyer, Hogan, Stewart and Blakeway. Pride of place must be given to Costello, the half-back. On this form he is the hippest and brainiest scrummage worker in metropolitan football. Dashing and artful on the move, he was always constructing play for his fellows to build upon. His lead-up play in the try scored by Hogan early in the match, was as dainty a piece of attacking as one has seen from a half-back this season. Dwyer and Hogan were great in support of Costello's efforts. Both in attack and defence they did everything asked of them. Stewart was not quite so distinguished, but, nevertheless, he was a factor in the side's success. There was no forward on the ground the equal of Blakeway. His tackling from the followous was the most picturesque defensive feature of the match.



**WELL STOPPED.**—Donovan, the Valley captain, is well stopped by the Carlton forwards, Ryan and Williams, in the Brisbane Rugby League's Grand Challenge Final at Davies Park on Saturday, when Carlton defeated their old rivals 19-8.

Valley had a bad day, and to cap their poor showing they showed questionable tactics in introducing Gilbert to the three-quarter line and sending their most constructive player (Donovan) to the full-back position. After Valentine retired hurt and the side should have substituted a utility player capable of filling the custodian position, instead of a forward such as Clarken. It was a bad move and was aggravated in the second half when the whole back line was changed.

Hard, even play featured the first 15 minutes' play, and then Costello, fielding a clearance kick by a Valley defender, shot diagonally for the corner, and outpacing the defence, sent Hogan over, to score in the corner. Ryan missed the goal. Carlton, three points to nil.

Valley moved assertively in response, and Shields, making a fine dash, opened up for Gilbert, who came up in support, to score. Shields, from a difficult angle, goaled, and Valley led by five points to three after 18 minutes' play.

#### CARLTON ON TOP.

From a scrummage at half way Costello came away smartly to serve Dwyer, and then on to Hogan, who made a great opening for Stewart to score. Ryan goaled. Carlton in front eight points to five after 28 minutes' play.

Carlton, playing with great heart again, stormed Valley's citadel. From a fumble by Neuman, Stewart came through at the 25 to boot the ball towards the corner, where Frith dashed down on it to gather and score. Ryan failed from a difficult angle. Carlton 11 points to five. These were the scores at half-time.

Carlton again got on top, and within two minutes of resuming had added to their score. Dwyer broke through and carried play to the 25. Hereabouts Davis joined in and kicked it out for Worthington, the winger, to snap up and race over. Ryan failed at goal. Carlton 14 points to five.

#### VALLEY DISORGANISED.

Valley had moved Shields in from the wing, and Neuman was playing the flank position, with Donovan, full-back, and Gilbert as three-quarter. However, the reshuffle did not brighten the play of the royal blues.

Fine defence by Stewart on one occasion saved the position for Carlton, when the stage looked set for a score by Gilbert, with Shields coming up in support.

Valley, with more of the ball from the scrummages, finally worked through Carlton's defence. From the 25 yard line Donovan made a nice opening, which W. Little enhanced for Neuman to score in the corner. Shields failed at goal. Carlton 14 points to eight.

Carlton responded with spirit, and W. Ryan opened up play for the pace of Frith to beat the defence, and the winger scored with Donovan hanging on to him. From an acute angle Hogan kicked a magnificent goal. Carlton 19 to eight. These were the final scores.

Carlton were minor premiers in 1928 and were beaten 18-6 in the semis to eventual premiers University who again beat them 10-7 in the challenge final when Carlton exercised their right of challenge. Carlton finished as minor premiers in 1930. They were off their game when they met Valleys in the final going down 10 to nil. As was their right as minor premiers, they challenged Valleys in the grand final rematch. This time they returned to their sparkling form that saw them win the minor premiership. They totally dominated the game. They would have racked up more points if Valleys hadn't won so much of their possession in the scrums.

Carlton led game 11-5 at half time and then increased that lead to win the game 19-8 with 5 tries to 2 and take out the 1930 Brisbane Rugby League premiership. This closed a wonderful decade for the club with three premierships titles. Victory wouldn't return again for another 15 years at the end of World War II (1945). The competition would then be run under district rules and Carlton (Lions) would become known as Southern Suburbs. Lions would be retained as the Souths emblem until around 1960.



## THE EARLY YEARS

A number of quality players from South Brisbane and Carlton went on to represent Queensland and Australia. From that original 1909 season we had a few Australian representatives — Vic Anderson, Herb Brackenrigg, William Heidke and Robert Nicholson.

The 1920's was a time when Queensland dominated NSW in the interstate series, thanks mostly to a very strong Toowoomba team that was also supported by several Carlton players. Carlton players who went on to play for Australia included Claude O'Donnell, Norm Broadfoot and Harry Fewin. In addition to three first grade premierships, Carlton also won four reserve grade premierships in 1924, 1929, 1931 and 1932 and a third grade premiership in 1922. Carlton won the inaugural club championship awarded in 1931.

From an administrative point of view, two events stand out in Queensland rugby league history in these early years. First was the establishment of the Brisbane Rugby League (BRL) in 1922 over dissatisfaction of the minimal compensation for injured players. Players resented that this was happening when the QRL was, at the same time, paying a high salary to its secretary, Harry Sunderland, who was also obtaining income for his newspaper writing. The BRL took over the city competition from the QRL in 1922.

The second event was the introduction of district football in 1933 where players had to reside in the district that they played for. It was introduced to provide community support and player equalisation. Carlton then became known as Southern Suburbs while Coorparoo and Wynnum combined to form Eastern Suburbs.

On the southside of the river, Logan Road roughly formed the district border with Easts (Easts was additionally given Greenslopes and Tarragindi). The next golden age for Souths would involve many epic battles against its district neighbours, Easts.

Following the introduction of District Football in 1933 by the Brisbane Rugby League, Carlton were forced to relinquish their identity and became known as Southern Suburbs. Souths inherited a debt of 90 pounds and also suffered an exodus of players resulting in doubts over their ability to field a first grade team. Newly-elected President Jack Adams re-started the club in 1934 with regular meetings at his West End clothing factory which also made the club's first jerseys free of charge.

During World War II, a lack of dyes for clothing forced the club to change jerseys, a problem that faced many clubs throughout Australia. Souths adopted the old all black West End jersey and after the war chose to keep the design and added a white V. Souths won its first title for any grade in 1939 when the reserve grade team won the premiership.

You can see in the photo below the change from the original Carlton colours of maroon and beige to the current colours of black and white worn to this day. A little known fact is that Southern Suburbs were known as the Lions up until 1959. It wasn't until the early sixties when they started to wear the Magpie logo on their jersey.





## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS

Davies Park is nestled on the Brisbane River in West End, halfway down the Toowong Reach of the Brisbane River. It has been the home of Souths Leagues Club now for over a century. It has never been a brash or flash football ground like others. It is a very earthy place. The depth of feeling and sentiment attached to it comes from both its terrific inner-city location on the river plus years of tradition being the location of many epic battles and home ground of many legends of the game.

In his book "Speedway Tonight - The Story of Davies Park Speedway" Tony Webb writes the following:

"Davies Park was originally known as The Dairy and was owned in the 1880's by Peter Hardgrove. South Brisbane Alderman John Davies fought a long battle in 1899, against opposition from developers, for the council to purchase the land for a formal sports and recreation reserve. The council eventually made the purchase of the 16 acres in 1901. The Park was named after Alderman Davies, who was a West End pharmacist by profession; that pharmacy is still operating today.

"Alderman Davies became Mayor of South Brisbane in 1905 but passed away in 1911 before the Park was officially named in 1913. The area is of historic significance due to the fact that it was one of the first formal parks in the city area, with rugby, tennis and football being popular sports there before the speedway" (p.1).

The ground also hosted cricket games, including some early Sheffield Shield games, and some of the first Claxton Shield baseball games played in Queensland were also played at Davies Park. A couple of years after the South Brisbane Rugby League club was formed, a 100 year lease was obtained in 1910 for rugby league to be played on the ground. This lease was extended in 2010 by 10 years until 2020.

**Below:** The earliest photo of Davies Park that we have that dates to the 1910's before any stands were erected on the ground after World War 1. Viewed from Auchenflower across the Brisbane River, a game appears to be in progress with players seen on the left. The old gasworks is visible on the right with its chimney tower.

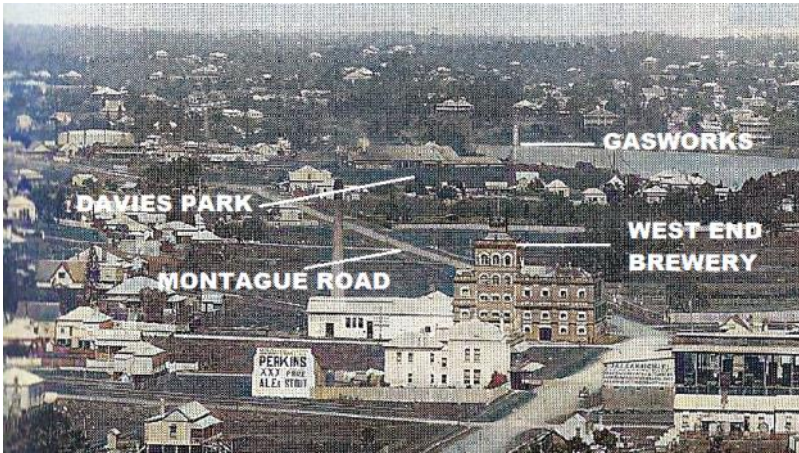


**Below:** Davies Park in 1912 with a water pipe being laid. Jane Street is seen in the background.





## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS



**Above:** The view looking south down Montague Road around 1900.



The successful Queensland Rugby League Team which twice defeated New Zealand in 1919.

In addition to the sporting ground a swimming bath was added on the riverfront. The 50 yard pool at the end of Jane Street was opened in 1925. The house behind it was the pool manager's residence.

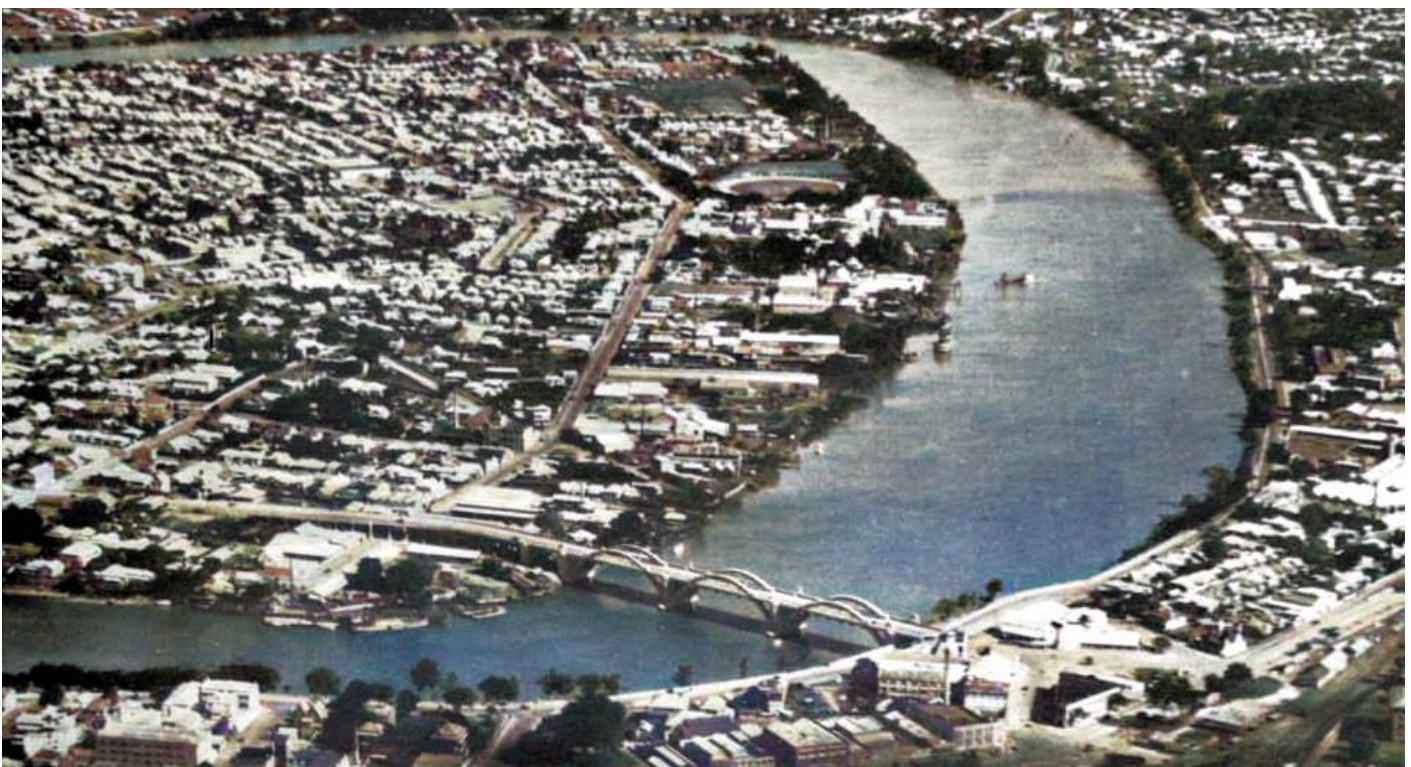
Before the QRL acquired Lang Park in 1957, the Exhibition Ground and Brisbane Cricket Ground were the main venues for the BRL grand finals and games played by Queensland and Australia, Davies Park also hosted quite a few of these over those years as well.

During the 1920's the BRL grand finals were held at Davies Park. Carltons three grand final victories of 1921, 1925 and 1930 were all played at Davies Park. The record crowd at Davies Park for a rugby league game was in 1919 when 15 000 people attended Davies Park to see Queensland defeat New Zealand.

For 5 years between 1927 and 1932 Davies Park became the largest speedway in Australia. Brisbane City Council minutes for June 14 1927 state:

"A further application has been received from Olympia Speedways for the lease of Davies Park for a period of five years with the option of renewal, for a further five years, for the purpose of laying an up to date speedway. The company is prepared to spend at least 3000 pounds, on the construction of the track, laying on water, internal fencing, safely fencing, seating

**Below:** Davies Park from the air in the 1930's seen half way along the Toowong reach of the Brisbane River.





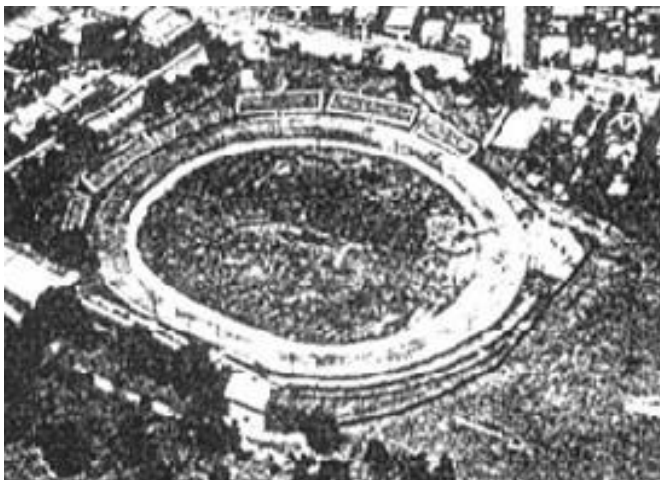
## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS

accommodation, levelling and drainage of the ground, and the installation of electric light, and for the use of the area for racing on wet nights, and for practice between 9 am and 11 am for training purpose when the ground is otherwise not in use. It is prepared to pay a rental of £1,000 per annum.

"Queensland Rugby League, who held the current lease, stated that they agreed to the variation of the lease subject to the proposed speedway does not trespass on the necessities of football days as at present "It results in the ground being improved in accommodation and appointments. The playing oval is maintained in good order. Nothing is done that will eventually lead to the ground being rendered less useful for football and cricket. A letter had been signed by 212 local residents in favour of the application. The council then agreed to the proposal but without the lease extension clause" (Speedway Tonight, p.8-9).

Wooden stands were created around the ground in addition to the track that was laid down. There are still remnants of these facilities visible today.

One can see the mounds on either side of the ground upon which the grandstands were mounted upon. The road directly behind the current stands is a remnant of the old speedway track.



**Above Right:** The Davies Park Baths during the 1930's.



**Above Left and Left:** Davies Park from the air when it was a speedway from 1925 to 1932.



## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS

A tram line was built to service the speedway that opened in 1927. It branched off the main West End line and went down Vulture St along Montague Road before it looped back onto Vulture Street via Jane St and Hardgrove Rd where the West End State School is.

During World War II Davies Park was taken over by the American army for use as a search light brigade. They were trying to save the nearby gasworks in case there was an air raid. They installed an anti-aircraft gun and search lights. At this time the administrators decided to move up to Musgrave Park which is where Souths played during World War II. Souths made their first grand final appearance in first grade as Southern Suburbs during World War II in 1942.

One of the buildings the Americans built on Davies Park was a large shed along Jane Street which was converted into the club's first clubhouse after the war. It was a fair bit bigger than the current dressing sheds and was located close to where the current dressing sheds are today. Originally it ran parallel with the river but it became run down and was repaired and reconfigured in the early 1950's to run parallel to Jane Street as per the photo below. Mick Crocker had fond memories of his times in this clubhouse and said that many a merry time was had there. It survived up to the 1980's. Soon after in the early 1980's it was pulled down and was replaced with the current dressing sheds.

The current clubhouse was built in 1966. In addition to Bingo nights that were held, after the game on Sunday night it became a night club and drew large crowds as one of the few places open on a Sunday night through the 1970's and even 1980's. During the 1970's the ground was inundated by the Australia Day floods of 1974. Much of the lower level of the clubhouse was water damaged. The lower level fared better during the 2011 Floods though the field itself was again inundated.

During the late 1970's the clubhouse had its first upgrade with large glass panel windows along much of the playing ground side of the clubhouse for better viewing.



Our Shower Evening



**Above:** The first clubhouse at Davies Park originally built during World War II by the Americans when they occupied Davies Park that was converted to a clubhouse after the war.

**Left:** Barry and Marion Larkin in the old clubhouse.

**Right:** The Larkin family in the old clubhouse.

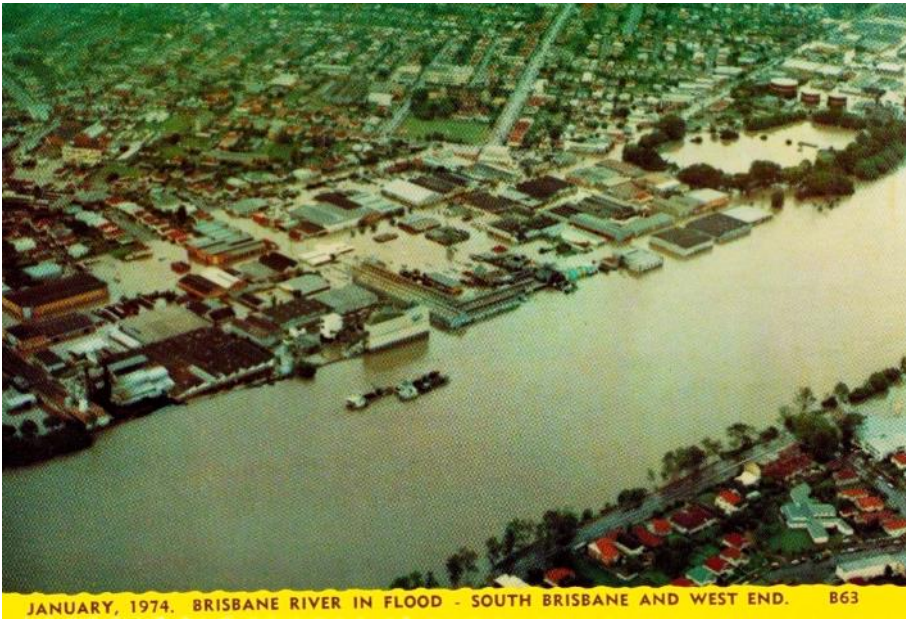




## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS



**Above:** A crowded Davies Park in the 1960's during a game between Souths and Wynnum Manly.



THE 1974 FOUNDATION WEEKEND FLOOD



Some indication of the height of the flood can be gauged by the fact that the level rose to the rail of the patio pictured above.

**Above and Below:** Davies Park during the January 1974 Brisbane Flood.

### Super viewing at Bill Tyquin Oval

Souths are well on the way to having one of the best clubhouse setups in Queensland.

The improvements to the building include a two-level match viewing area for members.

The complete side of the building fronting the football field at Bill Tyquin Oval is now plate glass.

When completed in a few weeks, club members will be able to sit in comfort in the clubhouse and watch the matches.

This will be luxury viewing.

Souths always have been leaders in providing pace-setting clubhouse amenities for members.

The Davies Park clubhouse was the first sophisticated club headquarters in Rugby League in Brisbane.

Plans also provide for the Magpie headquarters to have a gymnasium.



Souths clubhouse, with the new frontage, which gives members a first-class look at the game from the bar.

**Below:** Davies Park clubhouse was given an upgrade in the late 1970's.



The viewing area in the process of being built in Souths clubhouse. This gives a great view of the field.

With up-to-date amenities, Souths are building up a top class social centre for the southside.

The clubhouse is suitable for a wide variety of functions, from office socials to discos.

And when the first-class facilities include unsurpassed viewing areas for members during football matches, Souths are to be congratulated for their considerate, constructive effort in developing Rugby League in Brisbane.



**Right:** Davies Park and West End during the January 2011 Brisbane Flood.



## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS



**Above Left:** Souths taking on Norths during the 1980's with the scoreboard and Eddie Muller in the background.  
**Above Right:** The ABC telecasting a game at Davies Park during the 1990's with Souths and the South Queensland Crushers playing in the background.

## BEFORE THE CLUBHOUSE UPGRADE



## AFTER THE CLUBHOUSE UPGRADE





## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS

By the 1990's the clubhouse and the grounds were beginning to look very dated but there was little money to upgrade the clubhouse with the sudden decrease in popularity of the BRL competition after the Broncos entered the Sydney-come-national competition. Without the poker machine income that other clubs like Easts and Redcliffe have thrived on since their introduction into Queensland in 1992, the club has survived mainly from income derived from corporate sponsorship and function room hire. Supplementing that is rental income from the Davies Park Markets which have become a real hit in the West End area. In 2010 the club's 100 year lease on Davies Park ran out and while some in the government had been eager to redevelop Davies Park and create a park for the residents of the increasing number of residential developments in the area, Souths were able to negotiate a new 10 year lease on Davies Park.

Following the acquisition of the new lease which provided some security for the next 10 years, the club went ahead with upgrading the clubhouse that would assist in increasing the amount of corporate interest in using the new meeting rooms. The downstairs now looks sensational with a modern look and the exterior of the club has been upgraded from the old orange brick look to a new bright white exterior. The upstairs level a few years later was also upgraded following a grant to the club and is now a wonderful looking venue for functions. Souths CEO, Jim McClelland, has some wonderful plans to upgrade Davies Park that he has submitted to the government which are more long-term plans. Should they become a reality, fans will see an upgrade even more wonderful and dramatic as the one that we have seen recently to the clubhouse. No matter what happens, Davies Park will always be near and dear to Souths fans and be the spiritual home of the Souths Magpies!



**Above Left:** Davies Park in the early 1980's with the old clubhouse visible in the background. **Above Right:** The current player sheds. **Below:** The upstairs functions room after its most recent upgrade. **Bottom:** The Davies Park ground today.





## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS



**Above:** A recent game at Davies Park watched with great interest by spectators on the side line.

**Below:** The view of the new road exiting Davies Park that had long been due for an upgrade by the City Council.





## DAVIES PARK: THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF SOUTHS



**Above:** Some photos from the Sunset Social that is held at Davies Park on Friday evenings every second week.  
**Below:** A couple of photos showing the upstairs functions room after its most recent upgrade.





## REFLECTIONS ON SOUTHS HISTORY BY BARRY LARKIN

The Larkin Family have been South Supporters for nearly 100 years. My father, Beecher, played for West End Juniors in 1923, He ultimately became Player, Vice President, Committee Man, Life Member of Souths Juniors and Seniors, BRL Juniors and Seniors.

His father and my grandfather, Bill Larkin took him to games at Davies Park as a boy. All of his 4 sons, Allan, Barry, Beecher and John played Junior and Senior Football for Souths. Ruby Larkin Beecher's wife washed the Seniors Jerseys for many years. His granddaughters Allison, Debbie and Diane were in the first Cheer squad.

He had many stories about Souths; one was in the late 1930's. A mate, (Harry Hayes) of his had a furniture business and his truck with big sides was used to take supporters to the games. Back in those days the teams had to win the game and the supporters had to win the fight or flight was the other answer onto the truck to escape.



On one occasion Beecher got home from the football and Ruby said "Where is Barry?" I was a five year old at the Fortitude Valley Police Station eating ice cream. When he arrived he yelled why didn't you hold my hand. Because I was 5 years old I did not answer, but the reason was his hand was in someone else's face as a fist. He also told us of a game at Davies Park where the fight was fairly wild as most of the picket fence was stripped in the melee.

As an 8 year old I watched Souths play at the top oval at Musgrave Park. The Larkin boys all played football for West End State School and from then on onto Souths Juniors and seniors. I represented Queensland under 6 stone schoolboys from West End State School in 1947. Back in the 1930's Davies Park had Billy Cart races. Goats were the carriers and the drivers were jockeys. During the War, the park was taken over by the Yanks. Igloos were set up on number 2 oval.

Souths Juniors used to run Dances on a Sunday Night, Beecher would load his piano onto the back of his Chev Ute and take it down to Souths, the band was Barry and Ken McKinnon who supplied the dance music.

The Clubhouse at Davies Park was about the same size as the present dressing rooms. Training night was great if you finished early then you had a hot or luke warm shower, if Micky Crocker and Tosser Thurlow beat you to it, it was a very cold shower. Mick was one of the hardest trainers I have seen, he was extremely fit. His method of taking off excess non playing season's extra weight was to run around Davies Park oval with a plastic raincoat on which provided the sweat necessary to lose some weight. Mick was in my opinion the best lock forward I have ever seen, his cover defense was unbelievable.

Souths had an Aboriginal centre called Vivian Curry and on training nights all you could see of Viv coming towards you was the big V on his Jersey and white pants. He was an excellent player and a great bloke.

In 1951 Beecher was in the first Souths Junior Rugby League committee. Positions I held at Souths were, Secretary of the Juniors, Honorary Auditor, Coach of 6 South's Junior and Senior Sides, and Club President 1975 and 1976. I played Reserve Grade in 1953, my coach was Jack Vievers, I was 19 years old and captained the side for most of the season. That year the A grade won the premiership, we got beaten by the eventual premiers Norths in the Preliminary Final. Mark Beaumont's Dad, Ted Beaumont was in our front row.

In 1975 and 1976, the Larkin Family and their friends raised tens of thousands of Dollars for the club from Bingo, forming the Ladies Committee, Marion was the first Secretary and Lyra Lister the first President, Lucky Numbers, Raffles (3 major raffles were run). Men's Dinner nights. Dances. Miss Souths functions etc. A block of land was acquired from a developer at no cost to the club at Algeester which we raffled. As a result of this deal the Souths Algeester Juniors club was created with the help and guidance of Jack Astill.

Beecher was also the cleaner of Davies Park after the Sunday Games. On Monday morning he and his daughters, daughters in law and his grandchildren would rake up all of the rubbish around the ground. His grandkids loved after the game running to get the corner posts and goalpost protectors. One of Beechers other jobs was marking the lines, and watch out any player that ran on his lines before a game, the cry would come out "Get off my bloody lines."

On match day back in the 40's to the 70's Davies Park was always full, people sat on the sidelines as well as the 2 hills and both ends of the field. Most of the players were from West End or Dutton Park. When the juniors went out to Acacia Ridge, Davies Park lost a lot of support.

Beecher's favorite players were Mick Crocker, Jack Vievers, Bertie and Davy Johnson, the Fijian Players particularly Amen and Isoa. Stan Gayton and the 2 Peggs Lenny and Reg (Bubbles). Mine were Mitch Brennan, Bruce Astill, and John Grant.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

The most glorious period for Souths in terms of winning BRL premierships was the period between 1945 and 1953 when the club won 4 premierships in the space of 9 years. Many of Souths greats who were selected for the Souths Team of the Century played during these glory years.

During World War II Souths were forced to leave their home at Davies Park because of occupation by American servicemen. Although they had an acute shortage of players, Souths continued to train and play at nearby Musgrave Park. They even boiled water in coppers and made showers attached to gum trees after training and games. Mick Crocker remembers the carbide lights that used spray shrapnel everywhere whenever a ball used to hit them. He also told me how one neighbouring family complained about the bad language that used to emanate from the football players. It led to the council kicking them out of Musgrave Park and moving to the West End school ground until they returned to Davies Park after the war.

Souths prospered towards the end of the war under the coaching of Scotty Macrae, who later became an Australian selector. Mick Crocker rated him very highly as a coach. In 1942 Souths contested their first A grade grand final since changing name from Carlton losing to Brothers 21 to 11.

Souths broke the premiership drought in 1945 in emphatic style becoming the first club to make a clean sweep of all three top grades. In front of a record 10 000 crowd at the Brisbane Cricket Ground the Souths first grade team defeated Norths 21 to 11 in a side which featured a young Harry Bath playing a star role. He played with Souths from 1940 to 1945 before going to Balmain (seen wearing their jersey in the bottom left photo), and playing later in England and with St George during their winning streak.

### 1945 Premiership

#### Winger In Flight



R. ("BUBBLES") Pegg, Southern Suburbs' wing three-quarter, who scored three tries to pave the way for Souths' 21-11 victory over Northern Suburbs in the Rugby League final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. In the picture Pegg is shown out-pacing his wing rival, H. Swain, in one of his characteristic dashes.

## BATH, R. PEGG WERE MATCH WINNERS Souths Take First Rugby League Premiership; Defeat Norths By 21 to 11

By L. H. KEARNEY

**T**WENTY-YEAR-OLD Harry Bath, forward spearhead, and R. ("Bubbles") Pegg, outstanding try scorer, with three, paved the way for Southern Suburbs' first B.R.L. premiership win at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Souths defeated Northern Suburbs by 21 to 11 at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday.

Bath surpassed the best he has ever unfolded in B.R.L. premiership football. In the rucks he was splendid.

Time after time he bargaged through the rival forward cordon to make great territorial gains.

His try in the right-hand corner five minutes before half-time was one of the most spectacular forward efforts unfolded this season.

He flashed away from a ruck to hurl his 145 stone of brawn and muscle with irresistible force through Norths' massed defenders.

Winger Pegg was outstanding. Each of his three tries was the result of resourceful backing up and electrical finishing speed.

He was lucky, I thought, in gaining his first try, as in the lead up, the referee, Mr. Col McKinnon, was seemingly out of from the play. The "feeder," brother Len, seemed from the stands to knock the ball on and then appeared to pass forward, in sending "Bubbles" on his try-scoring mission.

The half-back combination of the Johnson brothers surpassed that of their rivals, Sue See and Bates, while Bernie Johnson, in landing three goals, equalled the season's record of Danny O'Connor (Valley)—45 goals.

Others to play praiseworthy parts in Souths' success were full-back L. Murphy, who scored a spectacular try a few minutes before full

time, centres L. Pegg and G. MacRae, who replaced N. Brough (Injured), and forwards Martin, Kingston, and Thompson. Tyquin, who was injured in the Army match last Sunday, was subdued.

Norths' best in a very disjointed second half team were Carr (full-back), O'Brien (centre), and forwards Paxton, Power, and Stewart.

Souths' success yesterday was deserved, despite the burden of handicaps carried by the opposition, who fielded injured players. H. Melrose (captain) and N. McEwan. The latter hooked well (22-18), but his loose play lacked its usual sparkle.

Melrose in both defence and attack was physically unable to do himself justice.

Against the breeze, Souths were given 11-8 at the interval, but they completely overshadowed their rivals to add three tries, a conversion, and a penalty goal to a scoreless second half by Norths.

**SCORERS**—Souths: Tries by R. Pegg (3), Bath, and Murphy; B. Johnson kicked two penalty goals and converted one try. Norths: Tries were scored by Power (2) and Paxton; the latter converted one.

The gross receipts, £461, and an attendance of 10,000, were B.R.L. premiership match records.

The net gate was £365, the entertainment tax being £95.8/.

THE MIGHTY SOUTHS		PREMIERS 1945	
A GRADE	RESERVE	THIRD	
Murphy L.	Burgess B.	Neal J.	
Pegg R.	Whiteley W.	Ross T.	
Pegg R. Captain	Hall K.	Freeman R.	
Adams J.	Davenport W.	Vereenkamp E.	
Brough N.	Pratley S.	Pratley S.	
Johnson D.	Vereenkamp E.	Whillans L.	
Johnson B.	Callinan T.	Phipps H.	
Kingston M.	Hill P.	Warener J.	
Martin C.	Johnson E.	Dunne L.	
McKee W.	Brabon A.	Plunkett T.	
Bath H.	Jarvis F.	Crocker H.	
Thompson A.	Marshall J.	Sheehy P.	
Tyquin W.	Jones A.	McKinnon R.	
<b>RESERVES:</b>			
Luke L.	Cameron W.	Gibson A.	
Kelly E.	Killie F.	Campbell B.	
McCrae G.	Curley M.	Hardy W.	
Ecklund N.	Padgett K.		

Under 17	Under 16	
Donaldson G.	Brady B.	
Ellaby D.	McGlynn R.	
Newman R.	Olsen H.	Souths won 5
Bann J.	Ainsworth W.	out of the 6
Hardy O.	Mohor R.	premierships
Graham D.	Nolan H.	
Adcock B.	Wilson N.	East won the
Hookway W.	Walters H.	under 20
Simpson V.	Messinger D.	
Albert H.	Hayes W.	
Pring D.	Kelly P.	
Dodd R.	Sprons S.	
Kruse G.	Harris F.	
Simpson E.	Graham G.	
Richards D.	Budd K.	
	Frissell R.	
	Richards D.	



Harry Bath



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

### 1945: The Year of the Clean Sweep

#### Southern Suburbs D.R.L.F.C.

Premiers 1st Grade B.R.L., 1945, Winners of Vic. Jensen Cup and Pennant  
Points for 221, against 103



*Front Row*—J. Montgomery (Hon. Sec.), R.L. Johnson, L. Pegg (Captain), Ald. T. Moores (President), G. McRae (Player and Coach), D. Johnson, C. Sanders (Vice-Patron).  
*Second Row*—C. Martin, J. Atkins, E. Kealy, L. Murphy, M. Kingston, L. Vuke.  
*Third Row*—J. Porteous (Mang. Com.), N. Brough, A. Thompson, W. Tyquin, H. Galbraith, T. Langton, A. McCusker (Mang. Com.).  
*Fourth Row*—R. Davis (Mang. Com.), E. Newman, R. Pegg, W. McKee, W.G. Neale, H. Davis (Delegate B.R.L.).  
*Back Row*—E.J. Meikle (Masseur), W. Somerville (Mang. Com.), R. Ure (Vice-Pres.), J.J. Anderson (Masseur), W. Hedges (Mang. Com.), T. Stanford (Mang. Com.).  
*Absent*—N. Ekstrand, A. Howe. *Insects*—H. Rath, R. Narvo (Vice-Captain).

#### SOUTHERN SUBURBS D.R.L.F.C.

Premiers Reserve Grade, B.R.L., 1945



*Front Row*—C. Sauter (Vice-Pres.), W. Crampton, K. M. J. (Captain), Ald. T. Moores (President), T. Collins (Vice-Captain), P. Jones, J. Montgomery (Hon. Sec.).  
*Second Row*—M. Voke, W. Thompson, J. Hargrave, P. P. Jones, R. Brough, R. Brough.  
*Third Row*—K. Pegg, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy.  
*Fourth Row*—A. McRae (Mang. Com.), E. Newman, R. Pegg, W. McKee, W.G. Neale, H. Davis (Delegate B.R.L.).  
*Back Row*—E.J. Meikle (Masseur), W. Somerville (Mang. Com.), R. Ure (Vice-Pres.), J.J. Anderson (Masseur), W. Hedges (Mang. Com.), T. Stanford (Mang. Com.).  
*Absent*—J. Brough.

#### SOUTHERN SUBURBS D.R.L.F.C.

Premiers 3rd Grade B.R.L., 1945, Minor Premiers, President's Cup Winners and Treasurer's Cup Winners  
Points for 165, against 54



*Front Row*—R. Gray (Coach), T. Vermeulen, E. Pegg (Captain), Ald. T. Moores (President), E. Pegg (Vice-Captain), T. Jones, A. McRae (Hon. Sec.).  
*Second Row*—D. P. Jones, A. McRae, E. Pegg, E. Pegg, E. Pegg, E. Pegg, E. Pegg, E. Pegg.  
*Third Row*—K. Pegg, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy, E. Kealy.  
*Fourth Row*—A. McRae (Mang. Com.), E. Newman, R. Pegg, W. McKee, W.G. Neale, H. Davis (Delegate B.R.L.).  
*Back Row*—E.J. Meikle (Masseur), W. Somerville (Mang. Com.), R. Ure (Vice-Pres.), J.J. Anderson (Masseur), W. Hedges (Mang. Com.), T. Stanford (Mang. Com.).  
*Absent*—J. Brough.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

In 1945 Souths won first grade, reserve grade and third grade which was the first clean sweep by any BRL club. Not only did they win those grades but also won two out of the three junior premierships winning the U17's and U16's but missing out on the U20's which Easts won. The third grade side in winning the title in 1945 had won it for the fifth year in a row and would add another title in 1948.

That magical clean sweep would not be repeated again until 1994 when Redcliffe did their first clean sweep. Third grade was scrapped in 1996 but Redcliffe has since done the clean sweep of first grade, reserve grade and colts another two times in 1997 and 2003.

Souths almost won the clean sweep in 1980 when they won third and reserve grades but missed out in first grade when Smoking Joe broke Souths' heart sparking the try that saw us miss out 17-15 that year. The following year in 1981 Souths denied Redcliffe a clean sweep with that magical Mick Reardon try in the last minute. Souths almost did the clean sweep again in 1985 when they beat Brothers in both the U21's and third grade but lost to Brothers in reserve grade before beating Wynnum-Manly in first grade.

In 1947 Souths reached the Grand Final but were beaten by Eastern Suburbs 15 to 2.

In 1949 Souths turned the tables on their district neighbours by beating Easts 22 to 8 to win the 1949 BRL premiership. Bill Tyquin, a product of the Souths district, was the captain-coach of the 1949 team. Bill Tyquin was a lock and was a strong defender and brilliant in attack. He could kick a ball with a torpedo kick over 75 yards. He played in 6 Tests between 1948 and 1949 as captain on 3 occasions. He went on to be an administrator and President of the club as well as a delegate of the Brisbane Rugby League. As a tribute, the playing field at Davies Park was named the Bill Tyquin Oval.

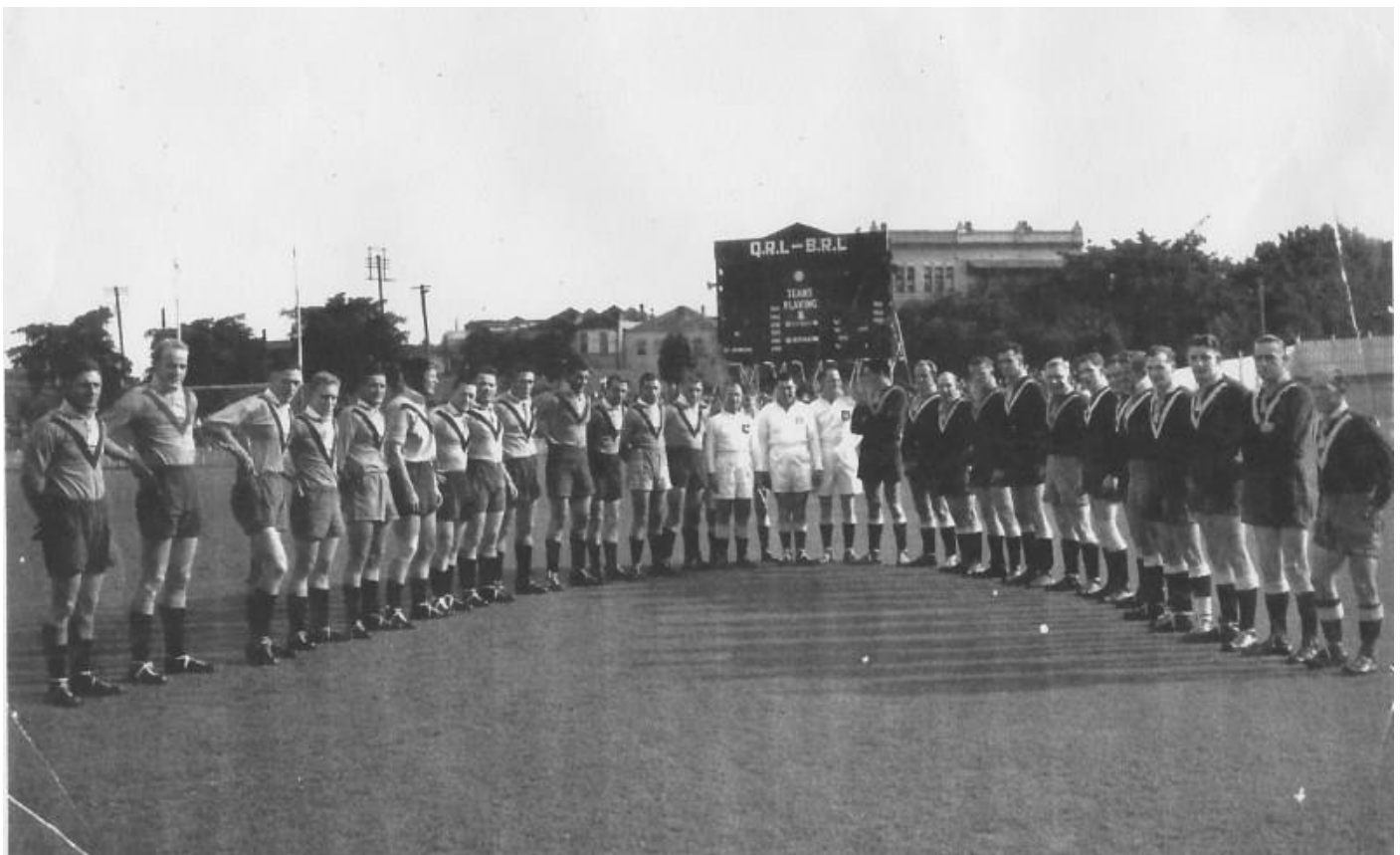
### Did you know?

**Souths were known as the Lions up until 1959 when legendary coach Henry Holloway suggested the name Magpies because of the many magpies that used to frequent Davies Park.**



**Above:** The Bill Tyquin Oval was named after Bill Tyquin who captained Souths to their 1949 premiership.

**Below:** Easts and Souths line up before the 1947 BRL Grand Final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground. Easts beat Souths 15 to 2.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

### 1949 Premiership

# Souths' League job easier SPEARHEAD LOST EARLY BY EASTS

By L. H. KEARNEY

**SOUTHERN Suburbs won their second Rugby League premiership by defeating Eastern Suburbs, 22-8, at the Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday. Their previous championship win was in 1945.**

Sending off of Ron McLennan by referee S. W. Chambers, was a real tragedy to Easts, as McLennan was playing grandly, being an inspiration in both attack and defence.

McLennan's try in the 33rd minute of the first half, was the spectacular gem of the match.

Served by Baker and Callinan, McLennan diagonally shot away to paralyse Souths' defence with one of the most electrical bursts of speed unfolded by a club player this season.

Souths were only leading by three penalty goals (six points)—to one try (three points) at the interval.

Loss of McLennan (see story on Page 1) completely demoralised Easts, as they were forced to withdraw lock forward, Neville Ryrie, from the pack and send him out to fill McLennan's vacated position at centre.

#### Team crumbles

WITH only five forwards against Souths' experienced and well blended pack of six, Easts quickly crumbled.

A neat kick and recover by Stan. Pratley paved the way for Len. Kenny to score and Jones to goal eight minutes after resumption.

Baker (Easts) with a pen-

alty goal endeavoured to revive Easts' dying hopes.

But Souths, 10 minutes later, took a stranglehold on the game when Reg. Pegg scored after a delightful handling move by Jones, Pegg, and Kenny, and then back to Pegg to crown the effort.

#### Margin increase

SOUTHS went further ahead when Frank McLennan scored after neat lead-up work by Kenny and White.

Jones' goal gave Souths a 19-5 lead with 14 minutes to play.

Souths went to 22 to five when Kenny scored, in the right-hand corner five minutes before the bell.

Easts made a gallant final effort, Stanton scoring as the bell rang with Souths holding a winning margin of 22-5.

Charlie Martin, Easts' hooker, with depleted pack support, gave a remarkable exhibition of hooking.

He won possession 15 to seven in the second half, his figures for the match being 30 to 16.

Only for his success, Souths' winning margin would have been considerably greater.

#### Colour lacking

APART from the few spectacular scoring movements, it was not a pretty game to watch.

The tackling was tremendously hard and gruelling, but there were too many ugly incidents after the tackles had been completed.

There was too much "playing of the man," which naturally had a jolting influence on the game as a spectacle.

Souths' forwards were not a great force early, but against the weakened opposition they excelled in both rucks and loose in the second half.

Australian representative for New Zealand tour, Alan Thompson, J. Veivers, H. Crocker, and W. Tyquin, stood out.

#### Winners' best

The Pegg brothers—Reg and Len—also Kenny and half-back, R. White, were the pick of Souths' backs.

However, Ian Jones kicked finely. His goalling tally for the season, with the Peter Hickey Cup final to be played next Saturday, is 60.

Half-backs Ron Stanton and W. Callinan, and Centre L. Black in attack, and R. Kille in defence, were conspicuous for Easts.

Apart from hooker C. Martin, Easts' best forwards were Baker and Drysdale.



**BOB KILLE** (Easts' winger) raised the dust on the hard ground at the Cricket Grounds yesterday when he went down with the ball after diving into a pocket of South tacklers. J. Veivers (13) is about to pounce for the kill. Frank McLennan, on the right, and Len Pegg, on the left, are ready to complete the smother.

Attendance was 7000 and receipts £485.

Souths 22 (tries by Kenny 2, R. Pegg, F. McLennan; goals, I. Jones three penalties and two conversions).

Easts 8 (tries by Ron McLennan and Stanton; goal Baker a penalty).

## Southern Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club

Premiers B.R.L., Winners J. Stapleton Memorial Cup, B.R.L. Cup, Peter Hickey Cup, Pike Cup, Vic. Jensen Cup, 1949



Front Row—D.W. Duck (Hon. Sec.), A. Thompson, I.W. Tyquin (Coach & Capt.), T. Moores, M.L.A. (Pres.); L.R. Pegg (V. Capt.), W.A. Lewis, J. Montgomery (B.R.L. Deleg. and Mang. Comm.)  
Second Row—O. Hardy, L. Kenny, R. White, I.D. Jones, N. Lesina, W. Catmeron  
Third Row—H. Davis (B.R.L. Deleg. and Mang. Comm.), S. Pratley, F. McLennan, W.J. Hedges (V. Patron), T. Harris, L. Thurlow, H. Chambers (V. Pres.)  
Fourth Row—J. Porteous (Hon. Treas.), H.D. Jones (Selector), J. Veivers, R.L. Neilsen, T. Stanford (Asst. Hon. Sec. and Mang. Comm.), N.M. Tacey (Selector)  
Back Row—E.J. Meikle (Trainer), W. Smith (Selector)  
Absent—W. McPartland (Mang. Comm.); W. Somerville (Mang. Comm.), W. Shanahan (Mang. Comm.), K. Towerton (Mang. Comm.), N. Brough, R. Lewis, H. Crocker, R. Pegg



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S



Legendary coach Bob Bax, who coached Norths for 5 of their 6 straight premierships in the 1960's, played for Brothers in his playing days during the 1940's and 1950's. These three photos come from his personal collection.

**Above:** Souths play against Brothers at the Brisbane Cricket Ground at the Gabba in 1949. The players noted on the caption from left to right are Thompson, Rooney, Neale, Arnold, Bax, Brosnan (with ball) and Cotter.

**Right:** Bob Bax is hit hard by legendary Souths forward Harold (Mick) Crocker.

**Below:** Souths and Brothers in 1949 playing for the Presidents Cup (Brothers won 14-4 though Souths would later win the premiership). Bob Bax is with the ball with Souths' Tom Tyquin coming in to tackle him.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

### 1951 Premiership

# SOLID LEAGUE FINAL

## Crowd of 7000 sees Souths down Easts

By JACK REARDON

**BIGGEST** club Rugby League crowd (7000) since 1946 yesterday saw Souths beat Easts 20 to 10 in a torrid premiership final at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

With both sides giving and taking terrific crashing tackles, a flare-up was inevitable.

It came midway through the second half, and nearly every forward on the field, plus quite a few backs, joined in the fight which milled in a tight packed mass for half a minute.

No damage was done, and referee Jack Casey got immediate control again with a few quick penalties.

### "Better side won"

Easts' coach, Nev Byrie, and captain, Ron Stanton, said after the match "the better team won."

Souths' superiority was most marked in the forwards, where Velters, Crocker, Harris and Tyquin had

too much pace and staying power for Easts.

Surprise of the match was the performance of Souths' young hooker, Leo Fallon, who shaded Charlie Martin, of Easts, 17 to 16 for the ball from scrums.

The punishing tackles of Souths' centre, Leo Fallon, appeared to upset some of Easts' backs, and they often lacked their old snap in attack. Fallon was also prominent in attack, with powerful runs which at times cut swathes in Easts' defence.

While Souths appeared the better team for most of the match, they could not afford to relax on their less at any stage. Easts' five-eighth, Keith Brown, and

look forward, Jim Walker put up magnificent battles.

Easts' forwards erred tactically in the second half when, with a major share of the ball, they continued to use useless barging tactics instead of opening up the game with their backs.

### Half-time lead

Souths led by 12 to 5 at half-time as the result of a snap try by Fraser and a fine combined effort by White, Wilson, and Panitz. Panitz kicked three goals.

Easts' first-half try was scored by Greaves after Stanton had cut through well. Baker kicking a goal from the touch line.

Easts had their best period early in the second half and took their score to 10-12 when Smyth and Brown swapped passes for Smyth to score near the posts.

"Mick" Crocker and Nev Wilson each scored good individual tries in the second half for Souths.

Referee Jack Casey handled a difficult game well.



FLYING tackle by Test lock forward "Mick" Crocker, of Souths, just fails to stop a try by Easts centre, Stan Greaves, during yesterday's Rugby League premiership final, won by Souths at the Brisbane Cricket Ground by 20 to 10.

## CROCKER FAILED TO STOP THIS TRY

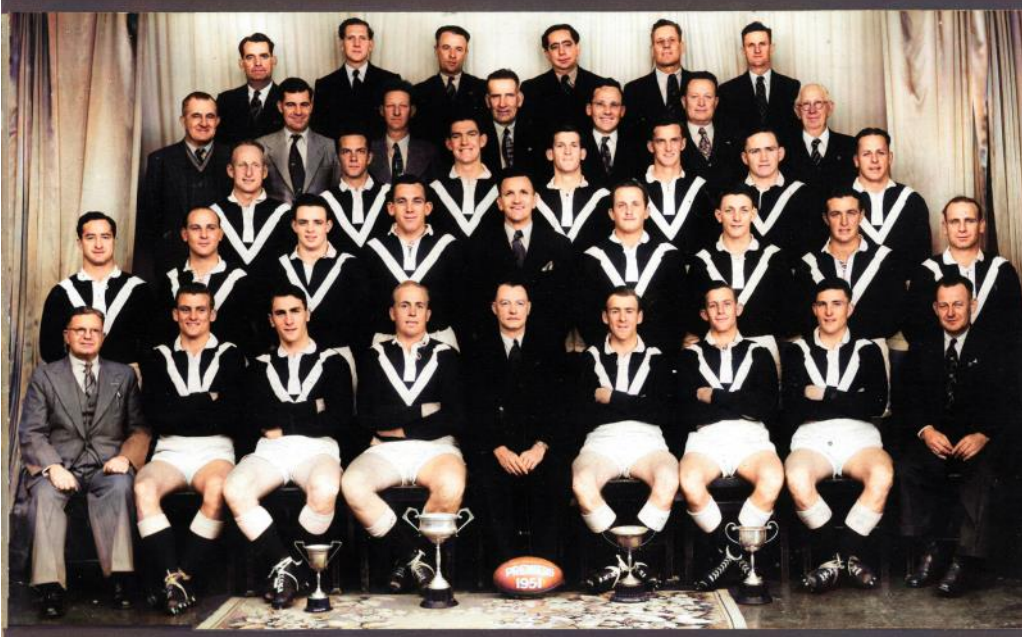
### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### FINAL

Souths 20 (Fraser, Panitz, Crocker, Wilson tries; Panitz 4 goals) d. Easts 10 (Greaves, Smyth tries; Baker 2 goals).

### Southern Suburbs District R.L.F. Club

Premiers B.R.L., 1951 - Winners Peter Hickey Cup, Fullarton Trophy, Jack Stapleton Memorial Cup



Sidney Riley

246 Queen St., Brisbane

FRONT ROW—J. Porteous (Treas.), N. Wilson, L. Fallon, A. Thompson (Capt.), T. Moores, M.L.A. (Pres.), R. White (V. Capt.), V. Fraser, R. Hogarth, D. Rollason (Sec.)

SECOND ROW—R. Dodd, W. Lester, N. Mumt, W. May, G. Macrae (Coach), H. Crocker, S. Pratley, D. Cahill, J. Ballinger

THIRD ROW—M. van de Velde, T. Harris, T. Tyquin, L. A. Johnson, K. Panitz, R. Beaumont, J. Veivers

FOURTH ROW—J. Montgomery (Life Member), J. Egan (Manx Comm.), T. Midgley (Club Steward), W. Hedges (Life Member), A. C. Bennett (Jnr. Pres.), H. Davis (Life Member), W. Rollason (V. Pres.)

BACK ROW—T. Stanford (Deleg.), I. Jones (Selector), T. Muir (Manx Comm.), R. Davis (Deleg.), G. Vinson (Massenr), W. Smith (Selector)

**Below:** The Vic Jensen Trophy (the predecessor of the Peter Scott Memorial Trophy)





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

In 1951 Souths made the grand final against their traditional foes of the post-war period, Easts. Souths went into half-time leading 12 to 5 and then extended that lead to win a tough grand final 20 to 10. Souths scored 4 tries to 2 and the try scorers for Souths included Fraser, Panitz, Wilson and Mick Crocker.

Wynnum-Manly joined the Brisbane Rugby League competition in 1951 and were joined in 1952 by the Gold Coast which was known as South Coast at the time. South Coast only competed for two years before pulling out of the competition.

In 1953, two years later, Souths faced Easts in the grand final again for the 3rd time in 5 years. Souths won their 4th premiership in 9 years beating Easts by 21 to 4.

The second half included one of the wildest grand final brawls ever. Souths completely dominated the game. Jack Vievers, Mick Crocker, Norm McLean, Val Fraser, Norm Mundt, Roy Hogarth and Fred Harris were outstanding. McLean, Hogarth, Fraser, Pickup and Baker all scored tries for Souths while Easts were kept tryless only scoring 2 penalty goals.

After some frosty relations over the previous three decades since the formation of the BRL, in 1953 the BRL and QRL merged with the BRL forming a division within the QRL structure. Ron McAuliffe was appointed joint secretary of both organisations.

One of McAuliffe's first achievements was to secure Lang Park as a future headquarters for Rugby League in Queensland. Lang Park would host its first grand final a few years later in 1958.

About this time (1956 or 57) Souths C Grade created a record running up a cricket score beating East Fallon Boys Club 145-0 at New Farm Park Oval. Bob Friswell scored 62 points for Souths. Every player except Souths fullback, who only had one arm, scored for Souths.

The 1940's and 1950's truly was a glorious era for Souths and many great players from Souths went on to represent Brisbane in the Bulimba Cup, as well as playing for Queensland and Australia.

Souths players from this period who went on to wear the green and gold included Len Pegg, Johnny Grice, Alan Hornery, Alan Thompson, Bill Tyquin, Tom Tyquin, Reg Kay and Harold "Mick" Crocker.

Three other notable players who played for Queensland but were unlucky not to play for Australia included five-eighth Ted Verrenkamp, prop Jack Vievers and second-rower Harry Bath.

Jack Vievers used to commute to training for Souths all the way from Beaudesert on much worse roads than today. The club would provide money to assist with his fuel. He was very diligent and never missed training unlike some who lived much closer.

He was a tireless forward. His son Greg and nephew Mick "Farmer" Vievers also played for Souths and both went on to play for Australia.

## League stalwart aided community

### 'JACKO' VIEVERS

Footballer, butcher, community worker

Born Southport, October 20, 1923

Died Beaudesert, August 29, 2003

ON THE morning he died, John Michael "Jacko" Vievers had been working for St Vincent de Paul's food centre for the underprivileged at Beaudesert.

Mr Vievers' four-day-a-week commitment to St Vinny's since he retired 18 years ago typified the generous spirit of a respected stalwart of the Beaudesert community.

Beyond the local district, where he operated a butcher shop for almost 40 years, Mr Vievers was widely known as a former Queensland rugby league representative and the father of Greg, who captained Australia, and Phil, who forged a long career as a player in England.

One of Mr Vievers' three daughters, Trish, is married to Broncos and Queensland coach Wayne Bennett.

Just as their father had done years before, Greg and Phil Vievers started their careers with the Beaudesert club and graduated to Southern Suburbs in Brisbane.

"Dad brought a lot of kids from Beaudesert to town to play footy," said Greg. "He used to drive them to Souths training at West End and then return home around midnight to start work at 4.30 next morning."

"He'd done the same when



'JACKO' Vievers... widely known in rugby league.

he was playing in the late 1940s and '50s."

Mr Vievers, the youngest of six children, left school at 13 to work on his father's dairy farm at Merrimac on the south coast. He drove a T-model Ford truck to deliver milk to a nearby cheese factory where he later worked until his father, Walter Hill Vievers, opened a butcher shop in Beaudesert before the outbreak of World War II.

"In those days we didn't have a motor vehicle to deliver the meat. We used to take it around town on horseback," Mr Vievers once told his family.

After serving with the AIF in New Guinea for three years, Mr Vievers returned to civilian life in Beaudesert where he resumed playing rugby league in 1946. Two years later he transferred to Souths and represented

Brisbane in Bulimba Cup matches before playing four games for Queensland in 1953. A tireless forward, Mr Vievers played three times against New South Wales and also against the touring American All Stars at the Exhibition Ground.

A serious eye injury in 1954 prematurely ended his playing career, but he coached Souths' reserve grade for a number of years before taking the Tancred Tigers to a premiership in the Beaudesert district.

Mr Vievers also influenced his nephew, Mick, a farmer at Beechmont, to take up rugby league seriously and he went on to represent Australia.

"Mick was farming up in the hills at Beechmont when Dad convinced him to have a go at playing in Brisbane in 1959," recalled Greg Vievers.

"He played six Tests for Australia and finished his career with Manly in Sydney."

In 1977, Mr Vievers sold his butcher shop and took a job at Tancred Meatworks where he was employed for nine years until retirement.

A devoted family man, who also enjoyed pottering in his garden, Mr Vievers gained great satisfaction from his voluntary work with St Vincent de Paul.

"It was wonderful for him," said Greg. "It was a great interest and kept him active until the day he died."

Mr Vievers is survived by his wife of the past 56 years, Jeanie, sons Greg and Phillip and daughters Trish, Claire, Helen and their families.

— Bernie Pramberg



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

### 1953 Premiership

# SOUTHS' RUNAWAY R.L. FINAL

## RUGBY LEAGUE

**PREMIERSHIP.** — Grand final: Souths 21 (McLean, Hogarth, Fraser, Pickup, D. Baker, tries; Hogarth, 3 goals) d Easts 4 (Busted, 2 goals)

**PLENTY OF PUSH** in this picture of action during yesterday's Rugby League final at the Cricket Ground. Whilst Jack Warburton of Easts tucks the ball under his arm and sets off for the goal line, Tom Harris (Souths, left) is impeded by Nev Polley (Easts). Polley's other hand pushes Tom Tyquin (Souths) whilst Tyquin carries it on to "Beau" Harkins of Easts. Souths won a torrid game 21-4.

## Record crowd sees grim, vicious match

By JACK REARDON

Record club crowd of 10,000 people at Brisbane Cricket Ground yesterday saw Souths over-run Easts in the last 15 minutes of the BRL grand final to win by 21-4

Souths became premiers for the fourth time since the war.

Souths' grand pack of forwards were the dominating factor in a match which had all the atmosphere of an England-Australia Test.

It was a grim match. Tackling was always vigorous and at times vicious. At least six players of each side had deep cuts about the head.

### Man-handled

While the game never appeared likely to get out of the control of referee Frank Ballard, I thought he over-looked too much reckless kicking in rucks and actual man-handling.

Otherwise Ballard handled the game excellently as a spectacle. He applied the advantage rule well with a minimum of hold-ups.

It was the ability of Souths' forwards, Crocker, Tyquin, Harris, Pointing, Hornery, and Vivers, to wear down Easts in both backs and forwards that won the game for Souths.

East's forwards stood up wonderfully well to Souths' big, vigorous pack, but they lacked the all round ability which enabled Souths to hold their own in rucks and scrums, and still chime in with the backs in attack and defence.

### Brown hurt

East's were unlucky to lose key attacking player Keith Brown in the first half. He suffered a cut eye and was replaced by young Bob McCartney, who played well but without the penetration of Brown.

Souths appeared to work to a planned strategy. They played a tight forward game in the first half with the emphasis on retaining possession. It brought them a half-time lead of 5-2.

In the second half, however, they opened up the game and made more use of their backs.

Souths' defence was a credit to coach "Scotty" Macrae. He had them covering every possible attacking move by Easts in the first half. Only the genius of Keith Brown beat the dove-tailing defence.

### May have won

Although it will remain one of the many unanswered questions, I think that Easts, with Brown still on the field in the second half, could have pulled it off.

Unfortunately they lacked a penetrating back and a sharp player such as Brown to support those players who broke through several times.

East's still looked capable of winning in the early stages of the second half. Harkins broke through a ruck to make a fine run over 50 yards.

This was followed by a similar break-through by Polley. Each time, however, the ball carrier was left to run alone by Easts.

### Anyone's game

After seven minutes of the second half, Ken Busted landed his second penalty to make the scores 5-4 in Souths' favour.

It was still anyone's game for the next 17 minutes. Play moved rapidly from end to end of the field. It was a tribute to the players' condition that they could stand up to the terrific tempo of speed and bumps.

Gradually, however, Souths' forwards got on top.

Crocker's speed and anticipation in attack and defence, plus Tyquin's backing up, the solid drive down the middle of the field by Pointing, Vivers, Harris, and Hornery, made it possible for their backs to play through their backs to play through their backs.

The record crowd also paid a record gate of £782. Previous best was in 1946 when £647 was taken at the gates.



## Southern Suburbs Rugby League Football Club

PREMIERS 'A' Grade, B.R.L.

Winners President's, Peter Hickey, Jack Stapleton and Pike Cup; Fullerton and Vic. Jensen Trophies, 1953



Sidney Riley

216 Queen St., Brisbane

FRONT ROW—D. Baker, M. Crocker, G. Macrae, V. Fraser, J. Vivers  
SECOND ROW—N. McLean, A. Hornery, F. Harris, K. Pickup  
BACK ROW—R. Hogarth, E. Collins, T. Tyquin, T. Pointing, N. Mendt  
Frank Fullerton Trophy, 1953

**Below:** Harold "Mick" Crocker was chosen to play for Australia and toured with the Kangaroos on the 1952/53 Kangaroo tour.



**Above:** A close up of G. Macrae's blazer in the team photo shows the Lion emblem of Souths at the time.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

Harry Bath was a product of the Souths district and started playing for Souths in 1940 at age 16. Five years later in 1945 at age 21 he starred in Souths' first premiership since the change from being called Carlton. He was a brilliant second rower and played for Queensland that year.

He was lured to Sydney playing two years for Balmain (1946-47), then went to play in England to play for Barrow (1948) and Warrington (1948-56) before returning to play his last three seasons with the all-conquering St George Dragons (1957-59). All five years he played in Sydney his teams Balmain and St George won the premiership. He coached Balmain (1961-66) and Newtown (1969-72) before moving back to Brisbane to coach Souths in the mid 1970's and then finished his coaching career with St George (1977-81) which included their 1979 premiership.

In all his playing career Harry Bath was never chosen to represent Australia and was possibly the best player never to represent his country. Some suggested his time in England was held against him.

One of Souths most colourful and best players was Harold "Mick" Crocker. He made a courageous recovery from Berger's disease as a child and played in the C grade side that won the premiership in 1945.

After playing C grade he then went straight into the first grade side. He played in Souths winning 1949 premiership side. He was chosen for Queensland in 1949. He then played for Queensland against Great Britain in 1950 before playing in the final two Tests of the Ashes series. Mick played in the historic Third Test victory in 1950 in the mud at the SCG where Australia won the Ashes for the first time in 30 years.

He had to recover from another operation to rectify the loss of feeling in his hands and feet to play in subsequent Test series against France (1951), Great Britain and France (1952-53 Kangaroos) and NZ (1953). He played in Souths winning premiership sides in 1951 and 1953.

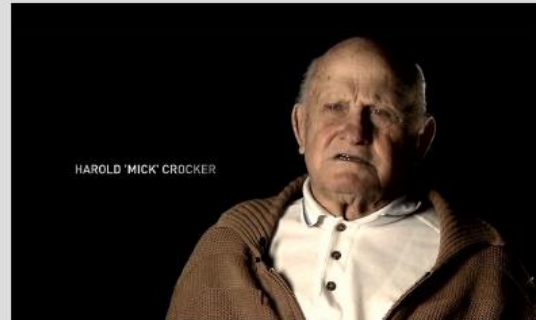
He remembers being given £20 for one of his grand final wins which he promptly spent on buying a keg of beer. Another player bought ice-cream cake and they celebrated with beer and ice-cream cake in the old clubhouse at Davies Park.

In 1954 he then joined wooden spooners Parramatta in Sydney. He played in Tests against Great Britain in 1954 and he earned his place in Australia's inaugural 1954 World Cup team and played France in 1955.

Mick recalls rorts in the district football system where players used phony addresses to play for certain clubs. Mick recalls a whole bunch that had one particular pub as their address even though they didn't live there.

For the rest of the 1950's Souths failed to make the top four following their 1953 premiership. They could not compete with the bigger money offered by other clubs such as Easts.

### FROM THE DOCUMENTARY "THE GROUND I WALK ON"



[During WW2] we never used to play at Davies Park. Couldn't get near the place because the American Army confiscated the whole park for a search light brigade. They were trying to save the gasworks in case there was an air raid.

The Yanks used to play their gridiron and we used to beat them every time. They couldn't believe how we could beat them playing their national game. ...

I played second rower mostly because Bill Tyquin played lock. I look at these days and they got them running on and off. It makes it a bit of a sheila's game of it I reckon...

I remember one time in a trial game getting sent off against Western Suburbs. He said "Off". I said, "What for?" He said, "This is only a trial game and you can't tackle that hard". So I said, "You silly old fusspot"...

**Below:** Harold "Mick" Crocker, playing for Queensland, sidestepping the legendary NSW and Australian fullback Clive Churchill.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 40'S AND 50'S

# For the love of the game

**Bernie Pramberg**

Email: prambergb@qnp.newsltd.com.au



WHEN Mick Crocker was a West End kid in the 1930s he joined hundreds of people fishing off the river bank behind Davies Park.

"They would be lined up shoulder-to-shoulder catching perch to provide a feed during the depression years," he recalled.

"You'd catch a sugar-bag full and take 'em home to put through the mincer because they were full of little bones. Those fish kept food on the table for a lot of families during some hard years."

Crocker, 80, went back to Davies Park yesterday and cast an eye over the football field where he forged a reputation as one of the finest lock forwards in rugby league history.

His eyes sparkled as he walked to the river, yarning about fishing as a kid and partying on the bank after tough club matches in Souths' famous black and white colours.

Tonight, Mick will join another 430 Souths-Logan stalwarts at a function at the Greek Club, appropriately in the heart of West End, to celebrate 100 years of rugby league in South Brisbane.

Mick, who played 15 Tests for Australia and 17 straight games for Queensland, is also a front-line contender for Souths' team of the century, to be named tonight.

"It's hard to pick a team of the century because I reckon everyone is equally important in a club ... supporters, workers, officials and players. They should all be proud to be part of Souths," Mick said.

Still a "West End boy" who walks to the Boundary Hotel for a beer and yarn with old mates, Crocker was 13 when he first pulled on a Magpies jersey in 1942. He made his A-grade debut in 1948, was selected for Queensland the following year and played for Australia in 1950.

"Souths had a very good side through that era ... so many great players I can't remember them all," he said. "They were a terrific mob of blokes. Most of us were also in the Surfers Paradise Surf Club."

Crocker worked many years for the Brisbane City Council and recalls shovelling truckloads of sand on Saturday mornings before being dropped off at the Gabba to play for Queensland.

"I'd be stiff as a board after unloading two trucks, but you just went out and played," he said.

Crocker, who played the last two years of his career with Parramatta, was known as a "gentleman footballer" and the most he earned for a season was £50 (\$100). He spent that on buying beer for his teammates.

And the "gentleman" reputation?



# Gentleman Mick, king of West End

LIFETIME of memories ... Mick Crocker at his beloved Davies Park, where he started and played many years of league.

Picture: Liam Kidston

"I never hurt a little fella. It's only a game. If you're 15 stone (95kg) and they're 10 stone (64kg) you don't do it," he said.

Crocker, who still plays golf once a week, has a ready wit and says the funniest thing he ever saw on a football field happened on the Kangaroo Tour of France in 1952.

"We were playing at Carcassonne and one of the French players ran off the field with the ball, behind our reserves bench, into the crowd and reappeared to put the ball down in the corner over the goal line ... and the referee gave him a try," he said.

"It was beyond belief, and we couldn't do anything about it. So I yelled out to Noel Pidding, who was marking this bloke: 'What's the matter? He's your man ... you were too bloody slow!'"

Also attending tonight's gala will be Lyra Lister, 84, an inveterate worker for the Magpies who ran the canteen at Davies Park for decades. She served pies and soft drinks to many kids who are now grandparents.

Lyra was nine in 1933 when her father attended a meeting in West End to form a new rugby league club after the break-up of Carltons left the district without a team.

That night, her father Jim Montgomery was elected a foundation committee man of the new Southern Suburbs club. The inaugural president, Jack Adams, paid for a set of jerseys.

"Committee meetings were held in our house and players like Harry Bath and Len Pegg used to come around after training to make up the doubles on the first scorers," Lyra recalled.

Souths-Logan chief executive Jim McClelland, another West End boy who has toiled almost 30 years in the role to keep the Magpies afloat said: "It's going to be a wonderful night in many ways. We are one of the few clubs who can trace a 100-year history in rugby league."

The South Brisbane club was formed in 1909 and became Carltons in 1919. Southern Suburbs was formed in 1933 when the Brisbane Rugby League competition started and merged with Logan City in 2002.

Players shortlisted for selection in Souths' team of the century are: Fullbacks: Frank Drake, Gary Belcher, Ray Hogarth, Tony Scott.

Wingers: Barry Prior, Mitch Brennan, Reg Pegg, Des Hendry, Dennis Farrell. Centres: Mal Meninga, Bruce Astill,

Ron Dutton, Peter Jackson, Len Pegg, John Grant.

Five-eighths: Ted Verrenkamp, Graeme Atherton, Val Fraser, Daly Johnson.

Halfbacks: Ivan Jones, John Grice, Norm McLean, Doug Stapleton, Brad Sully, John Salter.

Locks: Mick Crocker, Bob Lindner, Bill Argeros, Stan Gayten.

Second-rowers: Tom Tyquin, Bill Tyquin, Harry Bath, Mick Veivers, Bob Kellaway, Chris Phelan.

Props: Reg Kay, Allan Thompson, Greg Veivers, Jim Murphy, Jack Veivers, Henry Holloway.

Hookers: Claude O'Connell, Reg Webster, Alan Hornery, Bill "Chook" Janouris.

Coach: Scotty McRae, Harry Bath, Wayne Bennett, Bob McCarthy.

One prominent player for Souths in the late 1950's was Henry Holloway who moved up from Sydney and played for Souths in 1959 and coached Souths the following year. In 1959 Holloway played in Queensland's 17-15 victory over NSW that attracted 35 261 spectators, smashing Brisbane's previous record of 22 817. Queensland won the series 3-1. Queensland also won 2-1 in 1951 and drew 2-2 in 1953, 1955, 1960 and 1961.

That 1959 series was the last series success until the first full three-match State of Origin series in 1982 after the initial one-off wins to Queensland in 1980 and 1981 (the first two of those years being resident-based and won by NSW).

The struggles that faced Queensland in winning the interstate series somewhat mirrored the struggles that Souths faced in being competitive in the Brisbane Rugby League competition in the 1960's and 1970's. Co-incidentally, Souths would again become a powerhouse in the BRL competition around the same time in the 1980's that Queensland would begin to dominate with the birth of State of Origin.



**Above:** Forward Don Cory about to pass in a game against Easts at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.





## GRAND FINAL MEMORIES

By Barry Larkin



My Grandfather Bill Larkin who lived near Musgrave Park took me to see Souths play in the Victory and Liberty Cup competitions in 1942, 1943 and 1944. Souths won the Liberty Cup in 1943 (against Past Brothers 12-8) and 1944. I was only 8, 9 and 10 when these were played and I don't remember much about these games. I do remember being taken to Musgrave Park to see some games.

The year 1945 was different. Dad was still in the Army but was now stationed in Brisbane so we saw a lot of Souths games. We saw most of the finals that year. Souths won 5 grand finals (A, Reserve, Third, U17 & U16) and were beaten in the other (U20). 17 year old Mick Crocker played in the C grade grand final as did Ted Verrankamp, who also played in the Reserve Grade Final. The A grade Premiership had some great players - Alan Thompson, Herb Narvo, Jack Atkins, Harry Bath, Nevil Brough, Bertie and Davy Johnson. These 2 brothers played halfback and five-eighth and were knee high to a grasshopper, but were both tough men. Also there was Jack Langton, G. Scotty McRae, Len Pegg (captain), Reg (Bubbles) Pegg (a great winger) and Bill Tyquin, who could punt a torpedo kick 75 yards. We beat Norths in the Final 21-11. I remember seeing the match but can't recall any of the action I know that we had a very strong pack of forwards and smart fast backs. Bill Tyquin was back from the war, and with Thompson, Brough, C. Martin and Herb Narvo formed a very strong pack, with the Johnsons and the Pegg brothers forming a mobile back line.

In 1947 I played for Queensland under 6 stone at the Gabba in front of a full crowd. It was one memory for 1947. The other was the 1947 Grand Final when Easts forwards dominated our pack to win 15-2. We had some great players in Nev Brough, Viv Curry, Bertie Johnson, Ivan Jones, Scotty McRae, the Pegg brothers Len and Reg, Stan Pratley, Alan Thompson, Bill Tyquin, Ted Verrankamp, and Ray (Knocker) White but that day saw a great Easts side beat us.

However we turned the tables at the Gabba in 1949, 22-8 over Easts, who with Souths were the 2 dominating teams in the competition during this period. I probably don't remember much about the games in 1947 and 1949 as when my brother Allan and I went to the football at the Gabba, most of our time was taken up with climbing up under the grandstand and getting the empty bottles and collecting the refunds. The year 1951 again saw our domination over Easts. Most of the same players we had in 1949 were still with the club and again our forward pack dominated the game winning it 20-10.

Now 1953 was different. I was playing halfback for the reserve grade side and the highlight of the year came in our own game against Valleys at Davies Park. We were down 27-3 at half time. Jack Vievers our coach, who also backed up as front row in the A Grade side, came to me at half time and said "Play them down the blind side, they are killing our backs". We won 33-30! Nev Budd our lock forward scored 3 tries from scrum moves down the blind side. I remember the Grand Final in 1953 with Souths thrashing Easts 21-4. They did not cross our line. Two penalty kicks was all they got. Jack Vievers, Mick Crocker, Norm McLean, Val Frazer, Norm Mundt, Roy Hogarth and Fred Harris were outstanding.

In 1963 at Lang Park, we were beaten by Norths 18-8, and the one thing I do remember about that game was Bob Poulson, Norths great forward breaking our hearts with a great 40 yard run to score a try. Then came the drought, till 1979 when we played Valleys at Lang Park, Just before halftime we were down 3-0 and attacked Valleys line for 10 minutes. Their defence were miles offside and I wondered why we didn't put a kick in behind their back line. They (Wally Lewis) overran us in the second half to win 26-0. My memory of the 1980 Grand Final at Lang Park hinges around that final try by Les Dutton's son Peter when he scored that try. Unfortunately he was playing for Norths not Souths. We went down by 17-15.

The year 1981 - what can you say but what a magnificent finish with that Mick Reardon try in the right hand corner to beat Redcliffe 13-9. You could not help feeling sorry for Artie Beetson who played his heart out for Redcliffe only to get done on the full time bell.

I did not see the 1982 or the 1984 grand final defeats by Wynnum 17-3 and 42-8. I saw them on TV and the Lewis-Miles combination was dominating most teams, however we had our revenge in the 1985 Grand Final by beating them 10-8 by our great defensive effort. We tackled them out of the game and it must have taken a few operations to take the smiles off the players faces.

The next final I saw was the 1996 BRL Grand Final at Lang Park and it is better left forgotten as it was not the best of finals, with both sides seemingly trying to lose it. We lost 16-12.

In 2008 Marion, I and family were sitting next to Dennis Brennan in the grandstand at Ipswich, and boy this was without a doubt the best Grand Final I have seen Souths win. Our start was magnificent, running away to that large lead. The second half comeback by Ipswich had my blood pressure rising along with that final try with the ball going out wide and that memorable try in the corner. The fulltime bell went off and we all went mad running out onto the ground. It was a sensational win. The noise our Colts were making was also memorable. They showed the Souths club spirit that always has been there. The one thing we should all remember about our game is that it is a sport and it takes two teams to make it so great. We love to win but we must also feel some compassion for the losers.



## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S

The start of the 1960's saw the birth of the Magpies. Up until then Carltons and then Southern Suburbs had the Lion as its emblem. Henry Holloway moved up from over the border and joined Souths in 1959 and was coaching the team in 1960. After he arrived in Souths he made the comment one day, "I don't see any lions around here but I sure see plenty of magpies." Following that a decision was made to change the emblem of the club from Lions to Magpies.



Two key signings around this time helped spur on a resurgence by Souths in the early 60's. One was Mick Vievers, nephew of Jack Vievers. Mick grew up on the range in Beechmont, a dairy farming region in the Gold Coast hinterland. Farmer, as he was later nicknamed, was convinced into playing for Souths by his uncle Jack. He became an excellent front rower for Souths and later went on to play for Brisbane in the Bulimba Cup and representative football for Queensland and Australia. Like his uncle Jack, Mick showed his dedication by driving by his FB Holden the 140-mile return trip on gravel roads from Beechmont to Brisbane up to five times a week to train and play.



Following his playing career he would become a familiar face on TV as a football commentator alongside of other colourful commentators like George Doniger and Billy J. Smith. After that he would go on to politics with the National Party and was a Minister for Sport in the Borbidge State Government.

**Above:** This lion emblem for Souths Graceville is an echo from the time that Souths had a lion as its emblem before changing to the Magpies.

The other key signing was a fullback by the name of Frank Drake. Frank started off his career for Balmain where he was an understudy to the great Keith Barnes. Rather than playing in a different position he looked for a quality side where he could hone his skills as a fullback. He found one up in Queensland with the All Whites team in Toowoomba and was quickly chosen to represent Toowoomba in their winning 1959 and 1960 Bulimba Cup teams. This is where he came to the attention of Souths and he was signed to play for Souths in 1961.

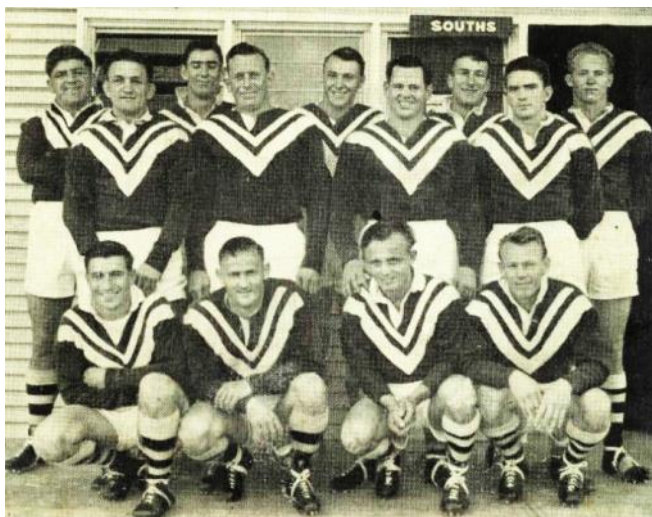


Most other fullbacks were relatively slow at the time. Frank was very quick and pioneered the running fullback role that we have seen perfected in our modern day with Billy Slater. He had the speed to burst into and fully take advantage of gaps created by overlaps, kicks behind the line and drawing in the defence elsewhere.

In addition to playing in Brisbane's next three winning Bulimba Cup campaigns, Frank also went on to play for both Queensland and Australia. He played for Souths from 1961 to 1963 and was club captain, then played for Easts in Sydney for two years before moving back to Brisbane after his playing career.

**Above:** Frank Drake in his Queensland jersey wearing his famous white shoes.

**Below:** Souths team photos from 1959 and 1960. Henry Holloway is seen top left in the 1959 photo and second left in the back row of the 1960 photo.



SOUTHS RUGBY LEAGUE "A" SIDE 1959

BACK ROW: H. HOLLOWAY, T. MCALPIN, J. NEVILLE, M. VIEVERS, R. PRYOR.  
2<sup>ND</sup> ROW: D. JACKWITZ, D. TOWNSEND, K. PRYOR, R. FAIRWEATHER.  
FRONT ROW: BOB CORY, R. GROVE, J. JEZIORSKI, D. HALMARSON



SOUTHS RUGBY LEAGUE "A" SIDE 1960



**THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S**



**Above:** An Souths team photo from the early 1960's.



**Above:** A Souths player being tackled in a game against Wests at Lang Park.



## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



Back Row: F. DRAKE (Captain), M. VEIVERS, B. WALL, C. WRIGHT (Coach), G. GLEDHILL, W. KITCHENER, D. FARRELL

Second Row: G. WALKER, R. MARTIN, R. DUTTON, E. ELLISSEOS

Sitting: J. KIRKMAN, H. FINGLETON, I. JONES.

Frank recalls the team not really gelling until 1962. In 1961 they finished 6th and in 1962 they finished 2nd on the ladder behind Norths. Unfortunately for Souths they bowed out of the race for the premiership in straight sets. Norths convincingly beat them 21-6 in the major semi-final and they then lost to Valleys 15-9 in the preliminary final.

The following year in 1963 Souths again finished 2nd on the table behind Norths who had won the last four premierships. They caused a great upset when they easily beat Norths in the major semi-final 23-3. Souths played brilliantly and Norths made many uncharacteristic mistakes. Des Smith withdrew very late with a leg injury and, to cover him, Frank Drake was shifted from fullback to centre. Frank Drake cut Norths to pieces and scored one try with Farrel scoring a double.

When they met again in the 1963 Grand Final Frank Drake was kept in the centres much to his disappointment and this backfired on Souths as he was well covered in defence by the Norths centres and couldn't inject himself in his usual way with the freedom of attack that he had at fullback. Souths also dropped a little too much ball at times.

Souths smaller forwards tackled tirelessly but were outclassed by their bigger opponents. Ian Massie was brilliant for Norths at lock and scored two tries. Norths were back to their blistering best and won their 5th straight premiership when they beat Souths 18-8.

The rest of the 1960's was a disappointing time for Souths failing to make the top four and collecting the wooden spoon three times.

## SOUTHS OF '68



Today the Telegraph presents the second in its series of color Souvenirs of the first grade Brisbane Rugby League teams.

Last week it was the premiers Brothers. Now to Souths who finished second last in last season's premiership, but they aim to improve on that. For the start of fixtures on April 6-7, they will have on their jerseys their emblem the Magpie.

Taken at the Club's Davies Park headquarters, the squad of 19 and Coach Ray (Knacker) White, is:

Back row (from left): DAN MCGUINNIS, JIM MURPHY, TONY SCOTT, BOB IRES.

Second row (from left): RAY WHITE, JEFF MARSHALL, BERNIE CALAGHAN, BILL GARDNER, DAVID SMITH, WARREN KENWARD.

Third row (from left): JIM HAWTHORNE, ALAN EDWARDS, ALAN MURKIN, BRIAN TURNBULL, ALAN ROWAN, STAN McDONALD.

Front row (from left): KID CRANSTON, RAY SCULLY, BILL LOOF, JIM MURDOCH.



## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



The 1970's began more promisingly for Souths. In the early 70's Souths recruited some terrific Fijian players like Isoa Vola Vola, Asaeli Batibasaga and Amen Gutugutuwai. Coming through the ranks at Souths were some other quality players like playmakers Graeme Atherton and Doug Stapleton and their captain Gary Dobrich.

In 1970 Souths made the semis after finishing 3rd but were thrashed by eventual premiers Valleys 41-9. The next year in 1971 they finished in second place on the table. Unfortunately they bowed out in straight sets losing close games to Valleys 12-8 in the major semi-final and Easts 19-11 in the preliminary final. The following two years Souths finished 5th and 7th respectively.

A couple of great players who came onto the scene around this time were Greg Veivers and John Grant. Greg Veivers was the son of Jack Veivers who played in the 1950's. He was a front rower like his father. He was a regular in the Queensland team in the 1970's when the state team was still resident based and NSW completely dominated, quite often with players who originated from Queensland. He represented Australia in seven World Cup matches from 1975 and 1977 and captained the Kangaroos in a World Cup match in 1977. John Grant was a fast winger with a great attacking flair and played in the 1972 World Cup for Australia. He was appointed as the inaugural chairmain of the Australian Rugby League Commission.



BACK ROW (from left): Kim McCasker, Jeff Marshall, Mick Kowal, Gavin McLaughlin, Doug Stapleton, Craig Heckenberg  
 Amen Gutugutuwai, Greg Veivers.  
 CENTRE ROW: Ray White (coach), John Grant, John Graham, Harry Naylor, Jim Murphy, Graeme Atherton, Chris Thorley, Brian Turnbull  
 FRONT ROW: Isoa Vola Vola, Gary Dobrich (capt.), Asaeli Batibasaga, Bob Dyson, Wayne Linsell, (absent: Peter Moore)



**Above:** The 1972 Souths team

**Above Right:** John Grant

**Left:** Brian Turnbull, Isoa Vola Vola and Amen Gutugutuwai at a reunion of the 1972 side.

**Right:** Doug Stapleton, Isoa Vola Vola and Frank Drake at a club function.





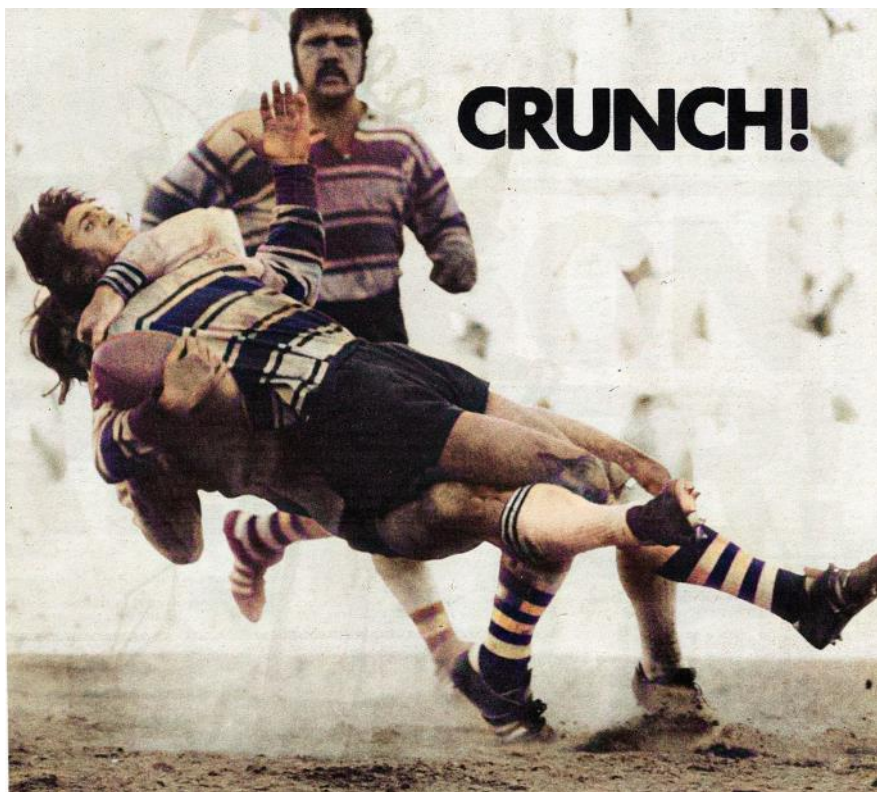




## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



**Above:** Action from the 1971 major semi final against Valleys. On the right are Greg Vievers, Graeme Atherton and Doug Stapleton with the ball. Souths lost this semi and the preliminary final against Easts. It would be the closest they would get to a Grand Final until 1979. **Below Left:** John Grant at Lang Park. **Below Right:** John Grant crunches Graham Quinn in a fierce tackle in a game against Brothers.





## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



\* Almost made it— Brother's RON BEAUCHAMP reaches out for an intercept as GRAEME ATHERTON, held by NOEL COWELL, slips a pass away.....



Away It Goes! SOUTHS Mr. Consistency - TONY SCOTT.



**Above:** Graeme Atherton leads Souths out onto Lang Park.

**Below:** Bruce Astill bursts through a tackle.





## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S

Souths made the semis in 1974 after they finished 3rd on the ladder. They met Brothers in the minor semi-final and were beaten 27-12 with Ian Dauth and Wayne Bennett starring while flyer John Grant was quite dangerous at times for Souths.

Harry Bath returned to the club where he started his brilliant career in the 1940's but this time as a coach in 1975. Souths finished a disappointing 7th in 1975. The next year in 1976 they won a playoff for 5th (the BRL had a top 5 in 1975 & 1976). They played Redcliffe in the elimination final and beat them 14-6. They then lost the minor semi-final against eventual premiers Wests 11-5. Souths picked up the wooden spoon in 1977 when Wayne Bennett joined the club.

When Barry Larkin took over as President of the club in 1974 it was in debt to the tune of \$57 000. Some good fiscal discipline turned that around by 1976. However financial problems beset the club another time in 1978.

Between 1975 and 1978 Souths competed in the Amco Cup which was a midweek knockout competition that included Sydney, Brisbane and country teams. Souths never reached the quarter finals nor beat any Sydney teams but recorded a couple of wins against other teams. Over the four years they lost to Penrith 37-9 (7/5/75), lost to South Sydney 17-8 (31/3/76), beat Canterbury (NZ) 20-12 (4/5/77), lost to Northern Division (NSW) 34-20 (29/6/77), beat Gold Coast 10-4 (5/4/78) and lost to Wests (Sydney) 25-5 (19/4/78).

In 1977 Souths recruited Wayne Bennett who, for a brief time, was their captain and coach before retiring himself as a player. Wayne Bennett worked at the Oxley Police Academy and his contacts at the Police Academy, which had its own competitive rugby league team, saw many policeman who came from the Academy come over and play for Souths. The most prominent was a tall, solid centre by the name of Mal Meninga. After their 1977 wooden spoon, they finished 5th in 1978 just missing the semis.

The next year in 1979 their star began to rise. They finished 3rd coming into the semis. Their first opponents in the minor semi-final were Wests. Souths were down 10-5 at half time but had a blistering second half. Wayne Bennett's move to not introduce forward Mal Connell into the game until the second half paid dividends as Souths came back to win 22-13.

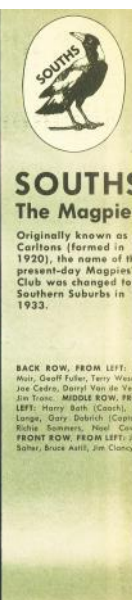
They then met Easts, who had won the competition the two previous seasons, in the preliminary final. Easts got off to a flying start and were leading 14-0. Shortly before half time halfback John Salter in a great movement sent Alan Brackin in to score and bring the score back to 14-8 at half time. Souths gradually clawed its way back and then with two minutes to go big Mal Meninga crashed over in the corner for Souths to beat Easts 18-16 and make their first grand final in 16 years.

They met Valleys that day and it wasn't to be as Valleys inflicted a humiliating 26-0 defeat in the grand final. Souths were in it for the first half but were blown away in the second half by players such as Valleys captain Ross Strudwick, Chris Close before his switch to Redcliffe and a young lock named Wally Lewis, who would switch to five-eighth and become an immortal of the game. It was an unhappy day but good recruiting had laid the foundation for the next golden era for the club in the 1980's.

**Below Left:** Souths team photo from 1975. **Below Right:** Contest for a bomb in a 1977 Souths v Brothers game at Lang Park.



**Above:** Greg Veivers with President Barry Larkin as Greg signs on the dotted line.





## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



*The pass goes out as Magpie Bill Argeros goes down in Mick Neill's tackle in the Souths-Valleys match last Sunday.*



**Left:** Bruce Astill on the burst. **Below:** A couple of Souths players wrap up a Wests player in a game at Lang Park.





**THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S**



*Souths brilliant winger Mitch Brennan who bamboozled Norths fullback Geoff Wraith when he scored two tries on Sunday at Lang Park. Brennan revealed outstanding attacking qualities. He looks representative material for 1975.*



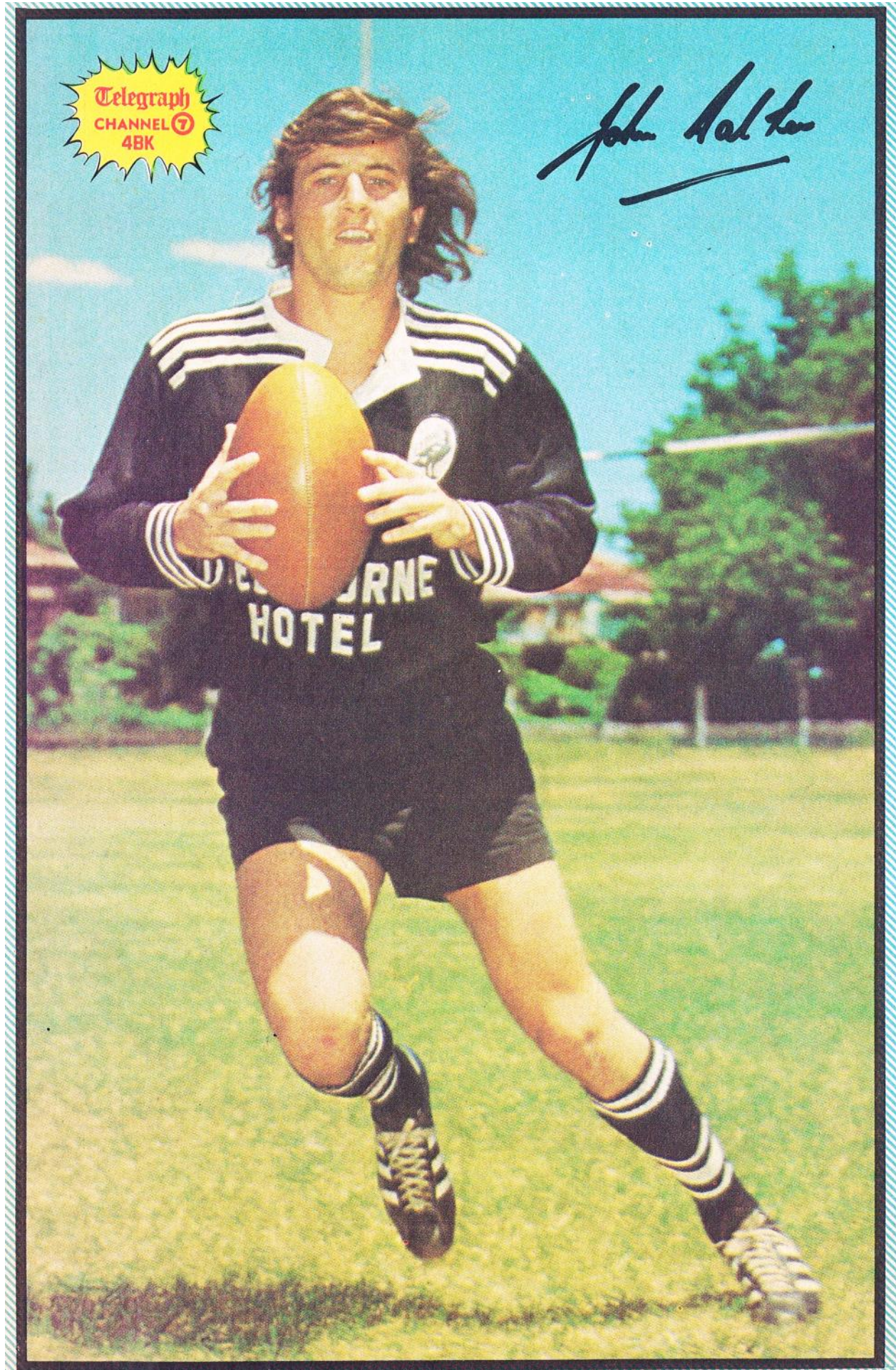
**THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S**



*A right to the midriff but Souths prop Greg Veivers still has a grip on the ball. That's Bob Beatson of Valleys moving in on the winded Veivers.*



**THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S**





## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



**Below:** Souths playing Valleys at Neumann Oval in 1977.





## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



**Above Left:** Greg Vievers on the left playing for Australia against Great Britain in a World Series game at Lang Park in 1977.  
**Above Right:** Greg Vievers tries to get the ball away at Lang Park in a game against Wests.

AUGUST 20, 1977

### RUGBY LEAGUE WEEK

## Wayne Bennett, D.C., wants to put the spirit back into Souths

A COUPLE of days after Souths dropped out of the Brisbane Rugby League premiership race the team's captain-coach, Wayne Bennett, was re-appointed — and promoted.

Not only was the former Australian fullback retained as coach, but he was appointed to a brand new position with Souths, director of coaching of the entire senior club.

That may have sounded strange in any other club but not so with Souths and you would understand why if you have been following the BRL this year.

The club administration was only expressing what the rest of Souths' supporters have felt during the season . . . that Bennett had done a sound coaching job despite the bad luck and some bad form which has plagued the team this season.

By KEITH LAWRIE

his early appointment for next season, compared with his last-minute push into the player-coaching job this year, will make the difference.

"I didn't want to be coach this year . . . just to play. But then Tom Berry pulled out and the club asked me to take on the coaching also," Bennett said.

"I don't like the idea of player-coaches, although people like Bunny Pearce and Des Morris seem to be doing pretty well.

"But the club wanted it, so I did it.

"Next year, however, I will be coaching only. I have retired as a player.

"I feel I will be able to make a greater contribution as a coach from the sideline."

Bennett will also have a big say in what players Souths will buy for next season.

For a start, he will retain all his present players. But there will be some new faces also . . . forwards mainly, and at least one inside back.

He believes Souths need another three or four quality players and he is out to get them.

But Bennett will mainly be re-vamping the structure of coaching within the club.

As director of coaching, he will have all his coaches working for the good of the club rather



than the good of individual teams.

He will coach A grade primarily, but will call on his other coaches to help out with specialised knowledge where they can.

Coaching of all four senior teams will be along the same lines so that players from C grade, or even under-23's, can fit in smoothly with the A grade team if they are called on.

Of course, the A grade team will get the preferences, because today

you need a successful A grade team to build a successful club.

Bennett will have a little surprise for his players when they put their boots away for the last time in the 1977 season — he will be starting official team training early in December.

"I intend to start training privately a bit earlier and the players can join me if they like.

"But official training starts in December," Bennett said.

Bennett believes that his fullback, Mitch Brennan, will be the player of 1978 in Brisbane.

"Brennan's place is fullback, not wing, and he will be playing fullback next season," he said.

Bennett believes Brennan will be a bigger sensation than Wests' trump fullback Greg M'Carthy.

"Brennan is a stronger and more explosive player than

M'Carthy," he said. "He will be number one fullback in Brisbane next season."

Bennett also said that international back John Grant would move permanently to lock next year.

"Lock is Grant's best position these days and he wants to play there. I agree," Bennett said.

"But he will have to fight for the position against our regular lock Pat Phelan."

If Bennett's plans work out there will be several present players fighting for the positions which have been taken for granted this season.

That's the way he wants it . . . to bring new spirit to a club which has allowed itself to become a little complacent in recent years.

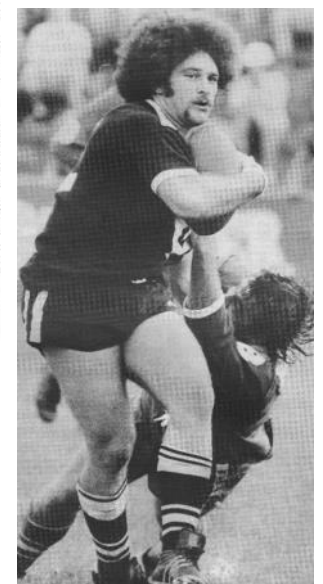


Explosive international back John Grant, Lock next year?



**Above:** A young Mal Meninga in a late 1970's game against Brothers. In this game he broke through 5 players to set up a try for Gary Thompson.

**Below:** Big Russell Bates takes the ball up for Souths.



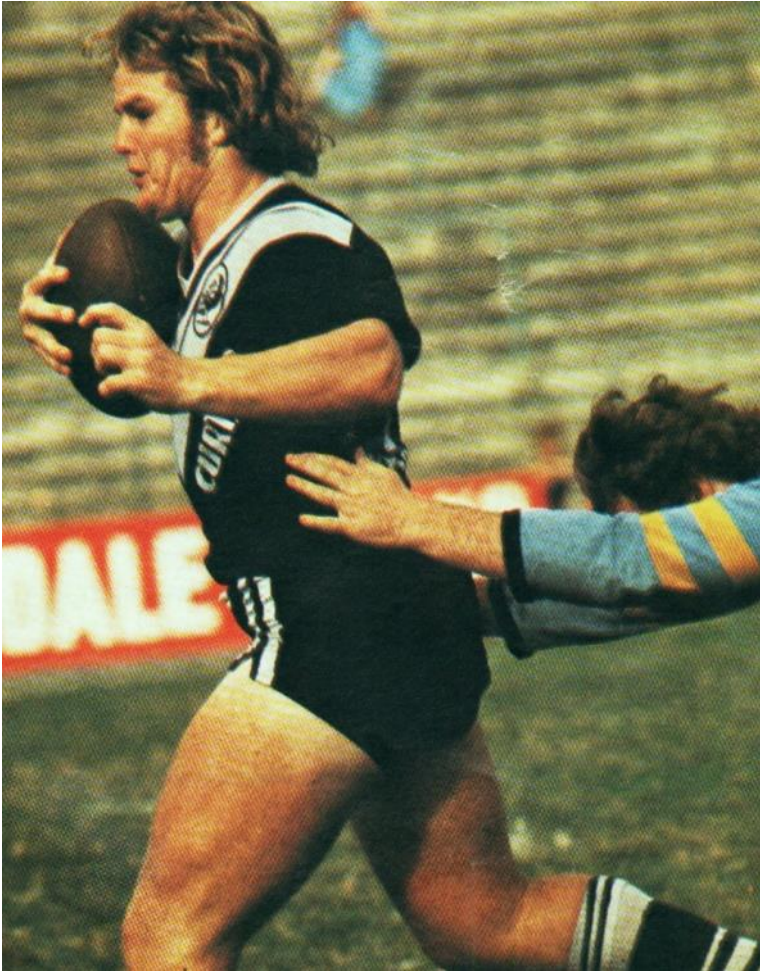
Souths fullback Mitch Brennan, "The player of 1978", says Wayne Bennett.

It was a solid vote of confidence in Bennett and the tall police physical education instructor doesn't mean to let it go astray in 1978.

He said this week he knows there are hurdles aplenty in 1978, but that



## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S



**Above:** Dave Brown on the burst for Souths in a game at Lang Park against Norths.

**Below:** Souths own police force. Wayne Bennett worked at the Oxley Police Academy and with his contacts at the Police Academy saw many policeman who came from the Academy come over and play for Souths. The most prominent was a tall, blockbusting centre by the name of Mal Meninga.



Souths' own police force (from left): constable 1st class (mobile patrols) Gary Hutchinson; constable Peter McIlwain (Valleys); constable Trevor Wendt (City); constable Ash Lumby (Morningside); constable (mobile patrols) Peter Allan; constable (mobile patrols) Bill Stubbard; constable (mobile patrols) Wayne Saul; constable (CIB) John Hamrey; constable Chris Kealey (Redcliffe); constable Paul Foley (Woodridge); constable (plain clothes) Phil Hocken; constable Wayne Bennet. Absent on duty were constable Ray Swift (Gabbra); constable John Wacker (Ipswich); constable 1st class (mobile patrols) Ken Ragh; constable Steve Glynn (Oxley Academy) and constable Tony Gibson (Valleys).

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



GREG VEIVERS

When you come from nothing and you want to go somewhere there's a bit of fight there. I think this joint has got it. We'd have been dead long ago had we not had that. Had we been a soft mob we'd have thrown the towel in. You go to make your own fun when you come from the poor end of town. In the bush you had cricket or rugby league and if you had a quid you probably had a tennis court. The southern end of town has always been for the battler.

Back in those early days this was the focal point for the locals in this little area of West End. Davies Park was part of their life. You'd come down here and watch football...

You dreaded [training in] August because the nights were so cold here and with the cricket pitch in the middle used to be like concrete...

We had the only nightclub on Sunday nights in the city here and this place used to rock back in those early days. We'd have people from all over Brisbane here.

We had a lot more interest in the game back in those days which made life a lot easier for those guys because they had a lot of supporters...

And subsequently you've got a bloke named Jim McClelland. This place wouldn't have survived without Jim.

**Below:** Alan Brackin scores a vital try in Souths 18-16 preliminary final win against Easts that put them into the 1979 Grand Final.





## THE TOUGH YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S

### Grand Final



**SOUTHS**  
**Front:** Ashley Lumby, Allan Brackin, Wayne Bennett (coach), Bruce Astill (capt), John Salter, Seve Glynn.  
**Middle:** Jim Elder (man), Dave Brown, Bob Kellaway, Peter Ryan, Mal Maninga, Warren Kenward (ass).  
**Back:** Mal Connell, Mick Gramm, David Gould, Tony Gibson, Brian Weir, Ken Rach (masseur).

**Above:** The 1979 Souths Grand Final team that faced the red hot Valleys team that humbled our boys that day.

FEBRUARY 22, 1979

RUGBY LEAGUE WEEK

PAGE 29

## BRISBANE MAGIC-MAN MANINGA!

THE name is Malcolm Maninga. It's a name to remember. It's a name League fans will read a lot about in the next few years.

Souths Magpies kept it under wraps last week when they announced their team for the first game of the pre-season.

But they unveiled their dynamic young centre at Davies Park last Sunday and the 18-year-old sensation from Wide Bay lived up to all his promises.

He scored two tries and kicked five goals (from seven attempts) in his A grade debut.

It was probably the best performance by a new-comer in the past 10 years. He was one of the reasons the Magpies overran Brothers 19-13 in an otherwise lacklustre match.

Maninga is the player the Magpies have been looking for as he compliments co-centre Bruce Astill, who had previously been one of the under-rated players in Brisbane.

Astill initiated both Maninga's tries. He sent fullback Graham Laird through an opening to race 50 metres before he found Maninga in a backup role.

But Maninga had to take

Souths 19 Brothers 13.  
 By Jack Craig

two tacklers over the line with him to score.

It was Astill again who created the opening for Maninga's second try, but Maninga had to show some deceptive running patterns over 60 metres to outwit the Brothers defence.

Captain Wayne Bennett may keep Maninga on the sideline for the next two encounters which are against Valleys this Friday night and Easts next week.

Magpie president Tony Testa explained: "When you've got a hot property like Malcolm you don't expose him to the wiles of captain-coaches like (Des) Morris or (Ross) Strudwick."

Maninga will be one of our big guns this season," Testa said, "and we want to keep him fresh. We won't over-work him in the pre-season, and we won't throw him to the wolves."

This lad has a lot of potential and we will help develop it," Testa said.

Souths Interstate reps Greg Veevers, Bob Kellaway and John Salter showed good early season form as did Brothers State rep Bob Cock who had a fiery game.

South Sydney import halfback David Sinclair was Brothers' best.

Sinclair was prominent early when he intercepted a pass 40 metres out and raced untouched to score. But Sinclair was penalised repeatedly for scrum infringements and did not give his backs clean service from the scrumbase.

Brothers will have to improve on this performance and must have second thoughts about their buying habits in the off-season.

They have obtained some good players, but lack a top hooker. Terry Koorcock did his best with a strange set of props, but the Brethren must lament the loss of John Alexander to Wynnum.

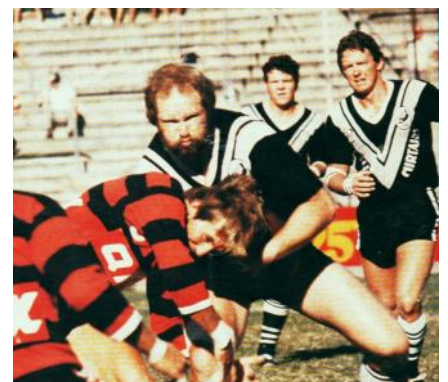
Souths 19 (M Maninga 2, B Weir tries, M Maninga 5 goals) beat Brothers 13 (D Sinclair, M Thomas tries, W Stewart 2, T Butler goals, D Sinclair held goal).

Scorers: 11-11 Penalties: Souths 14-11



**Left:** I never did hear of this Mal Maninga fellow ever again but I did hear a whole lot more of a big centre with a similar name for many years to come!

**Below:** Greg Veevers tackling in a game against Wests.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

The next golden era for Souths following their early post-war golden era was the 1980's. Souths, though greatly outclassed by a more seasoned Valleys team in the 1979 grand final, had been steadily building a side that would become a dominant team in the 1980's.

During the early post-war golden era most of their major battles were against the district neighbours, Easts. In the 1980's their major rival would be the Wynnum-Manly Seagulls. Their star wouldn't rise until 1982 and Souths faced two different rivals in 1980 and 1981. Wynnum-Manly were full of quality players and they became further strengthened in 1984 by the signing of "King Wally" Lewis, who, though raised in Cannon Hill, started off his career with the Valleys Diehards.

Wally Lewis played a key role for Valleys in 1980 when they pipped Souths by a point in winning the minor premiership. This saw the previous years' grand finalists face off in the major semi-final. This time Souths would have their revenge on Valleys for the previous year's humiliation by beating them 22 to 14. Late in the game Billy Johnstone was sent off for knocking out Ross Strudwick. In a dramatic preliminary final Valleys were denied the chance to take on Souths again in the grand final when they were beaten by a single point losing 15 to 14 against Norths.

Norths had some great players including their captain Mark Murray and Queensland representatives, hooker Greg Conescu and winger "Smoking" Joe Kilroy and New Zealand captain, Mark Graham. Coaching them was Graham Lowe, who would later have great success coaching New Zealand and even Queensland (1991). Norths finished fourth on the ladder and were beaten in all three rounds by Souths. With Valleys out of the finals Souths became raging hot favourites to win the 1980 Grand Final.

Souths had tremendous depth in 1980 and won the club championship. Souths beat Norths 20-6 to win the Third Grade premiership and then Souths beat Brothers 20-13 to win the Reserve Grade premiership. Everything looked on track for Souths to repeat their 1945 clean sweep. Unfortunately things didn't quite go to script.

The score was 7-all at half time and the game was set alight early in the second half by a 50 metre run by "Smoking" Joe Kilroy who beat five defenders and sent Brian Dunn in to score. Souths scored two late tries but were playing catch up football for the rest of the second half. Norths, who were more adventurous in their attacking play, just pipped Souths 17-15 to beat us for the 1980 premiership. There were 3 tries each but goal kicking was the difference on the scoreboard. Gary Warnock converted all of Norths' tries and scored a penalty goal. Mal Meninga for Souths kicked 3 out of 5 that day.

The Men of League for a few years hosted a function at the Grand Final for the Intrust Super (Queensland) Cup where they looked back at the grand finals that end with the same number as the current year (eg. In 2010 they looked back at the 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 & 2000 Grand Finals). When I attended the inaugural "Blast From the Past" function in 2010 Norths two centres shared a funny anecdote about the 1980 Grand Final.

According to their version of events (so don't take this as gospel), before the game their coach, Graham Lowe gave them photos of their opposing Souths centres, Bruce Astill and Mal Meninga, and said when a fight breaks out I want to give it to your opposing centre. The one who was given the photo of Bruce Astill kept on saying to the other centre was assigned to give it to Mal, "You're gonna get smashed mate." When a fight broke out five minutes into the game the centre assigned to give it to Mal went after another player. When the other centre saw it he screamed out to him, "Wrong player!" How true that is I cannot tell. That was the version that I heard at that function.



**Above: Bruce Astill**

**Below: Mick Reardon**

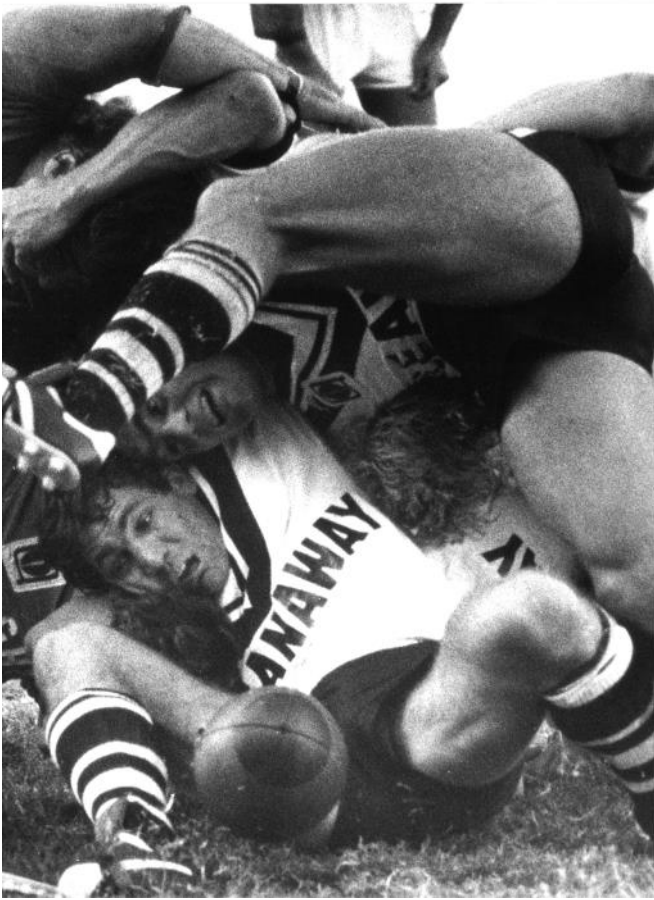


**Below: Chris Phelan won the Rothmans Medal in 1981.**





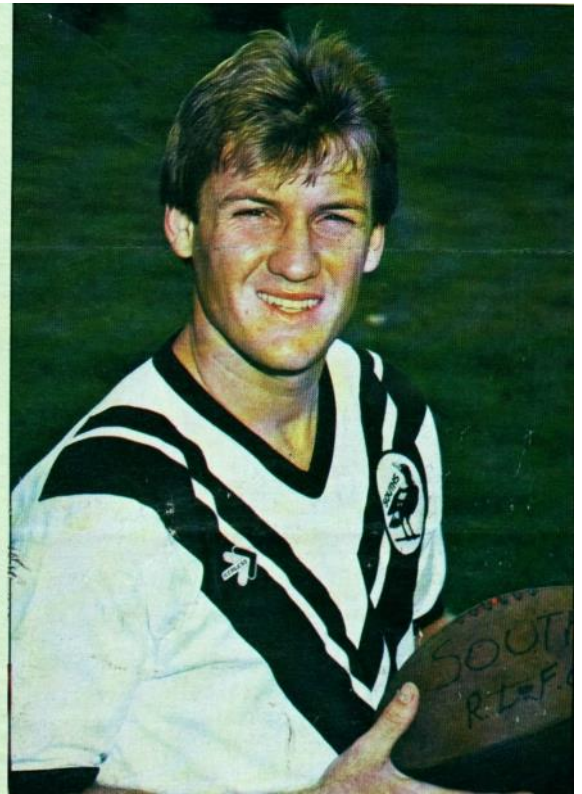
## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



Part of the sensational all-in brawl in the Souths-Valleys clash at Lang Park last Sunday. Valleys centre Vic Wieland gets ready to handle Souths centre Mal Meninga as Magpie skipper Bruce Astill comes in to quell the confrontation.



RIGHT: Geoff Naylor in his Brisbane Souths gear. He needs more support from teammates.



**Top Left:** Back in the days when scrums were a genuine contest which, sadly, they are not today. Billy Johnstone attempts to hook for the ball in a collapsed scrum.

**Above:** Chris Phelan receives his Rothmans Medal for Best and Fairest player in 1981.

**Right:** Souths playing Valleys at Neumann Oval in 1981. Souths have scored and Mal Meninga is lining up the conversion. Souths won the game 16-12.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

RUGBY LEAGUE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 11, 1980

TONY DURKIN AT THE SEMIS

# MAGNIFICENT MAL

## BRISBANE



### ... and Struddy decked again

LEFT: Mal Meninga on the prowl in Souths' 22-13 win over Valleys at Lang Park last Sunday. BELOW: Valleys captain-coach Ross Strudwick lies unconscious after being decked. Replacement forward Mark Zillman looks on. Souths hooker Billy Johnstone was sent from the field as a result of the incident.



## Souths' 35-year trifecta

SOUTHS have qualified for all three senior BRL grand finals, the first time the club has achieved this feat since 1945.

Last Sunday Souths beat Easts 11-6 in C grade and Brothers 30-10 in reserve grade to qualify for the respective grand finals.

The reserve grade win by Souths was very impressive and showed the great benefit of experience in big-match football.

Souths boasted seven of the side which played in last season's first grade grand final, while Brothers fielded many youngsters.

It was all Souths and Brothers did not look like scoring until late in the match when they notched their two tries.

Best for Souths were fullback Ken Spence, who scored three tries, centres Tony Gibson and Chris Kealy and experienced forwards Billy Argeros and Bob Kellaway.

Second-rower John McGraw, hooker Trevor Bailey and five-eighth Robert Grogan were the pick of the Brethren.

SOUTHS 30 (K. Spence 3, G. Porter, S. Mowen, A. Davidson tries; T. Wendt 6 goals) beat BROTHERS 10 (S. McKenzie, P. Griffiths tries; J. McGraw 2 goals).

EASTS finished the C grade match with 12 men after centre Russell Smith was sent from the field on a violent conduct charge for allegedly swearing at and running into the referee Terry Cannavan.

Until this stage the Tigers were well in the match, down 8-6 and with 10 minutes remaining.

But the extra man gave the Magpies the edge they needed and centre Doug Gibson scored shortly after Smith's dismissal.

SOUTHS 11 (M. Curry 2, D. Gibson tries; M. Boody goal) beat EASTS 6 (R. Ellis, B. Naylor tries).

THIS SUNDAY: Reserve grade — Brothers v Easts, Referee Harry Dearness; C grade: Easts v Norths, Referee Keith Bichel.

THE magic and power of big Mal Meninga have Souths in their second successive BRL grand final.

Souths 22, Valleys 14.

30 minutes, with a knee injury, and McWhirter retired at halftime after suffering a bad facial injury early in the match.

In all, Valleys made five replacements, the last one being captain-coach Ross Strudwick in the 77th minute.

Strudwick was flattened in back play and had to be carried from the field. Souths hooker Billy Johnstone was subsequently sent from the field and charged with using a stiff-arm tackle.

Souths used only two replacements, both late in the match.

Tony Gibson came on for fullback Steve Glynn and big second-rower Bob Kellaway replaced Ash Lumby.

Obviously coach Bob McCarthy wanted to have a look at both Gibson and Kellaway in top company.

The selection sensation leading into the match — whether or not Valleys' injured centre Mick Neill would play after a three-month layoff — continued at Lang Park before kick-off time.

Firstly came the news that Souths' second-rower George Moroko, who has been plagued by a leg injury for five weeks, had withdrawn and his place would be taken by 20-year-old Brad Tessmann, a former Queensland under-18 captain.

Moroko was involved in a car accident shortly after leaving a training session on Saturday morning and again injured his leg.

But five minutes before the start of the match came the real shock — Valleys' dynamite young second-rower Bryan Neibling was listed among the reserves and his place was taken by little-known reserve-grader Arch McSweeney.

As expected, McSweeney and Neibling changed places after 18 minutes and Neibling went on to be one of the Richards' best players.

Neill pulled out of the side on Thursday night and his place was taken by Russell Klein.

Obviously, the Neibling incident had been one of the match plans of the cagey Strudwick — keep Neibling fit until the Souths forwards started to run out of puff. And to an extent it worked.

Meninga kicked downfield and Mills was beaten by an awkward bounce. There was a mix-up between Mills and winger Doug Muir and the ever-alert Souths winger Gary Thompson pounced on the loose ball.

Two play-the-balls later big

Meninga stormed onto a pass from the acting-half and took three defenders over the line in a six metre rampage. It was Meninga, combining his natural talent with his brute strength, a sight to frighten the toughest.

Meninga's touchline conversion made the score 7-2 after 25 minutes. Meninga and Mills had earlier landed penalties.

But three minutes after Meninga's try came a piece of Wally Lewis magic.

Lewis took the ball from a ruck on halfway and chip-kicked ahead. He regained possession after firstly knocking the ball into the air and out of the reach of a Souths player, and then juggling it for about a metre.

Lewis drew the fullback and passed to Strudwick who sent centre Vic Wieland racing away. Mills converted and it was 7-11.

Lewis played an important part in the next try, by Souths, even though he was not on the field.

Ever alert to the situation, Souths' live-wire halfback Brad Sully scampered around the scrumbase from about 30 metres out and raced over without a hand being laid on him. With Lewis on the sideline, there was no cover.

Another kick resulted in the next try, in the 44th minute by Strudwick.

Neill put up a perfectly-placed bomb and the Souths players became entangled with each other. Strudwick placed his hand on the ball for the easiest of tries.

Mills missed the conversion attempt, but made amends with a penalty four minutes later and the scores were locked 12-11.

A rare mistake by Strudwick gave Souths a much-needed break in the 50th minute.

Strudwick had his team lined out near their own tryline and, in trying to create an opening, floated a pass into the hands of Souths' intercept expert Bruce Astill, who bolted through the open gate.

A great conversion by Meninga made it 17-12, but Mills hit back with a penalty three minutes later and it was 17-14, with the Diehards still a big chance.

The try that sealed the match came in the 59th minute and resulted from another piece of Meninga magic.

Quick hands across the line by Souths enabled Meninga to float a long and accurate pass to Astill who sent a juggling Mick Gramm over in the corner.

Meninga missed the conversion, but landed a penalty goal in the 75th minute to wrap up the semi 22-14.

### THE SCORERS

Souths 22 (M. Meninga, B. Sully, B. Astill, M. Gramm tries; Meninga 5 goals) beat Valleys 14 (V. Wieland, R. Strudwick tries; A. Mills 4 goals).

Scrums: Valleys 13-10.

Penalties: Valleys 8-7.

### WHEN THEY SCORED

13 min. Valleys 2-0 (Mills goal)  
20 min. 2-11 (Meninga goal)  
24 min. Souths 7-2 (Meninga try, Meninga goal)

27 min. 7-11 (Wieland try, Mills goal)

32 min. Souths 12-7 (Sully try, Meninga goal)

44 min. Souths 12-10 (Strudwick try)

48 min. 12-11 (Mills goal)

50 min. Souths 17-12 (Astill try, Meninga goal)

53 min. Souths 17-14 (Mills goal)

59 min. Souths 20-14 (Gramm try)

75 min. Souths 22-14 (Meninga goal).



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

Souths lock Chris Phelan muscles up some strength in the cellar of the Melbourne Hotel.

When Chris Phelan decided to leave Townsville for Brisbane he didn't choose Souths for sentimental reasons. Although his older brother Pat played with Souths before his untimely death, Chris explains to RLW's TONY DURKIN the real reason for his switch.

## CHRIS PHELAN

# It had to be Souths

WHEN Chris Phelan decided to move from Townsville to Brisbane to further his career, Souths was the natural club.

Chris had close links with Souths. His brother Pat looked as though he was going to set the world alight in Brisbane before he was tragically killed in a boating accident in January last year.

Pat played three seasons of first grade with Souths and the critics had him earmarked as a star of the future.

At the time of his death Pat was having talks with the Sydney club, Balmain. But Chris is not going to rest on his brother's laurels.

"I don't really see myself as filling his shoes at Souths, even though we both played lock," he said.

Chris said he was not as good a footballer as his brother.

"I probably think that because I always looked up to Pat, as most younger brothers do I suppose.

"If I do as well at Souths as Pat, I'll be very happy."

For Chris Phelan, the most important thing at the moment is becoming a regular member of the Bob McCarthy-coached Souths first grade side.

And he's made a good fist of things to date. He played well in his first trial matches for Souths.

McCarthy's appointment as coach was the major factor behind Phelan's decision to join Souths.

"I was going to come down from Townsville last year, but when Pat was killed I decided to stay," he said.

"When I found out that Bob McCarthy was coaching at Souths this year I decided to make the move."

And if Souths president, Tony Testa is any judge, Chris has done the right thing.

"He's a great young fellow," Testa said. "Away from the field he's very quiet. But on the paddock he's a real fireball."

And the reason Chris is a fiery type of player is probably because of his blood lines — he's Irish by birth.

Chris and his family moved to Australia 12 years ago. At that stage neither Chris nor Pat were interested in Rugby League.

As a matter of fact, Chris didn't pull on a football boot until he was 15, and then it was only because most of his mates were playing the game.

After watching Chris in his initial games for the Magpies, it's easy to realise why he changed from the wing where he started. His devastating defence would have been wasted on the flanks.

At this stage of his career, 24-year-old Chris has no ambition to play in Sydney.

"It's hard enough in Brisbane," he said.

If environment is going to be of assistance Chris Phelan has everything going for him.

Not only does he have a seasoned ex-International as his coach, but two of his bosses are keen on football.

Chris is employed as a barman at the Melbourne Hotel where his boss is Souths patron Gary Balkin and the office manager at the hotel is Rugby Union International Chris Handy.

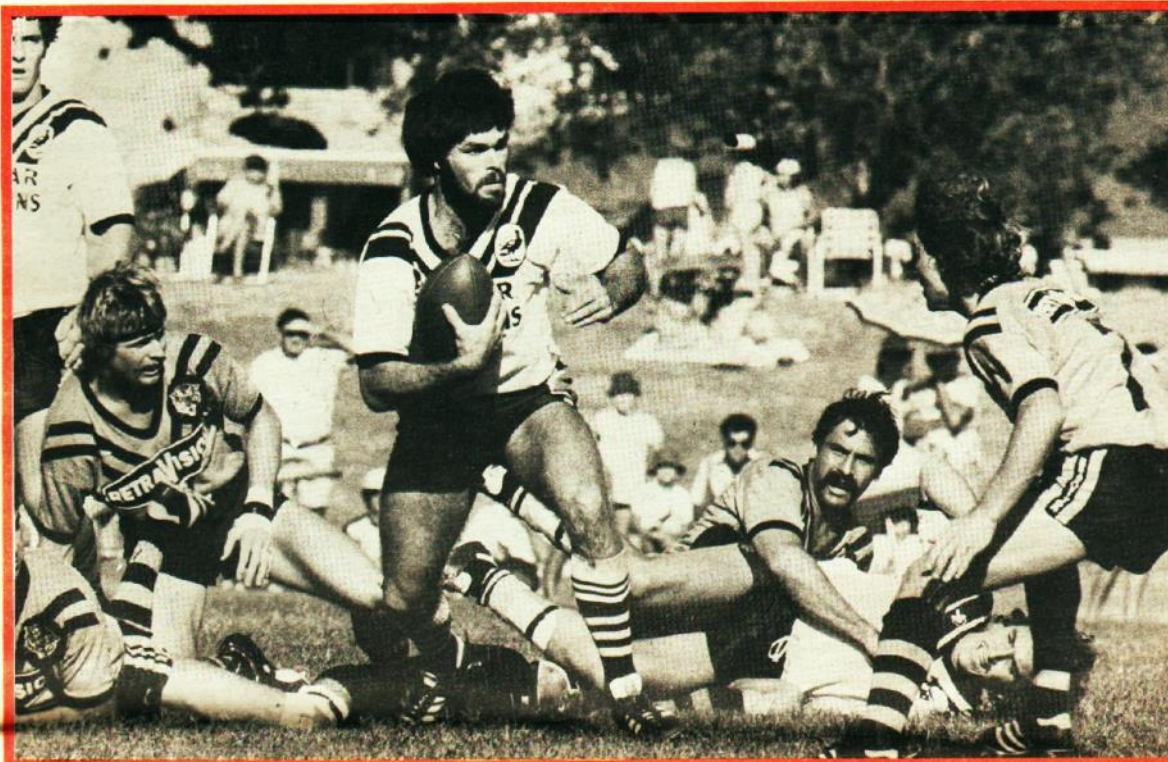


The late Pat Phelan who was tragically killed in January 1979. "I always looked up to Pat," says younger brother Chris.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

# Bruce Astill's chance of a lifetime



By TONY DURKIN

WHEN Bruce Astill changed jobs about four months ago, he joined a select band of Australian footballers and, ironically, they were all centres.

Astill, Souths captain and centre, is a marketing executive with the polythene company, Renown and Pearlite.

NSW manager of the company is Reg Gasnier, while Trevor Allan and Trevor Ryan are also marketing executives.

NSW manager of the company is Reg Gasnier, while Trevor Allan and Trevor Ryan are also marketing executives. "This new job has been like a breath of fresh air to me and is possibly one reason why I've been playing so well this season," Astill said.

This Sunday he will lead Souths into their second successive grand final and they are hot favorites to win the club's first major title since 1953.

Many reasons have been given for Souths' great run this year and just as many names have been mentioned as the architects of their success.

Coach Bob McCarthy, club president Tony Testa, goalkicking centre Mal Meninga — they are all responsible in one way or another.

But a lot of the credit for the Magpies' top form must be given to Astill, a no-nonsense, solid and dependable centre, who leads by example.

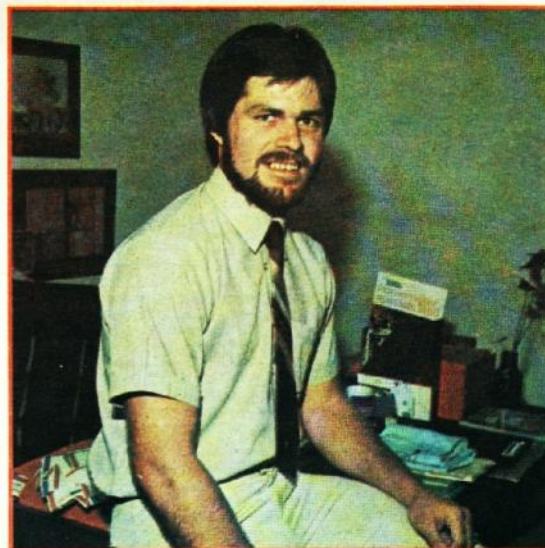
Bruce Astill is the type of man Rugby League needs. He's a tough, hard and clean player, a good ambassador for the code and a young man who is determined to make something of himself, both on and off the sporting field.

Astill is generally regarded as one of the veterans of the game in Queensland, he's only 25.

The fact that he is now in his eighth first grade season with Souths colors the view of many people.

Astill, a Souths junior, played through the ranks of the club until he made his first grade debut as an 18-year-old in 1973. He hasn't been out of the top grade since.

ABOVE: Souths skipper Bruce Astill will lead the Magpies' charge to a premiership this Sunday at Lang Park. Here he shows the Easts defence he means business. BELOW: At his business, a marketing executive with Renown and Pearlite, Astill cuts a neat figure.



Last season, after former Queensland and Australian captain Greg Veivers badly injured an eye and retired from the game, Astill took over the reigns at Souths.

He led the Magpies to the grand final, only to see the side humbled by Valleys 26-nil!

"That won't happen this Sunday, I can assure you and all Souths fans, of that," Astill said.

"And really, it shouldn't have happened last year.

"Although the score indicates we were thrashed, it should be remembered that there was a 60-minute section of the game when they didn't score.

"Lack of experience in big-match football cost us that one."

Astill said Souths were in the perfect position this year.

"We had a fortnight's break before the major semi and now we've had another two weeks off before Sunday's big one," he said.

"I believe that's important coming into the grand final.

"It enables the players to get rid of aches and pains and niggling little injuries and be fully fit for what is the most important match of the year.

"Playing in the major semi, after two week's break, was just like starting the season again."

There would not be a player, official or supporter at Souths not aware of the importance of a grand final victory for the Magpies.

But few would gain as much personal satisfaction as Astill.

"It's been 27 years since a Souths' captain stood on that dais at Lang Park, before all those people, and accepted the premiership trophy on behalf of the club," he said.

"I wasn't even born then.

"And, of course, the thoughts of last season's thrashing by Valleys needs to be erased, and a win this year would do just that."

If Astill has anything to do with it, the Magpies should win, and win handsomely.

This season he has scored 16 tries, four more than his closest rival, his Souths co-centre, Mal Meninga, and was the BRL's leading try scorer.

For that, he collected \$400 from Gary Balkin at the Melbourne Hotel and a car air-conditioning unit, valued at \$600, from Rugby League Week.

And in eight seasons of first grade, these were the first major awards Astill has won.

The BRL Winfield Cup could well become the third in as many weeks.

And if that lifetime dream of Bruce Astill's does come true, and the Winfield Cup goes to Souths' headquarters at Davies Park, there will most certainly be a pat on the back from one of the greats of the game.

Reg Gasnier, hailed as Australia's greatest post-war centre and now a work-mate of Astill's is coming to Brisbane for the grand final this Sunday.

"The company is entertaining a few clients at the grand final," Astill said. "I'll try to do the winning on Sunday afternoon and Reg can look after them."

So a big performance from Bruce Astill on Sunday will not only enhance his Rugby League career, but it won't do his job prospects any harm either.

And nobody deserves success more than Bruce Astill.



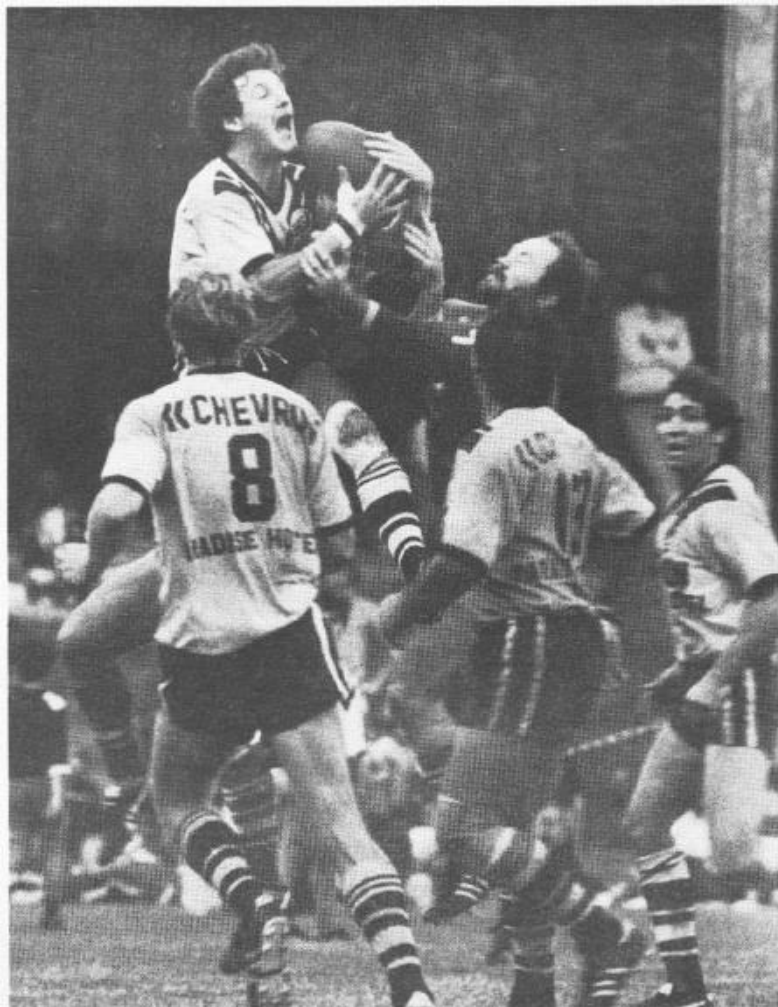
## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



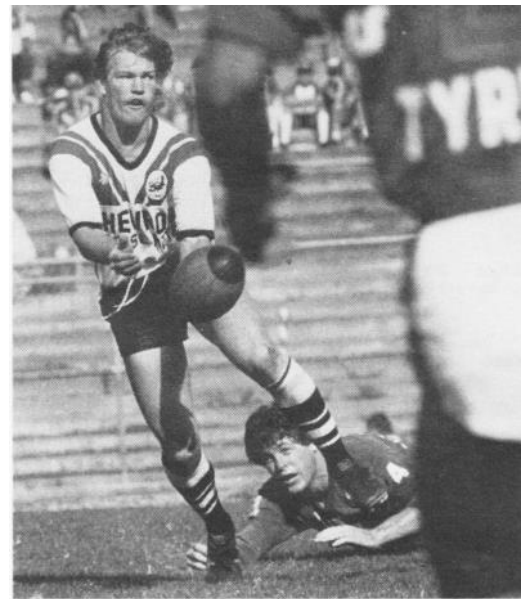
Peter Scott presents his trophy to Bruce Astill.



ABOVE: 'Here, you take it...' That's what Souths prop Dave Brown could be saying as he off-loads to Mal Connell (left) in the tackle of Redcliffe's Gary Cox at Lang Park last Sunday. That's Souths' Billy Johnston and Redcliffe's Chris Holmes watching Brown's style.



High-flying Souths fullback Ken Spencer tries to catch a bomb in his mouth at Davies Park last weekend. Spencer missed, and had to be content with catching the pill in his arms, much to the dismay of Valleys' bearded Ross Strudwick.



Bruce Harry, after leaving Wynnum-Manly centre, Gene Miles in his wake, throws the perfect pass.



The strength of Mal Meninga couldn't be better illustrated than by this photo from last Sunday's clash with Redcliffe at Lang Park. In possession of the ball, Meninga drops his shoulder to send Redcliffe lock Chris Holmes heading for the turf.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

The following year in 1981 Souths finished on top of the table winning the minor premiership. They just beat Redcliffe by one point who were strengthened by the return to the Brisbane competition of legendary front-rower Arthur Beetson.

He had played two years with Redcliffe including their only previous BRL premiership in 1965 before playing the next 15 years in the Sydney competition. This would be his swansong year as a player. Also playing for Redcliffe was legendary centre Chris "Choppy" Close. Redcliffe defeated Souths 21-10 in the major semi-final but Souths fought back to make their third grand final in a row by beating Wynnum-Manly in a tight game by 16 to 12.

The 1981 Grand Final carried a lot of sentiment with it. Souths had not won a grand final for 28 years and would be heartbroken if there was a third grand final loss in a row for the most consistent team of the last few years. Redcliffe, on the other hand, had only won one previous grand final in 1965 and this was the swansong of one of the legends of the game, Arthur Beetson.

Like Souths the previous year, Redcliffe had a shot at a clean sweep of all grades after winning both the Reserve Grade and C Grade premierships. They were on track to do it with only a minute left on the clock before Souths spoiled their party.


In a tight match Souths were just behind on the scoreboard 9-8 with their last set of six before full time. On the second last tackle halfback Brad Sully set himself for a field goal but was quickly shut down by the defence. On the last tackle, with captain Bruce Astill calling for a field goal, Chris Phelan took the ball up, drew the defence and then whipped a short pass to Mal Meninga who passed the ball in a flash to Mick Reardon on the wing who then charged to and dived over in the corner scoring the winning try with 30 seconds left on the clock. With a magnificent sideline conversion by Mal Meninga after the full time hooter Souths won an epic game 13 to 9.

The Souths players went crazy celebrating and Mal Meninga in all the excitement after that winning try threw Mick Reardon on the ground like a rag doll. It was one of those enduring images of a historic win that brought an end to a 28 year drought for Souths. One of the other enduring images of the game was Mal Meninga running over the top of Artie Beetson who attempted to front on tackle him but was pushed backwards by Mal before Artie had enough of a grip on him. Artie lost his balance and fell backwards onto the ground.

One of the big turnarounds from a fortnight before when they were soundly beaten by Redcliffe was in the scrums. In the major semi they lost the scrums 15-10 but, after some extra coaching by Greg Vievers, Billy Johnstone won the scrums 18-10 in the grand final even though Souths had a much smaller pack. These were the "good old days" when scrums were still a contest and the hookers actually hooked for the ball.

The crowds back at Davies Park were enormous when the players returned from the grand final win and they celebrated for days afterwards. After two failed attempts Souths had won the grand final and the premiership. It was also a triumph for former Souths Sydney great, Bob McCarthy, who had taken over from Wayne Bennett as Souths coach and suffered the disappointment of the previous year's loss to Norths. Chris Phelan capped off a magnificent year for the Magpies by winning the Rothmans Medal for Brisbane's best and fairest player.

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



BRUCE ASTILL

I wanted to play 100 games and that was it for me. Something about the place got into my blood and I just stayed. The Queensland side and the State of Origin side...look great to have but captaining Souths was probably up there as being my best moment.

Leading into a grand final was very special. We used to do some road runs from time to time and go through West End with the streamers hanging out of the shop windows and some of the old faces, you may not know their names, they'd come out of the shops and cheer you on as you went past.



**Left:** Brad Sully scores a try for Souths in the 1981 preliminary final against Wynnum that Souths won by 16-12.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

### 1981 Premiership

#### LEAGUE FINAL '81

# CLIFFHANGER TRY

**SOUTHS took just 30 seconds to turn back the clock 28 years when they downed Redcliffe 13-9 in a heart-stopping Winfield Cup rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday.**

Souths won the match in the last minute on their last tackle when they were desperately trying to overcome Redcliffe's 9-8 lead.

Going into the final minute and down one point Souths would have settled for a field goal or a bomb in a desperate last fling at their first premiership since 1953.

But Redcliffe defence, with backs-to-the-wall close to their own line, swarmed up preventing any attempts at kicking.

On the second last tackle one of Souths' heroes halfback Brad Sully, set himself for a field goal well within range, but was cut off by defenders before he could even shape for the kick.

From the next play the ball, the last before referee Stan Scamp would have called for a scrum on the sixth tackle, Souths Rothmans Medal winner Chris Phelan got the ball and many Souths supporters shuddered... Phelan is not known for his ability or willingness to pass.

Phelan ran a couple of metres with the defence bunching to him, then whipped out a quick, short pass to giant centre Mal Meninga who moved the ball immediately on to winger Mick Reardon.

Reardon hit the pass at his top

and roared off for the corner with Redcliffe defence caught out of position by the speed of the passes.

Reardon dived into the corner through a desperate lunge by opposite winger Louisa Atot and Souths hit the front 11-9 for the first time in 371 minutes.

The match was over in the most dramatic fashion when few people in the 30,000 crowd including Souths top officials, believed a try was possible — in the swarming defence.

They were looking for a field goal to tie the score 9-all and force extra time, or a bomb to give them a chance at a desperation try. But a try from a planned move at that stage seemed impossible.

Souths coach Bob McCarthy said later Phelan had remembered vital instructions to start the try in motion.

"I was waiting for Brad Sully to kick for a field goal, but then when Chris (Phelan) got it he did what I wanted him to do... to look ahead," McCarthy said. "The players have been told to always look ahead and that's what Phelan did... and he saw the opportunity."

Long-term Redcliffe president Dick "Tosser" Turner, summed up Redcliffe's sad tale when he said: "We were half a minute away from

history. Thirty seconds more — and we would have won a hat-trick of premierships for the first time in our club's history."

Earlier in the day Turner saw Redcliffe down Souths 26-15 in the Reserve Grade grand final and beat Norths 33-12 in the C Grade premiership.

It is 36 years since a Brisbane club has won a hat-trick of senior premierships, and ironically the last club to do it was Souths back in 1945.

**By Lawrie Kavanagh**

Just as ironically Souths had the chance to repeat the hat-trick last year, winning the Reserve and C Grade grand finals but losing the grand final to Norths by two points 17-13.

Yesterday's match was anyone's and a win by either team would have been acceptable for any true supporter of rugby league.

It was not a highly spectacular match, but it was played in true grand final style, with a torrid defence, but very little malice.

Probably the major difference in the form reversal shown by Souths from their 21-10 loss to Redcliffe in

the major semi-final two weeks ago was in scrum possession.

Two weeks ago Souths pack was continually overpowered by the Redcliffe heavyweights and lost scrums 15-10.

Yesterday it was a dramatic swing to Souths hooker Billy Johnstone who won the scrums 13-10 and who practically had a mortgage on the vital scrums.

There is little doubt that his staggering reversal of form by Johnstone and Souths smaller pack resulted from some extra coaching from Souths former Australian forward Greg Velvers, who has been in charge of the Magpies' scrummaging in recent weeks.

Yesterday he had Johnstone standing out of the scrum facing his two props as every scrum was set, urging them to pack tight and concentrate on winning the ball before he finally fitted in and packed down.

Velvers said Souths forwards had tended to become lazy and lose concentration in recent matches. "I told Billy to keep at them before every scrum... to keep their minds on the job," he explained.

The experiment worked when you stack Johnstone's loss of two weeks ago against yesterday's scrum victory.

Defence was the dominant factor yesterday and no one took a backward step on either team.

But it would be hard to go past Souths tireless lock Billy Argeros in that department. He put in 42 tackles yesterday to go with his 48 against Wynnum-Manly the previous week.

The final statistics of the game showed how evenly matched were the teams. For 79 minutes each team scored only one try... Souths halfback Brad Sully from the scrum base in the 12th minute and Ian "Bunny" Pearce from a Redcliffe "bomb" in the 50th minute.

Souths second try is history... 30 seconds from fulltime when even a field goal and the chance of extra time would have been appreciated by the Magpies.

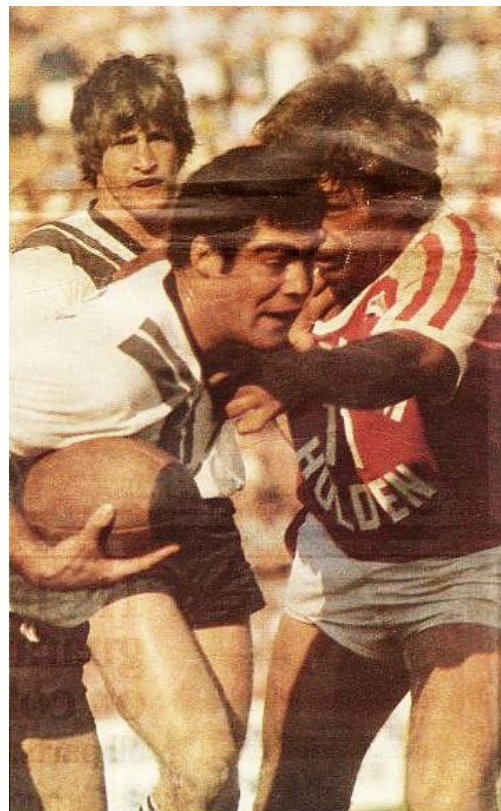
Instead, the Reardon try and a magnificent sideline conversion by Meninga made it look reasonably easy for Souths for future generations who will look at the record book's 13-9 result.

Don't believe the record books... it was a tough, grim match between two teams which were each other's equal on the day, and the game of rugby league was the winner.

### GRAND FINAL

#### SOUTHS 13 d REDCLIFFE 9

**SCORERS.** — Souths: B. Sully, M. Reardon tries; M. Meninga 3 goals; K. Spencer field goal. Redcliffe: I. Pearce a try and 3 goals. First scorers (and first try scorers): Souths No. 7, Redcliffe No. 1.



### MAGPIE MAGIC

The rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday lasted about a minute too long for Redcliffe captain-coach Artie Beeson... these two Magpies, Chris Phelan (background) and Mal Meninga set up the match-winning try by Mick Reardon that left a tired Artie — and the Dolphins — defeated 9-13. More on the big match, P.2, 33, 34, 35.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

### TONY DURKIN AT THE GRAND FINAL



Souths 13. Redcliffe 9

**QUEENSLAND** mid-weight boxing champion Billy Johnstone delivered the knockout punch to glamor side Redcliffe in last Sunday's Winfield Cup grand final at Lang Park.

The tough little Souths hooker stunned even the most ardent Magpie supporter with his 18-10 domination of the scrums.

And that was just what Souths needed to win the match 13-9 — their first premiership in 28 years.

The odds were stacked against Johnstone even coming up with 50 per cent of possession for his side.

In both semi-final matches he was trounced in the scrums — 15-9 by Redcliffe and 14-7 by Wynnum-Manly.

Added to that unimpressive record was the fact he had behind him one of the smallest packs to play in Brisbane in years.

But that didn't worry Johnstone or his midget front-rowers, brothers Darryl and Adrian Higgs. They just knocked-up winning the ball.

Johnstone was ecstatic after the match. "I feel fantastic — I doubt if I've ever felt so good," he said.

But why the sudden change of fortune in the scrums?

"Did you notice that before we packed into most scrums, I turned around and faced the two Higgs boys and spoke to them?" Johnstone asked.

"Well, I was just making sure they knew what was needed. They had to bind tight and give me all their strength."

"That was the advice from Greg Veivers, and it worked."

Souths thoroughly deserved their victory. They made more breaks and the defence of their smaller pack was equal to, if not better than, Redcliffe's.

But the Magpies certainly left their run to the post late, and their supporters can hardly be blamed for thinking they were going to see their side go under in a grand final three years in succession.

After leading 6-2 at halftime, they saw Redcliffe take over after only 10 minutes of the second half with a try and two goals by fullback Ian Pearce.

A Meninga penalty eight minutes later made the scores 9-8 to Redcliffe and that's how the score remained until 30 seconds from fulltime.

That's when the Souths fairytale unfolded.

With the clock showing little more than a minute from fulltime, Souths received a

# Billy the boxer kayos Redcliffe



The winners can laugh... and they usually do. Particularly when they've only become winners through a 79th-minute salvation. Souths captain Bruce Astill (left) and star centre Mal Meninga are chaired from Lang Park by their team-mates after the grand final last Sunday.

scrum penalty about 40 metres out after replacement Redcliffe half, Greg Oliphant, was penalised for not retiring.

Meninga kicked for touch and the Magpies started their final onslaught for victory with the tap.

They did nothing fancy, just working themselves into a position in front of the Redcliffe posts for a fieldgoal attempt — the equaliser which would have taken the grand final into extra time.

But on the fourth tackle, halfback Brad Sully's intention to attempt a fieldgoal was foiled as the Redcliffe forwards charged at him.

It seemed curtains for the Magpies as State second-rower Chris Phelan called the ball to a wide blind, a blind which had big Arthur Beetson standing in the line of defence

at outside centre.

Two of Souths' big guns this season, Phelan and centre Mal Meninga, perfectly drew the first line of defence to send winger Mick Reardon away, with only the cover defence standing between him and a long-awaited Souths victory.

Reardon wasn't going to be stopped.

When he was about a metre from the line he executed a perfect swallow dive into the corner, placed the ball safely over the line, and it was curtains for the Dolphins.

And to rub salt into the wounds of hapless Redcliffe players, Meninga coolly landed the conversion attempt from touch after the final bell.

It was a fitting end to a match which was always in the balance, but one in which Souths were the better side.

One of those injured was hooker Bob Abbott. Two minutes from halftime both he and Beetson were flattened at tempting tackles on a rampaging Mal Meninga.

A minute after this change, one of the most spectacular incidents ever seen at Lang Park occurred.

Souths were attacking strongly at 5-2 in front when young five-eighth Bruce Harry attempted a fieldgoal from 30 metres out and right in front. The kick was charged down by Bob Jones.

The ball rebounded on the full to Souths fullback Ken Spencer, standing some 15 metres behind Harry near the grandstand touchline.

Spencer caught the ball and potted a huge 45-metre fieldgoal — but only after it had struck an upright and deflected

between the posts.

The biggest disappointment on the day was without doubt Arthur Beetson. So much was expected from the great man, but he just didn't fire.

But another aged Dolphin, fullback Bunny Pearce, was magnificent and he deserved a better result in his finale for the Baysiders.

Skipper Astill had a magic match, making many clean and half-breaks to keep Redcliffe on the back move. Astill's defence was also tops.

But it was the small Souths pack who really stole the show and it would be unfair to separate them. I'm sure that's the way they would want it, too.

**SOUTHS** 13 (B. Sully 3 goals, M. Meninga 3 goals, K. Spencer fieldgoal) beat **REDCLIFFE** 9 (I. Pearce try and 3 goals).

Scrums: Souths 18-10. Penalties: Redcliffe 14-13.

## Halves stole the show

GREG Oliphant may have had an unhappy season with Redcliffe, but he still turned in a gutsy captain's effort in the Dolphins' 26-15 reserve grade grand final win over Souths last Sunday.

Not far behind Oliphant's performance was that of his opposite, Souths' John Salter.

If awards were given for club spirit and dedication against adversity, it would be difficult to separate Oliphant and Salter.

Oliphant, a Kangaroo Tourist in 1978, returned to Redcliffe this season to see out the final years of a gallant career.

But he was shunned by the Redcliffe selectors and spent most of the season in reserve grade.

Salter, on the other hand, fought injury rather than pride, as Oliphant had done.

But Salter fought back and showed what a brilliant player he still is.

Oliphant, John Chapman, Steve Bax, Terry Webb and Wally Fullerton-Smith were the pick of the Redcliffe side, while Salter, Gary Belcher, Rod Ziebach and Kev Balingier were Souths' best.

Redcliffe were also easy winners in C-grade, drubbing Norths 33-12.

In the final of the Sir James Foot Cup for high schools, another Redcliffe-based side, Clontarf High, were victorious.

**RESERVE GRADE:** Redcliffe 26 (J. Chapman 2, P. Leis, N. Lohman, D. Brown, T. Webb tries; S. Bax 4 goals) beat Souths 15 (K. Balingier 2, J. Salter tries; G. Belcher 3 goals).

**C-GRADE:** Redcliffe 33 (R. Watson 3, K. Cash 2, J. Jensen, E. Edwards tries; B. Jones 4, J. Barber 2 goals) beat Norths 12 (G. Lowrie, R. Krantz tries; G. Lowrie 3 goals).



Left: Mal Meninga runs over the top of Arthur Beetson in the 1981 Grand Final against Redcliffe.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



# GRAND FINAL, GREAT FOTOS

Ah, the atmosphere, the excitement — there's nothing quite like grand final day. And RLW's ace photographers were at Lang Park last Sunday capturing all the drama and action of Souths' historic win. Here's our photo presentation of the match — the best you'll see anywhere, and where else but in RLW?



ABOVE: Redcliffe's consistent five-eighth Trevor Benson gets his backline into action with Souths skipper Bruce Astill watching in the background. LEFT: A supporter rushes onto the field after the fulltime siren to congratulate Souths second-rower Ash Lumby as Chris Phelan (No. 9) salutes the crowd triumphantly.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



*This dramatic sequence shows Souths half Brad Sully scoring his fine solo try last Sunday. FROM FAR LEFT: Sully races away from the scrumbase and sets his sights on the line . . . He barges in between Redcliffe defenders Chris Holmes (No. 8) and Bunny Pearce . . . The two tacklers just arrest Sully short of the line . . . But the nippy half's momentum carries him across for the first touchdown of the game.*





*ABOVE: Souths second-rower Ash Lumby's face says it all as he grimaces in the impact of a three-man Redcliffe tackle. LEFT: Souths' brilliant centre Mal Meninga, who set up the Magpies' last-minute try, is airborne as he tries to bust through the defence of Redcliffe's Steve Cherry (No. 3) and Colin Part.*



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

**1981**





THEY might have the smallest pack of forwards in the business, but that didn't stop the tenacious Souths from winning their first Brisbane minor premiership since 1953. **BACK ROW:** Brad Tessmann, Alan Power, Ash Lumby, Ken Spencer, Chris Phelan, Steve Glynn. **CENTRE:** Chris Thorley, Darryl Higgs, Brad Sully, Bruce Harry, Peter Ryan, Adrian Higgs, Trevor Wendt, Billy Argeros. **FRONT:** Billy Johnstone, Mick Reardon, Bob McCarthy (coach), Bruce Astill (captain), Mal Meninga, Gary Thompson.

### GARY BALKIN Patron of Souths

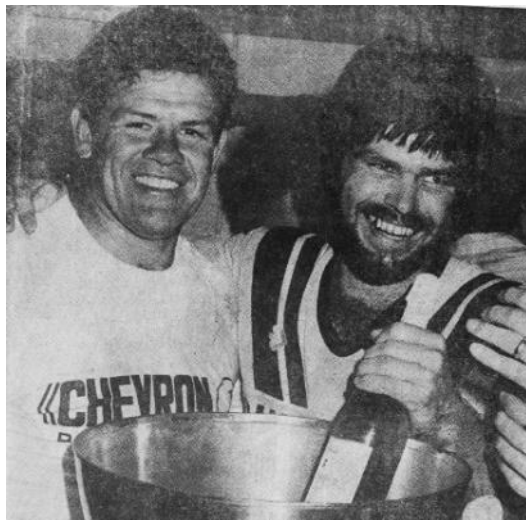
Welcomes all Brisbane Rugby League good sports to:

- **HENRY AFRICA'S THEATRE RESTAURANT** (Melbourne Hotel Phone 44-1571) for an evening of good music, plenty of laughs and great food, (group discounts).
  - **MELBA'S GOURMET RESTAURANT** (Upstairs at the Melbourne Phone 44-1571) for gourmet a la carte, catch a live lobster from our tank and the chef will cook it to your taste.
  - **CLANCY'S PIANO BAR** (Upstairs at the Melbourne Phone 44-1571) for piano music in an intimate atmosphere.
  - **THE '91 SEAFOOD BAR** (The Melbourne) for self-service seafoods. Guinness on tap.
  - **JOSEPHINE'S FRENCH RESTAURANT** (Upstairs at Bonaparte's Phone 52-3797) for probably Brisbane's best French food restaurant.
  - **BONAPARTE'S HOTEL** (Cor. St. Paul's Terrace & Gippo Street Phone 52-3797) Jazz Rock — Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday, 6PM — 10PM.
- and also asks you to watch for **M.V. BONAPARTE'S AFLOAT** — Brisbane's first floating restaurant (opening late September) functions catered for

**Below:** That magical moment with 30 seconds to go on the last tackle when Mick Reardon scored in the corner to win the 1981 Grand Final.



**Below:** Winners and Losers





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



Southern Suburbs, Brisbane's rugby league premiers of 1981.  
 Back row (left to right): Graham Kerr (committeeman), Peter Jennings (masseur), Jim McClelland (assistant secretary), Mal Meninga, Geoff Naylor, Ken Rach (masseur), Carlo Costa (trainer).  
 Middle: Tony Testa (president), Sel Deed (secretary), Brad Sully, Ash Lumby, Alan Power, Steve Glynn, Bob McCarthy (coach), Jim Elder (manager).  
 Front: Darryl Higgs, Bruce Harry, Billy Johnstone, Bruce Astill (captain), Mick Reardon, Gary Thompson, Chris Phelan (absent: Adrian Higgs).



### 'Put your left foot out...'

Is it the original Barber Shop Quartet or the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy? No it's one of South's unusual tactical plays put into effect during the important end-of-season matches. It was called 'The Wall' by opposing teams and judging by the choreography it was a well rehearsed move.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

# It's Souths or snails for big-hearted Brad

**SOUTHS' Brad Sully is giving the representative selectors in Queensland one more chance.**

If they don't recognise him during the 1982 season, Sully will accept a lengthy contract to play in France.

But firstly, the big-hearted halfback is determined to be a new player in 1982 — not only in attitude, but also in looks.

He is convinced the best is yet to come.

The new image has already started, with the curled hairstyle. But the major change will be in Sully's approach to the game.

"I believe I've been playing well for the past three seasons, but fitness has let me down," he said.

"I haven't been fully fit, or as fit as I should be at the start of each season, so obviously it's my fault."

But Sully says all that will change in 1982.

"I'll be fully fit at the start of next season and I just hope the selectors give me a chance," he said.

"I desperately want to play representative football. And comparing my performances against the rep halves during 1981, I know I am equal to the task."

And while this aim is paramount in his mind, he knows exactly what he'll do should he be overlooked yet again.

He played the 1980 off season in France for Albi, the team with whom RLW's Hubie Abbott spent three seasons.

"If I do go back, I'll be looking for a fairly lengthy contract, which I have no doubt will be available," he said.

Sully feels Australian players can contribute a great deal to the League scene in France, hence his keenness to return.

He didn't expect the French side to do much better than they actually did during their tour of Australia this year.

"And if the French players were realistic, I think they'd agree," he said.

"But the standard over there is on the improve and I feel sure they'll benefit from the tour out here."

And while they welcome the experience of Australian players, Sully said the French are still very cautious of some Aussies.

"In the past they've had some unfortunate experiences with Australians and at first they were quite wary of me," he said.

"But once they realise a player is giving of his best, they make him very welcome."

"This happened to me and I loved the place."

By JOHN MCCOY

And while match payments in France are low, and don't come anywhere near those available in Australia, Brad Sully says the side benefits compensate.

"French officials assist with accommodation, meals and travel, so it's an ideal way to see the country," he said.

"While I was there the trips took us from Avignon, on the Italian border, to Perpignan on the Spanish border, to La Rochelle on the Bay of Biscay coast."

"It was by business — football — combined with sightseeing, a perfect combination to my way of thinking."

But it wasn't all beer and skittles — more like wine and snails — for Brad and his association with French Rugby League.

"One part of French football I couldn't adjust to was their habit of having a meal and plenty of wine only an hour before a match," he laughed.

Sully has no doubts that with the help of Australian coaching methods, Rugby League will again become great in France and the French national side will become a force on the world scene.

"From what I saw while I was over

there, I think the worst of their problems are over," he said.

"But they need expert help and I can thoroughly recommend a season in France to any Australian player or coach."

"It is enjoyable, rewarding and a great experience."

When Sully talks about his experiences overseas, it is difficult to imagine that he has been able to fit so much into his 23 years.

And although he was one of Souths' better players during their premiership year of 1981, he believes his best years are ahead of him.

Brad Sully is an Easts junior. But he left the Tigers' den, to join Souths, at the end of the 1979 season when the wizard, Wayne Lindenberg, was firmly entrenched as the club's number one halfback.

"I was being used as a five-eighth, but was convinced my best position was halfback," he said.

And after his second season with Souths — and a premiership and grand final rolled into those two years — he is happy he made the change when he did.

But it hasn't been all plain sailing. As a matter of fact, it was a fairly rough start.

"I was replaced after 25 minutes in the first match I played with the Magpies and it was seven weeks before I got back into first grade," he said.

"I guess Bob McCarthy and I had an initial personality clash, but that has long passed."

"Bob has been a big help to me and I have the greatest respect for him as a coach."

"While I was sidelined for 10 weeks this season with ligament trouble, Bob was always there to encourage me and I'm sure that moral support helped greatly in the end."

"I've never been a player who responds to the psych sessions, but I do need a coach who believes in me."

"Bob McCarthy has been that type of coach."

And while Brad has quickly settled in to his new environment at Souths, and is now a 'true blue' Magpie, it hasn't been such an easy conversion for his parents.

"They come and support Souths at all our matches," he said.

"But there's Tiger blood in their veins. Mum is still on the Easts' Ladies' Committee and Dad often calls into Langlands Park for a 'cold one'," Brad quipped, with an approving grin.

While the family circle is only minimally strained at the moment, it could become more difficult should Brad move to France.

He hopes his future lies in Brisbane. He wants his future to be in Brisbane.

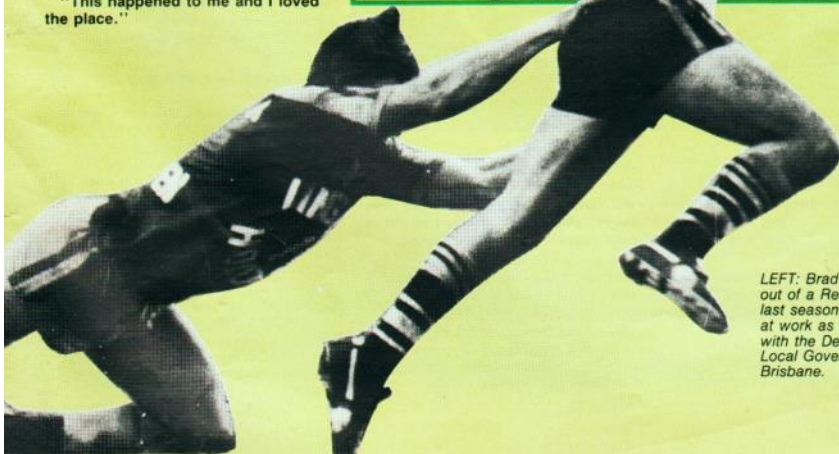
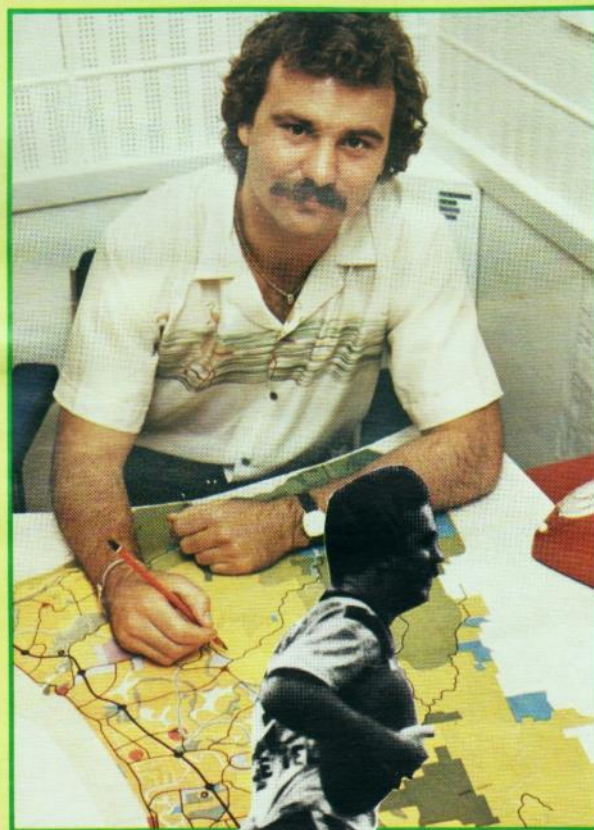
After graduating from Queensland University with a degree in regional and town planning, he has secured a position with the Department of Local Government.

"It is an excellent position and I'm very happy in my work," he said.

"If success comes my way on the football field next season, then all the better."

And if it doesn't, and the representative selectors again leave him in the cold?

"Then I'll just have to be prepared for snails, frogs legs and red wine before each match for quite a few years to come," he said.



LEFT: Brad Sully bursts out of a Redcliffe tackle last season. ABOVE: Sully at work as a town planner with the Department of Local Government in Brisbane.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

In 1982 the QRL introduced the Winfield State League at the start of the season which included the eight Brisbane clubs and representative teams from North Qld, Central Qld, Wide Bay, Toowoomba, Ipswich and the Gold Coast.

This short statewide competition would lay the foundation for the Queensland Cup competition that we have today.

Souths made the semi-finals but were beaten by Redcliffe 17-13 who were, in turn, beaten by Easts who won the Inaugural State League.



Valleys were runaway minor premiers in the BRL competition followed by Souths and then Wynnum-Manly. In a dramatic major semi-final a Valleys player was sent off after the second tackle of the game and then Bruce Astill was sent off for an alleged kicking offence soon after half time. Souths were trailing 6-2 after some great Valleys defence but, despite the loss of skipper Bruce Astill, Souths defeated Valleys 10-6 to book themselves into their fourth successive grand final.

In the preliminary final brilliant defence and a mountain of possession from scrum wins saw Wynnum-Manly upset Valleys 26-5 to make it to their first ever grand final. On the back of their phenomenal fan support Wynnum-Manly beat Souths 17-3 to win their first premiership and break Souths collective hearts. A consolation prize for Souths in 1982 was a Third Grade premiership after Souths beat Redcliffe 22-3.



**Above:** Souths won the 1982 Third Grade premiership.

Souths finished 3rd on the table behind Redcliffe and Easts in 1983. Valleys were 5th on for and against but finished on the same points as Wynnum-Manly who they faced in a midweek playoff and won to face Souths in the knockout semi-final the following Sunday. Valleys knocked Souths out of the finals winning 30-22 thanks to the brilliance of "King" Wally Lewis.

Valleys couldn't repeat the performance and Easts and Redcliffe played in the grand final with Easts winning, inspired by the return of Wayne Lindenberg who had starred in their 1977 and 1978 premiership wins. Souths won both the club championship and also picked up the Reserve Grade premiership in 1983 defeating Easts 18-10 in the grand final.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above:** A Souths player is tackled in a game against Wests.



**Above:** Mal Meninga about to shoot out a pass in a State League game against the Gold Coast..



**ABOVE:** Brad Sully scores for Souths



**Above:** Brad Holland is tackled by Terry Butler.

**Below:** Peter Jackson with Mal Meninga and Gary Belcher.

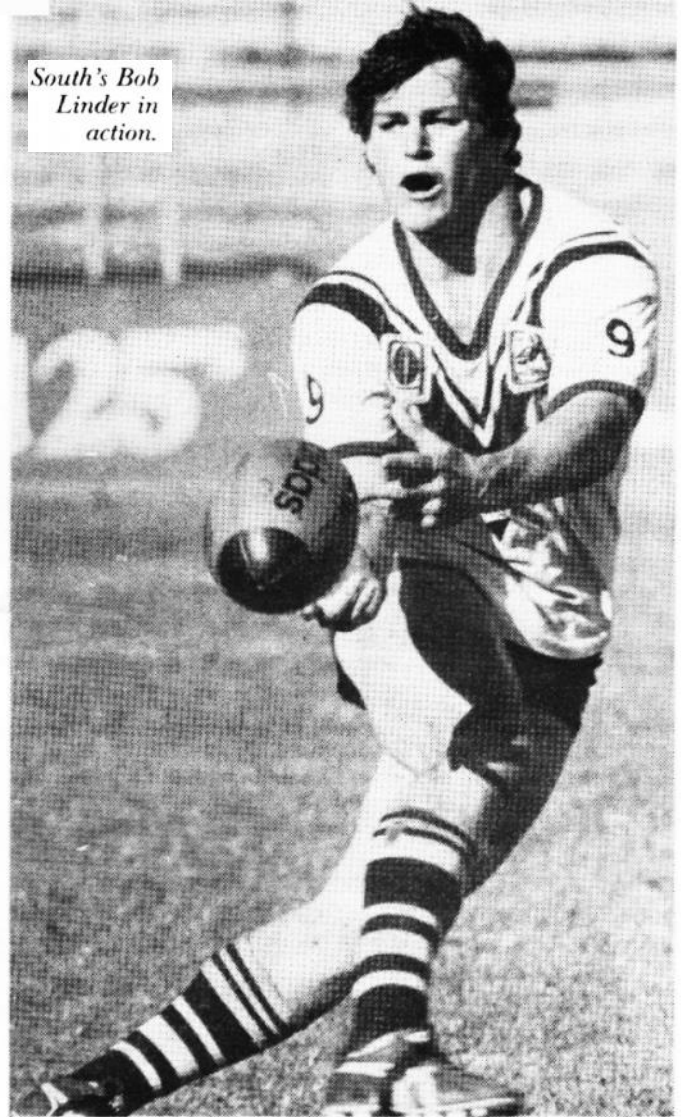




## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



*Neil Wharton in action for his old club, Souths.*



*South's Bob Linder in action.*



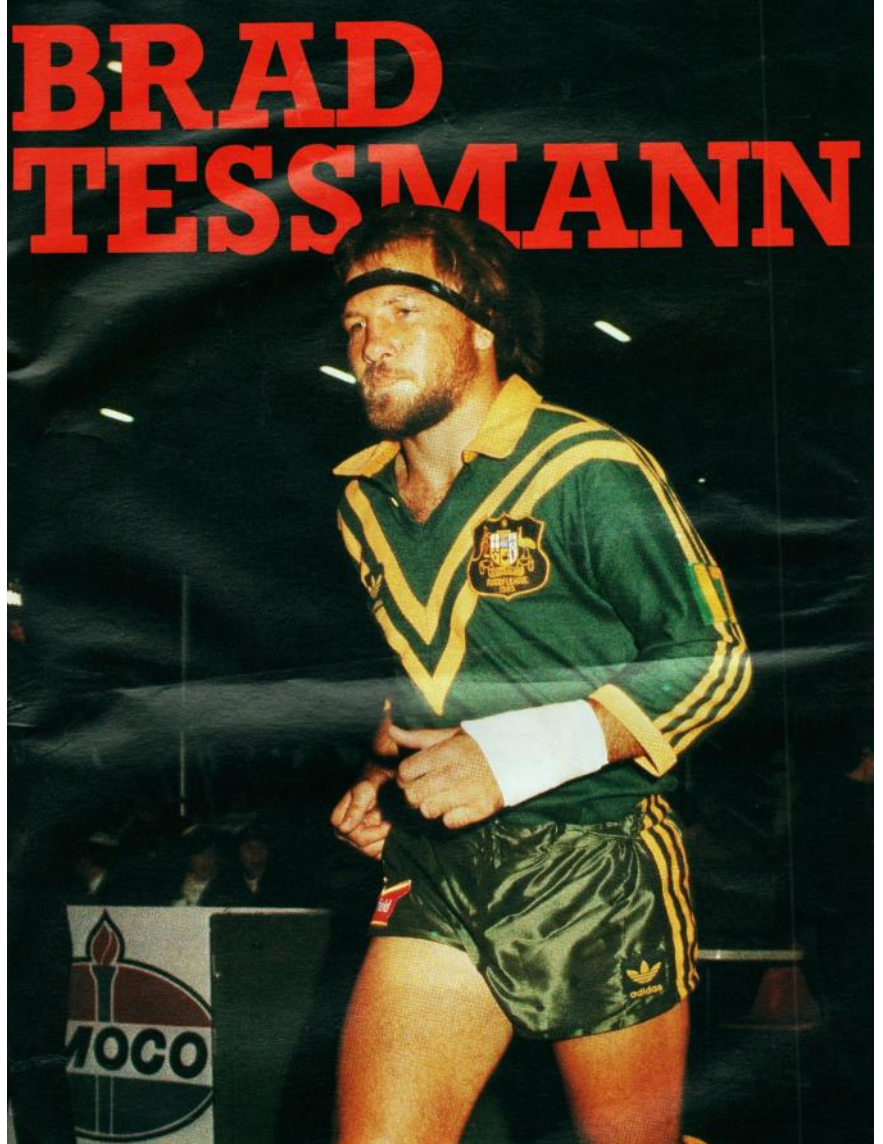
*Souths centre and captain Bruce Astill makes a graceful picture as he beats a Wynnum-Manly defender. Wynnum hooker, David Green; referee, Eddie Ward and prop, Rod Morris trail the action.*



*Brad Tessmann about to unload for the Magpies on the weekend*



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above Left:** Jim Sparkes has a bloody gash attended to during a State League game. **Above Right:** Brad Tessman runs out for Australia at Lang Park in 1983 against the Kiwis. **Below:** "Now this is how you treat a Valleys player!"

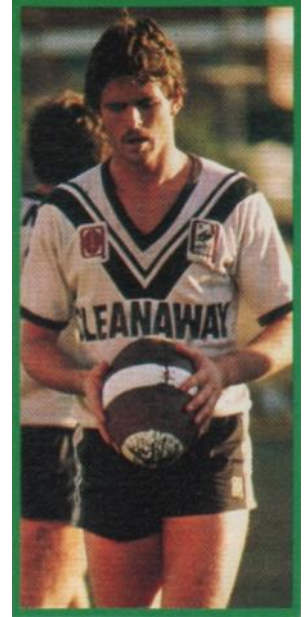




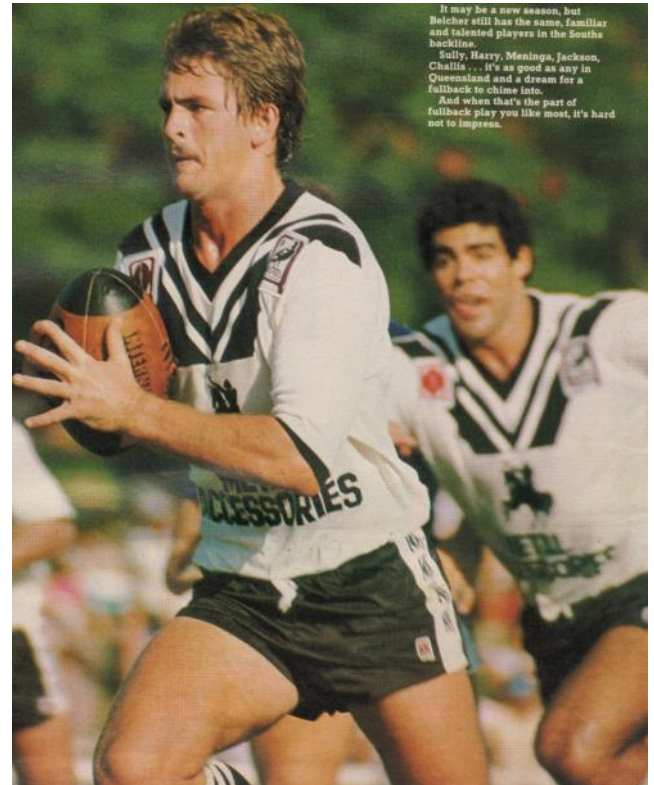
## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



Billy Johnstone will lead the Magpies today. Off to Cronulla - Sutherland next year it will be his last Brisbane club game for some time (if not forever). But win or lose, the responsibilities of captain and ball-winner make it a match he'll never forget.



Souths' Phil Velvers feels the physical pressure of (from left) his brother Greg, brother-in-law Wayne and cousin Mick, prior to a recent match. But the youngster says he doesn't feel the mental pressure of living up to the deeds of his famous relations.



It may be a new season, but Belcher still has the same, familiar and talented players in the Souths backline. Sully, Harry, Meninga, Jackson, Challis... it's as good as any in Queensland and a dream for a fullback to chime into. And when that's the part of fullback play you like most, it's hard not to impress.



**Above:** A couple of photos of Gary Belcher playing for Souths.

**Left:** Colin Scott gets his marching orders after knocking out a Souths player in a game between Souths and Wynnum Manly.

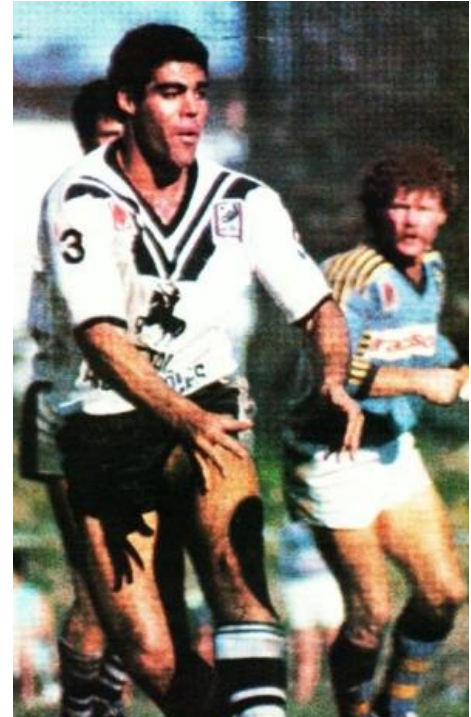
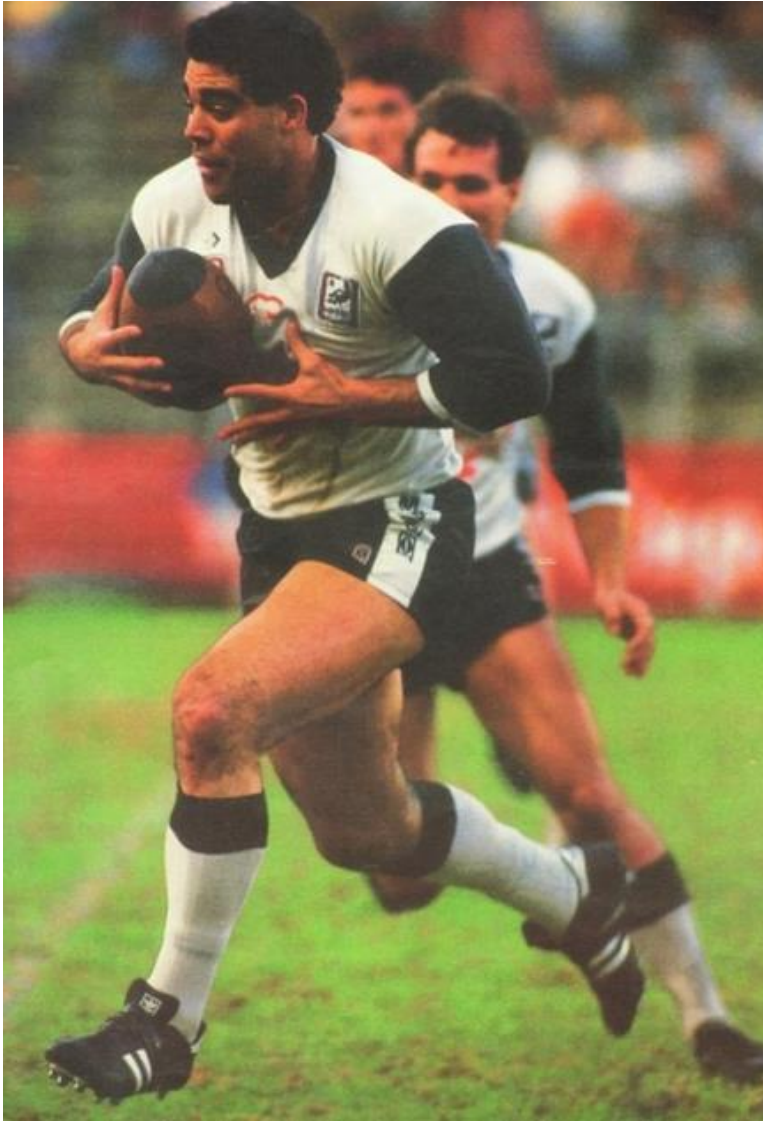


## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

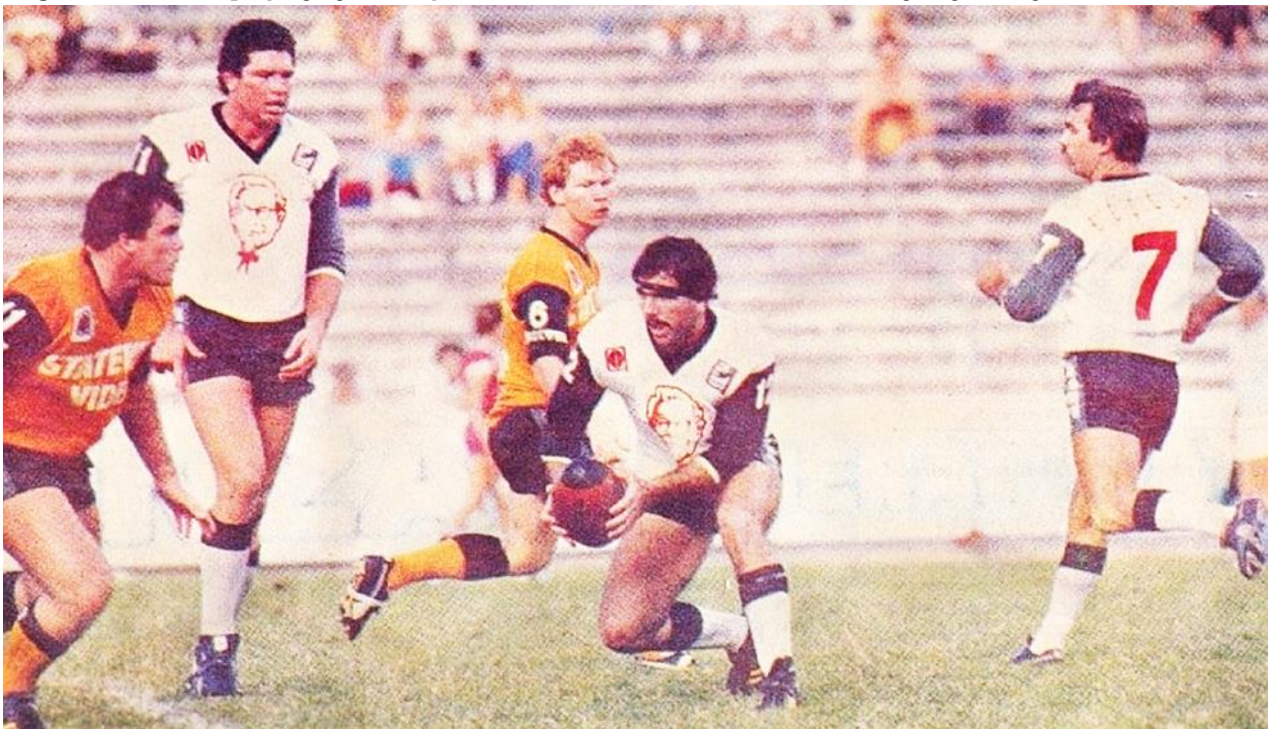




## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above Left:** Mal Meninga in a State League game. **Top Right:** Mal Meninga in a game against Norths. **Above Right:** Bob Lindner playing against Wynnum. **Below:** Eddie Muller in a State League game against Easts.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



I was like any other kid. I got a good initiation here. I met up with Greg Vievers and he gave me the nickname Chicken George for my fetish for eating chicken...

You play a game out here at Davies Park on a Sunday afternoon you'd come here afterwards and celebrate whether it was a win or a loss. You know I'd get blind up here. Have a fantastic time. We'd be dancing on tables. The music was pumping. Having a few beers. It was packed. I think it was the in spot.

The first year they taught me how to drink and not drive. We looked after each other. We'd celebrate somewhere we'd go as a group. When you'd see someone who might be getting into a bit of trouble we'd pull them into line. That was part of my upbringing. The senior players were good leaders who'd pull you into line if you got into trouble.

In those times it was great to celebrate with the fans. Whether we won the grand final or didn't win the grand final there'd be 10 000 people here all over the field and marquees everywhere. Everyone was drinking and having a good time.

[After winning the 1981 Grand Final] I was pretty excited obviously. I grabbed Mick and threw him around like a rag doll basically. Probably the best tackle I did all day but it was all worth it. He didn't care. It was a great day for us. It was an emotional day for us. We partied for about 2 or 3 days afterwards...

You still weren't considered in the top echelon of players if you hadn't played in Sydney. I went down there and I can rest assure you the standard wasn't that much higher...

Souths Magpies being one of the inaugural rugby league clubs in Queensland actually taking out the 100 year grand final [in 2008]. It's symbolic and something the club deserves.

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



Whenever there was a big game here at Davies Park I was here. I knew this place back to front. I knew the riverfront where I'd spend half my time along the river and on the jetty but mostly we were on the field in between games and at half time just playing footy.

It was a very difficult night every night you turned up to train. It was never easy. We'd train at 6 o'clock and we worked day jobs and we had to turn up and train.

My dad is from West End. My grandparents are from West End. If you are from West End you had to be for Souths. You just had to be. That's what you did. You followed the mighty Magpies.

It was a meeting place to come and see the team play and just to meet. That gives you some community spirit. Without community spirit I think we all are in a bit of trouble aren't we?

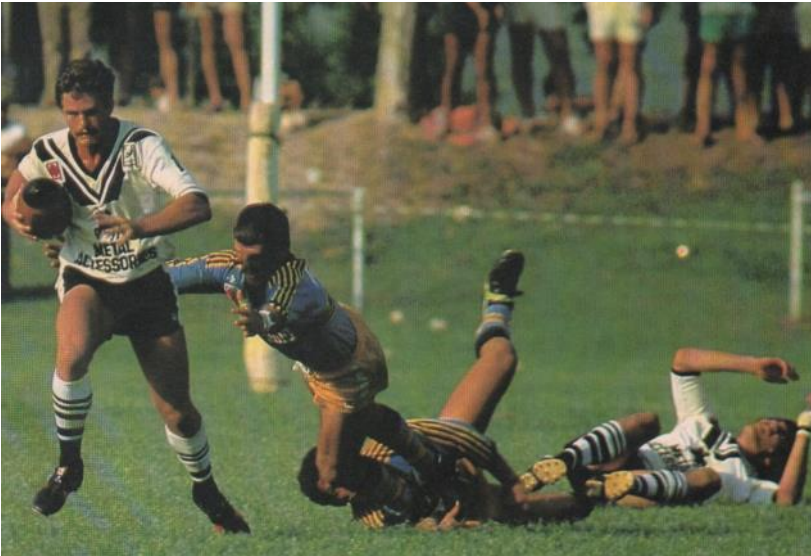
In 1981 up against Redcliffe I was off the bench. The feeling going into that game was as much hope as it was desperation. We absolutely needed it...

It was tough. I never wanted to leave. I only wanted to play for Souths. I wanted to play for Souths first grade and then play representative football and I couldn't do it from here. It was so difficult to realise that I had to leave...

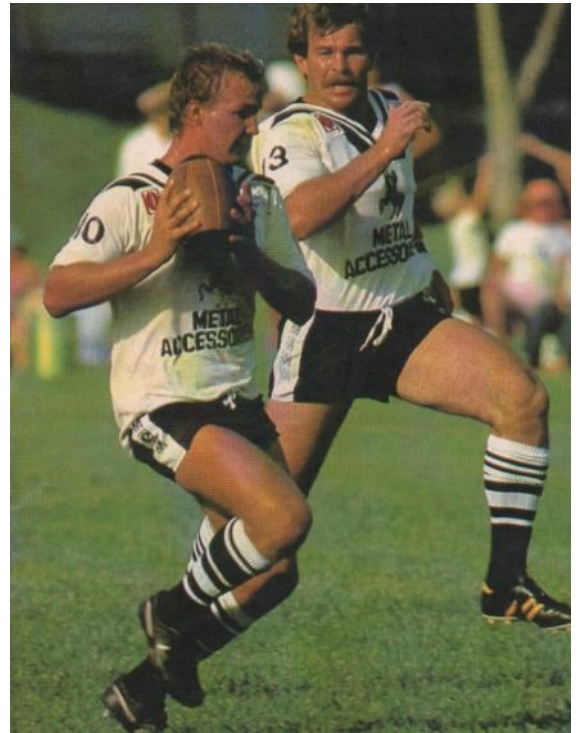
Those old days watching footy on Sunday afternoon on the hill having a couple of cans of beer and watching your team go around you can still do it. You don't have to go to a concrete stadium and pay \$100 a head. You don't have to [pay] that at Davies Park. It's a family ground.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above:** Gary Belcher leaves a couple of Norths players in his wake in a pre-season game against Norths at Davies Park.



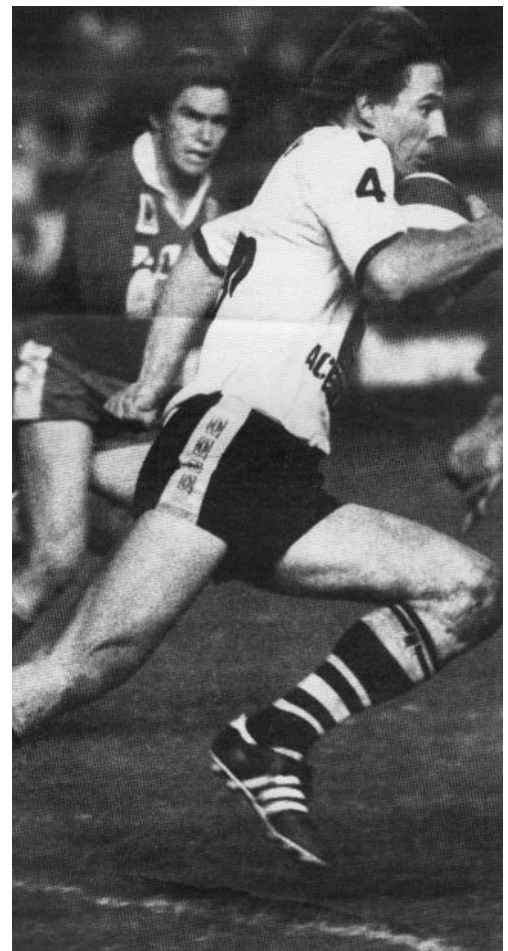
**Above:** Scott Tronc with Gary Greinke in support.



**Left:** Souths dynamic duo in the centres, Peter Jackson and Mal Meninga take a well-earned rest.

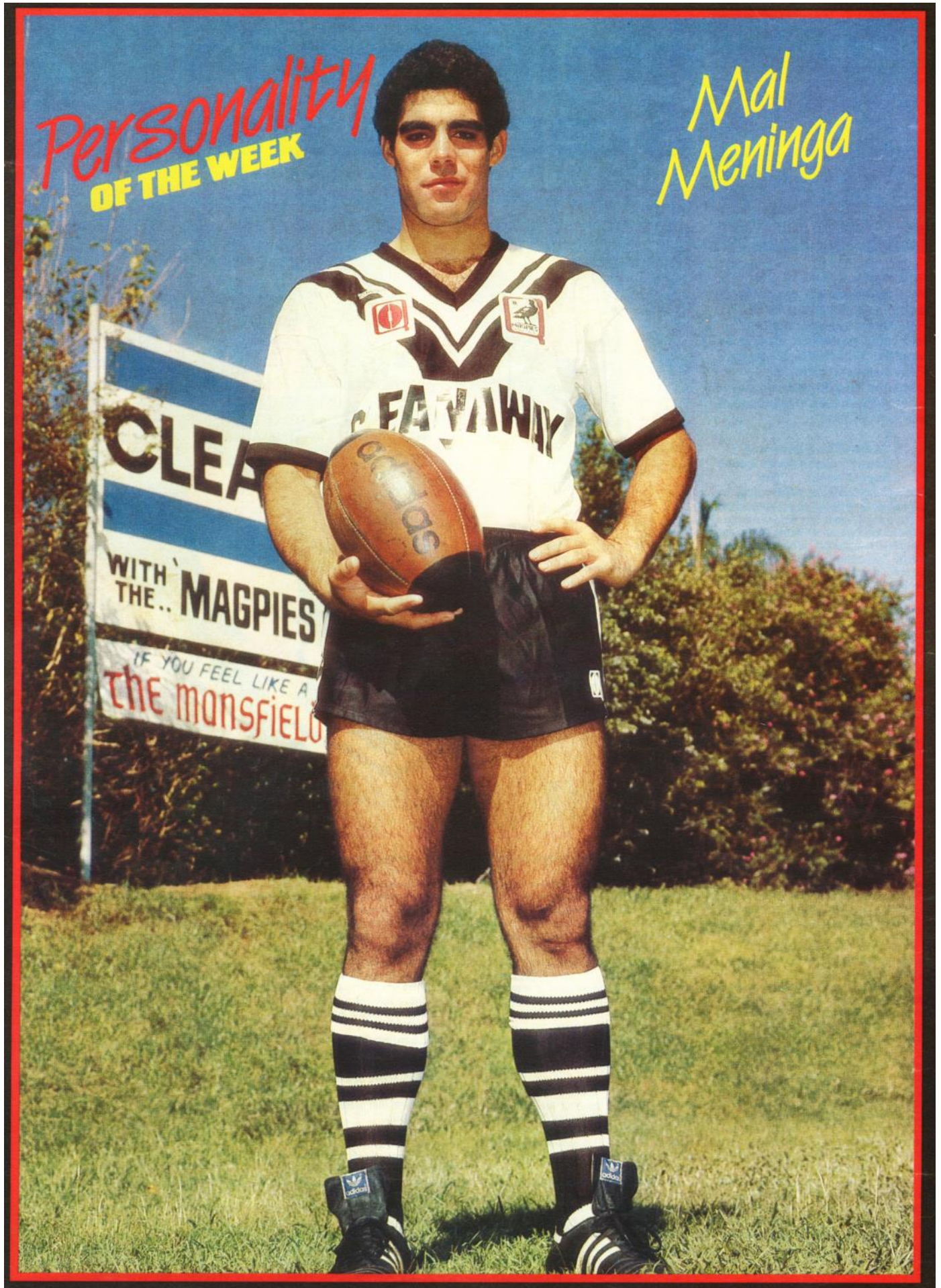
**Below:** Hubie Abbott about to go into score for Souths in Souths 14-8 preliminary final win over Valleys in 1984.

**Below:** Mal Meninga and Wally Lewis celebrate a spectacular try by Mal set up by one of Wally's long passes in the second Ashes test in 1982.





**THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S**





THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

# THE GREAT MAGPIE MYSTERY

By TONY DURKIN

**T**he colors black and white and the Magpie emblem aren't the only similarities between Souths in Brisbane, Wests in Sydney and Collingwood in Melbourne.

It seems, in recent years at least, that the Magpie has been a born loser.

Recent statistics of the three clubs, which bear a distinct and uncanny resemblance, are:

Souths: Nine finals since 1980, for two victories.

Wests: Have been in the Sydney semi-finals every year except one since 1977, but have failed to go any further than the final.

Collingwood: Played in nine VFL grand finals since 1960, drew one and lost eight.

And even though each club stands proudly by its respective record, supporters are starting to wonder whether the teams are, in fact, perennial losers.

Souths' poor record in big matches is starting to become a nightmare for the very affable coach of the Magpies, Bob McCarthy.

He was fuming after Souths were beaten 10-4 by Wests in the Woolies' pre-season final two weeks ago. In fact, in the dressing rooms after the match McCarthy likened his side to Collingwood.

"I'm starting to think these blokes don't have what it takes to win the big ones."

McCarthy said, with a tinge of sarcasm in his voice.

"They don't have any killer in them."

"We're starting to look a lot like Collywobblers (a rather uncharitable nickname given to Collingwood by well-known television commentator Lou Richards) and I'm starting to think I'm Tom Hafey."

Hafey was coach of Collingwood from 1977 to part the way through last season. In that period the Magpies played in four losing grand finals.

Souths' record is not as bad. In fact, realistically it is an extremely impressive one and one McCarthy, the players and club officials should be proud.

Since McCarthy took over as coach in 1980, the Magpies' record in big matches has been:

1980: Woolies pre-season semi-final, lost 9-2 to Valleys, the eventual winners; President's Cup final, lost 25-13 to Valleys; Peter Scott Memorial Trophy final, won 19-9 against Valleys; Winfield Cup grand final, lost 17-15 to Norths.

1981: Woolies pre-season final, lost 16-14 to Valleys; Winfield Cup grand final, won 13-9 against Redcliffe.

1982: Woolies pre-season final, lost 21-13 to Valleys; State League semi-final, lost 17-13 to Redcliffe; Woolies trophy, lost 21-15 to Valleys; Winfield Cup grand final, lost 17-3 to Wynnum.

1983: Woolies pre-season final, lost 10-4 to Wests.

McCarthy's biggest fear is that he could be labelled a 'loser', in the coaching sphere.

"Souths have been my first coaching appointment and even though I don't miss the tackles or drop the balls out in the middle, it is a reflection on my coaching," he said.

"The record is an impressive one, but winning is what it's all about. I don't want to be associated with the bridesmaid all the time."

Queensland Australian Football League's Director of Coaching, Andrew Ireland knows exactly how the Souths players feel.

Ireland played for Collingwood from 1974 to 1980, during which time the Magpies played in four grand finals, drawing one and losing three.

"I've no doubt that had we won the grand final we drew with North Melbourne in 1977. Collingwood would have kicked on and won a lot more premierships," he said.

Although Ireland says the Collingwood players during his time with the club weren't losers, and didn't consider themselves losers, he had no doubts that there was added

## Has losing finals become a black and white trademark?

pressure on the players because of the club's poor recent record.

"Subconsciously there must have been something nagging at all of us," he said.

"Every time we got to a grand final, the media would really go to town on our record of grand final losses. With so much publicity, it was difficult not to take any notice of what was happening."

But Ireland has no doubts about the coaching ability of Tom Hafey.

"During the time I was with the club, we weren't considered a red-hot side in most seasons," he said.

"Many, many times, we had to play four qualifying matches to make the grand final."

"It was a top effort to get us there in the first place. I don't believe the results reflected Hafey's coaching ability in any way."

Sydney Wests secretary, Ray Bernasconi, said most League followers in Sydney were well aware of the difficult financial situation facing the club in the past 10 years. There has also been major poaching of Wests' top players by other clubs.

"Yet we have still managed to qualify for the semi-finals every season except one since we won the Amco Cup back in 1977," he said. "But I suppose the facts are there — we haven't won anything, even though we've been there, have we?"

Former Australian captain and RLW columnist, Greg Veivers, claims the Souths players and coach are starting to believe what is written about them.

Veivers, a former Souths player who is still closely tied to the club, said the players were good enough and should have won as many as seven of the finals they've lost.

"I just wonder whether success has come too readily for the blokes and they maybe believe too much of their own publicity," he said.

"And I'm not too sure whether the players believe they owe themselves the pride and glory of winning a grand final, let alone their coach, their sponsors and their supporters."

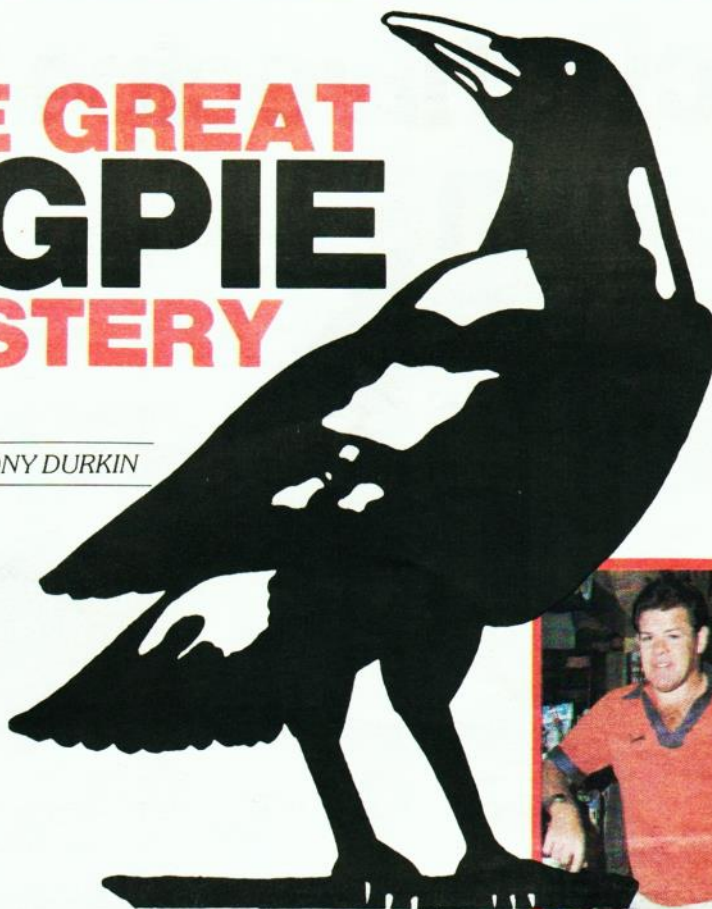
This is almost certainly McCarthy's last year with the club. In fact, he's stayed one year longer than he originally intended.

He will more than likely head back to Sydney, either as a coach with an excellent record or a coach with a brilliant record.

The Souths players, who hold their coach in the highest possible regard, have two more opportunities to prove their worth.

There's no doubt Souths have the ability to win the Winfield State League and the Winfield Cup. The big question on the lips of not only Souths supporters, but League people in general, is whether they know HOW to win them.

RIGHT: Souths skipper Bruce Astill — can he put an end to the Magpie jinx?  
TOP: Bob McCarthy — has he invested in the 'losers'?





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

### 1984 Woolies Pre-Season Title

## BRISBANE PRE-SEASON... BRISBANE PRE-SEASON...

# IT'S RICHO!

*Souths 18, Wynnum 11 at Lang Park*

**SOUTHS won the pre-season final but replacement second-rower Richo Hill won the hearts of the big crowd at Lang Park last Sunday.**

The Magpies finally broke through for a victory in a final, beating the injury-riddled Wynnum 18-11 in a heart-stopping encounter to collect the \$10,000 first prize.

But from the moment the short, stocky, long-haired aboriginal named Richo (christened Richard) Hill took the field at halftime, this final took on a different complexion. And so did the mood of the crowd.

With Wynnum missing Test players Gene Miles and Colin Scott, state reps Brett French and Greg Dowling and Brisbane rep Mark Zillman, among others, they went into the match well and truly as underdogs. And as is almost always the case, the crowd supported the long shots.

But since Richo Hill started venturing on to Lang Park last season as a first grade replacement for Souths on odd occasions, he has won the hearts of the crowds at headquarters and last Sunday was no different. And Hill didn't let his fans down.

He scored Souths' try four minutes from three-quarter time which gave the Magpies their first real breathing space and gave them a 12-7 lead at the break. And in that movement, he handled twice.

Two minutes from the final bell he served up the final pass for state winger Wayne Challis to flash

## Hill wins hearts at Headquarters

over in the corner and put the issue beyond doubt, after the Magpies had clung to a treacherous 12-11 lead, following a 76th minute try by Wynnum's Terry Butler.

But that's not all Hill did in the 40 minutes he was on the field as a replacement for the experienced Ash Lumby. He was in the thick of everything, tackling strongly, using his great ball skills to advantage and making a number of breaks, including a 50-metre effort from deep in Souths territory.

For Magpie coach Wayne Bennett, the problem now is where to fit Hill into his side, a side which is unbeaten in six matches this season and has scored 158 points to 51.

But compared to Wynnum's Des Morris, that is hardly a problem. Apart from the five big names who missed the final, wingers Brad Backer and Warren Green were further casualties while state skipper Wally Lewis limped for most of the match.

In fact, on early-season reckoning, considering the talent Wynnum had added to their impressive line-up during the off-season, at least six of those in last Sunday's final would not have been given even an outside chance of being regular first graders this year.

But as so often happens in big matches, the Seagulls gave 120 per cent, particularly in defence, and almost brought off the first big upset of '84. And on that showing, it will be difficult for Morris to discard his battle-weary troops.

Morris was a proud man after the match, because he fully realised what an outstanding effort it had been. He was disappointed though, that the Seagulls had come so close and been beaten.

But they had their chances. Skipper David Green gave them a glut of possession — 15-6 — and referee Eddie Ward presented them with 14 penalties to 12.

While there were plenty of goers in defence — and they repeatedly swarmed Souths as the Magpies endeavored to play their new, flowing game — the Seagulls sadly missed the attacking brilliance of the likes of Miles, Scott, French and Zillman.

It was left to Wally Lewis, playing at lock because of the reshuffling needed, to carry the attack, and the responsibility was even too much for his broad shoulders.

But Wynnum made Souths battle for every point they scored and Bennett admitted after the final that his troops were well below their best. And most at the ground would agree that it was more frustration, caused by that swarming Wynnum defence, than a lacklustre attitude which caused the Magpies to drop so much ball.

However, another reason for losing possession at vital times was the obvious obsession the Souths players had of getting the ball away to supporters. Playing contract football, Souths have been spectacular on occasions,



**Above: The Woolies Pre-Season Trophy**

but at other times they have looked downright sloppy.

But they keep winning, and no coach or supporter can ask for more than that.

For the purists, the match was probably a disappointment. In fact it was well short of the standard finals in Brisbane have produced in recent seasons.

But for an entertainment point of view, no spectator who paid his money at the gate could have asked for more. At no stage — apart from the final 1½ minutes — was the result in the bag.

The scores were nil-all at quarter time, 6-all at halftime, 12-7 to Souths at three quarter time and then 12-11 to the Magpies after the Butler try, with just four minutes remaining.

And had the sideline conversion attempt by prop Gary Coyne, which fell just inches under the bar, been successful, the Seagulls may well have hung on.

Morris can take heart at the performance of some of his lesser lights. Props Tony Kajewski and Gary Coyne were marvellous and stop-gap centres Brian Naylor and Warren Green bottled up Mal Meninga and Peter Jackson so effectively that one wonders whether Gene Miles and Brett French could

have done any better.

And the youngsters again shone for Wynnum. They sprung a huge surprise by swinging 17-year-old five-eighth Peter Sinclair into the match, but he answered the call admirably. And again young fullback Brad Morgan did everything asked of him, including scoring the Seagulls' first try.

But it was the steady influence of hooker and captain David Green and lock Wally Lewis which kept the Seagulls in the match so long. Both were superb.

Apart from Hill, Souths had a couple of outstanding players, none better than young fullback Gary

Belcher who continues to improve, and impress. He was one of the few Souths players who repeatedly punched holes in Wynnum.

And three of the players Bennett replaced after the Butler try — half Sully and props Kellaway and Higgs — were among Souths' best. Kellaway powered through his work like a tradesman and looks a new player under the coaching of Bennett.

— TONY DURKIN

#### THE SCORERS

Souths 18 (A. Lumby, R. Hill, W. Challis tries; M. Meninga 3 goals) beat Wynnum 11 (B. Morgan, T. Butler tries; W. Green goal, P. Sinclair field goal).  
Scrums: Wynnum 15-6.  
Penalties: Wynnum 14-12.



**Bob Lindner, who had a big game for the Magpies last Sunday in the pre-season final.**



**Mal Meninga on the charge for Souths. He was contained by the Wynnum centres last weekend.**



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

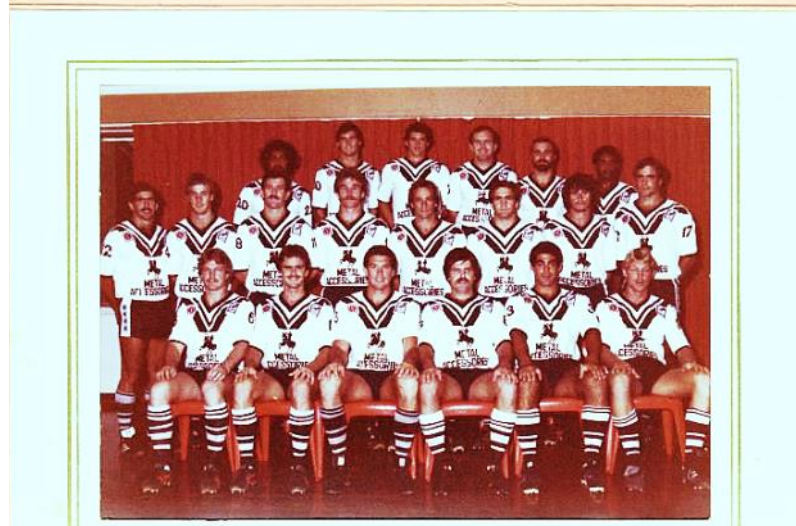
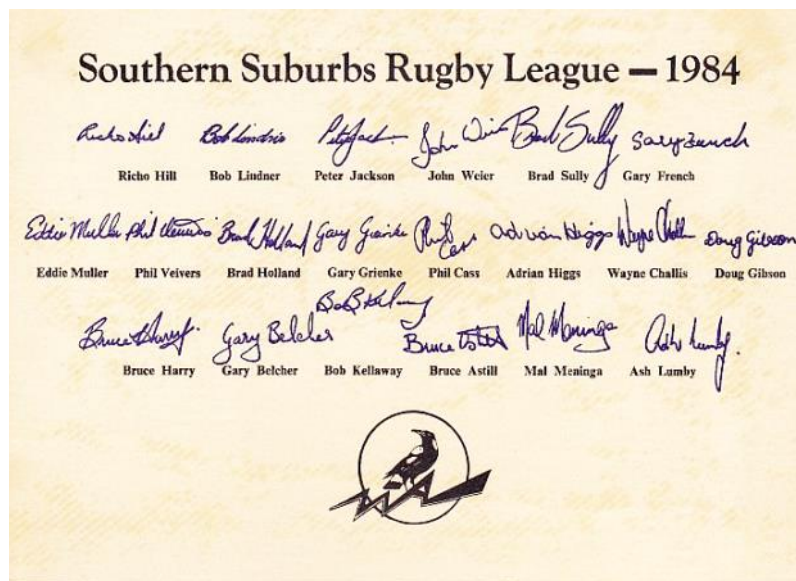
Wayne Bennett returned from Brothers to coach Souths in 1984, a year that would become known for the complete domination of Wynnum-Manly following their signing of Wally Lewis. Wayne's return to Souths started on a high note with Souths defeating Wynnum-Manly in the Woolies pre-season final by 18-11. Souths made the semis of the State League competition and beat Valleys 17-2 in their semi-final before going down to Wynnum-Manly 21-10.

One funny story that was told to me at a Souths function was about a time when Souths were coming back from somewhere like Moranbah on a chartered flight after a State League game. There was plenty of alcohol consumed on the way back by the players and one of them said to the other guys about something he was reading, "Hey check this out". In unison the rest of the players moved across to his side of the plane and the sudden shift in weight caused the plane to go into a bit of a spin. The pilot managed to bring the plane back under control and then got on the intercom and told the players, "If you's try anything like that again I'll set the plane straight down and call the police." What the pilot didn't realise at that time was that half of the Souths players were police at the time.

Souths were second on the table before the finals many points behind Wynnum-Manly. When they met in the major semi-final Wynnum-Manly defeated Souths 46-22. Souths recovered to beat Valleys in a solid performance the Saturday night after in the preliminary final 14-8 to book their fifth grand final in six years.

What happened the week after was traumatic to say the least. Led by legends Wally Lewis and Gene Miles, Wynnum-Manly inflicted a humiliating 42 to 8 defeat on Souths. To add insult to injury Souths fans at the game were outnumbered 4 to 1 by Wynnum-Manly's huge fan base. Souths had now been in 5 grand finals in 6 years and only won 1 of them.

A consolation prize was that, for the second year in a row, Souths won both the club championship and won the 1984 Reserve Grade premiership defeating Valleys 10-6 in the grand final.



ABOVE: Jubilant Souths players chair off their captain, Lloyd Clark.



Terry Butler in his lone first grade pre-season appearance with Souths.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



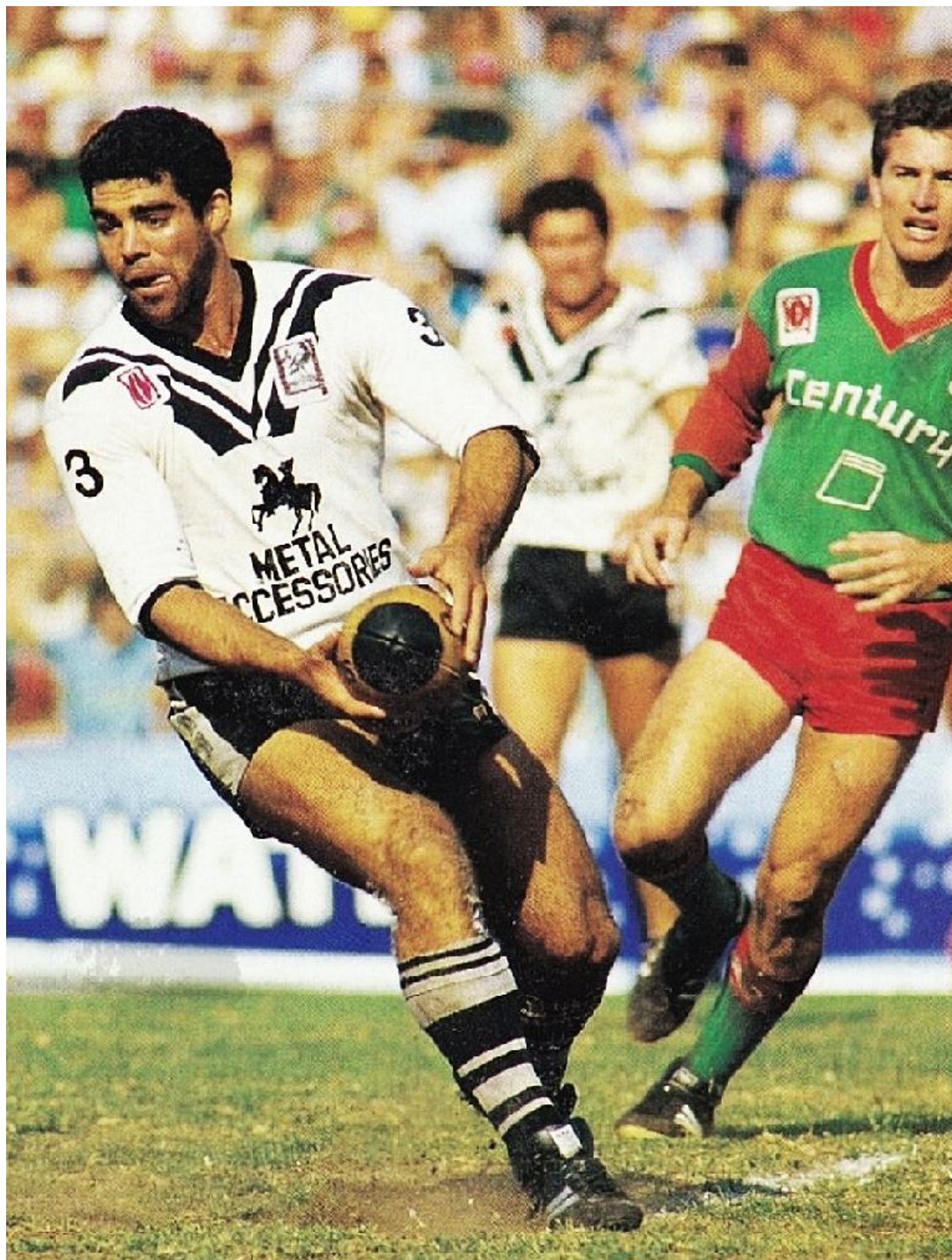
## 1984 Grand Final action

ABOVE: Souths' prop Doug Gibson is not going anywhere as he is wrapped up by David Green and prop Greg Dowling.

LEFT: Wynnum prop Tony Kajewski goes in low in last year's Winfield Cup Grand Final at Lang Park to stop Souths' five-eighth Wayne Halverson. Wynnum captain David Green shows he's never too far from the ball.



**THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S**



**Above:** Mal Meninga looking to pass during the 1984 BRL Grand Final with Ian French (Wynnum Manly) and Bob Kellaway (Souths) behind him.

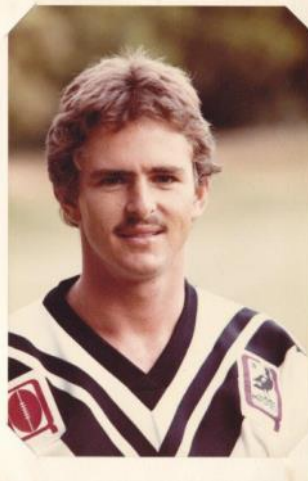


## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

MAL MENINGA



GARY BELCHER



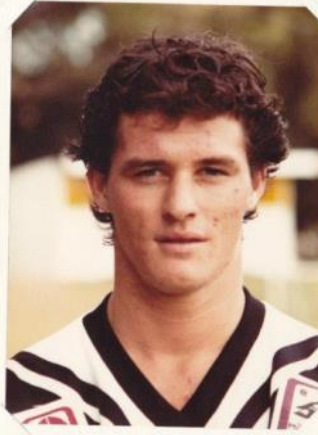
BOB LINDNER



EDDIE MULLER



ASH LUMBY



PETER JACKSON



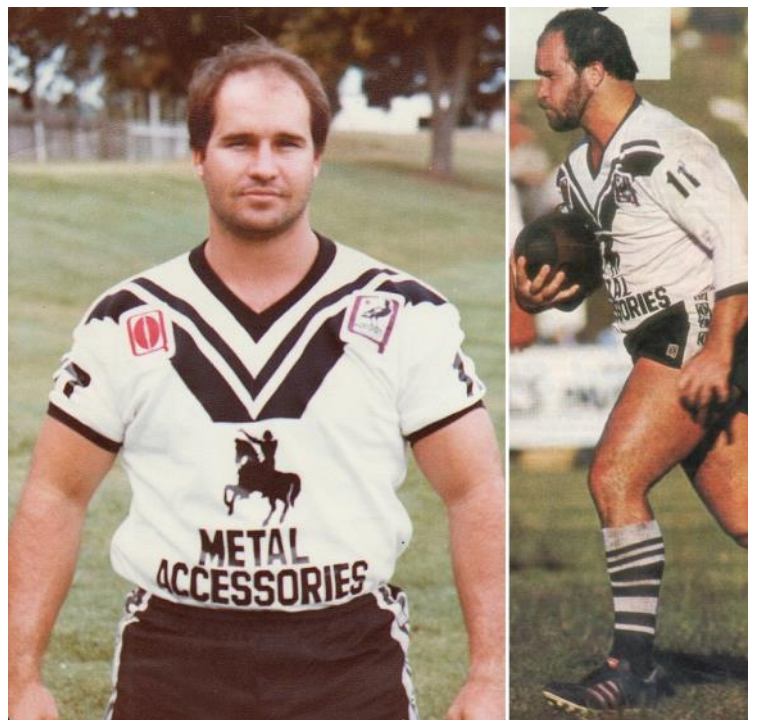
BRAD SULLY



SCOTT TRONC



Below: Front Rower, Mark Meskell





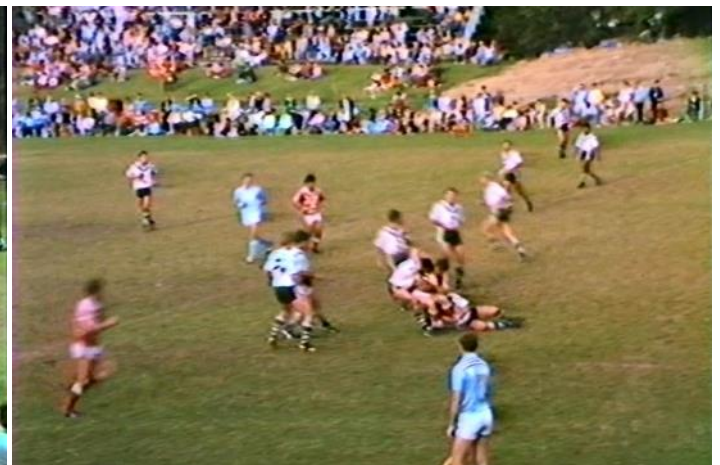
## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above:** Mal Meninga enjoys some lighter moments in his playing days for Souths.



**Above:** A couple of views of a Souths v Valleys game from the early 1980's at Davies Park.



**Above:** A couple of views from a Souths v Redcliffe game in 1984 played at Davies Park.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



JIM MCCLELLAND

I hate to lose. A lot of people expect us to lose but we aint going to go away. We're here for the long haul...

The thing that was talked about in every bar in every pub in West End was Souths football club and whether or not they were going to win another grand final...

When we first brought Wayne back to take over from Bob McCarthy I wasn't very open with Wayne and he could sense something was wrong with me and he said, "You're not going to tell me we're broke again are you?" I said, "Yeah, we haven't got any money." He said, "Alright, we'll just have to come up some innovative ways to come up with the cash."



So one of the Greek boys decides we'll have a Manila night and I was earning some good money in those days - \$3000 a night. Then the Greek fellow says "I have decided to take on one of the big gambling dens in the Valley. I got his dealer." I said, "Mate, that's the most ridiculous move you've ever made in your life."

At 2 o'clock in the morning two big guys rock up in this car. "Alright who's running the game." "I am." "Come with us." Walked me down the jetty. "Play again next week you're in the river." So that was the end of that money making venture.

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



WAYNE BENNETT

I didn't fit in straight away. They made me coach straight away and so I had a bit of trouble fitting in. I tried to play and coach but I couldn't do that successfully. I decided rather than drop myself I'd retire. So I retired half way through the season and I don't think anyone missed me as a player.

There's no comparison any more to what we did. I remember Pat Phelan used to come in and he was a brickie's labourer and no one would train better than him. He'd be filthy dirty and you'd know he's exhausted and he'd just put in. No great facilities. You're lucky to get a hot shower sometimes.

We brought Billy [Argeros] up to play first grade because we had a number of injuries. After the game I said to him, "Billy you did really good." He said, "I was very scared today Wayne." "Oh were you?" I said. "How did you settle your nerves down?" He said, "I had a 6 pack before the game"...

It was the first club built in Brisbane...It hasn't changed a great deal, believe me and so it has strong memories for me. There's nothing flashy about Souths. There's nothing flashy about us. We weren't full of ourselves either. I remember Mal had the opportunity to play for Souths or go and play for St George. He played for Souths because all of his mates were coming over here. Everybody felt comfortable here. Everyone felt at home.

I'm in a different world now and I miss this world. This was what it was about, it was about a club and the club was everybody whether you were playing first grade or third grade.

You just need that one strong-willed person in believes in the place and others will get in there and help and that's how they've managed to do it because all the other clubs that have gone by the wayside haven't have that one person.

This is the spiritual home of Souths. There's no doubt about that. It's not a place of eloquent beauty or buildings or shrines to people. It's a footy park. This is very earthly here and I think that's the great magic about it.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

The 1984 loss by 42-8 at the hands of Wynnum-Manly was absolutely crushing for Wayne Bennett who's one other grand final as coach for Souths was the 26 to nil humiliation at the hands of Valleys, ironically involving another dominant performance by King Wally before his switch of teams.

A lot of people look at Wayne Bennett these days and see him as the super coach that has won 7 out of 7 grand finals with the Broncos and St George in the ARL/NRL and could easily think that he has never tasted defeat. Quite the opposite. Before he tasted his first premiership success with Souths in 1985 his teams had suffered two thrashings at the hands of Valleys in 1979 and Wynnum-Manly in 1984. This pattern of great defeat before great success also is seen in his State of Origin coaching career for Queensland. His first season as Queensland coach was in 1986 when Queensland suffered its first 3-0 whitewash at the hands of NSW in three close games. Things couldn't get any more close or desperate in the first game of 1987 when the scores were locked at 16-all near full time. Mark McGaw threw an inside pass that was knocked down by Queensland but was kicked ahead into the Maroons' in-goal.

Mick Stone was forced to make a split second decision without the help of the video replay system that we have today. Stone ruled that McGaw had touched down centimetres inside the dead-ball line for a try. Video replays showed Stone correct, making his decision one of the best and bravest rulings ever made which was no consolation for Wayne Bennett who had lost four games in a row. Queensland courageously fought back to win the 1987 series 2-1. Wayne Bennett coached Queensland to further success with the 1988 3-0 whitewash and then series wins in 1998 and 2001.

The traumatic defeat at the hands of Wynnum-Manly in 1984 would help steel Souths for the next season. In a blow for the club, Bob Lindner, who had played for Souths in the last two seasons and also represented Queensland, switched to Wynnum-Manly strengthening them even further.

On the plus side 1985 saw the return to Souths of Chris Phelan after playing for Parramatta (including being involved in their 1982 and 1983 premierships).

Wayne Bennett had drawn much on the lessons learned by Essendon and their coach Kevin Sheedy in the VFL. In 1983 Essendon were similarly thrashed by Hawthorn yet turned the tables on Hawthorn in the 1984 VFL Grand Final.



**Above: Bob Lindner**

Wayne Bennett recruited Norm Carr from Wests, Chris Phelan, Wayne Cullen and John Elias to strengthen and add muscle to the Souths forwards. Souths boasted some of the best young attacking backs in the game with Mal Meninga, Gary Belcher and Peter Jackson.

Souths made the semis of the State League but were knocked out by Brothers 28-16. At the end of the regular season Souths, Brothers and Wynnum-Manly all finished on 30 points with Souths winning the minor premiership on for and against. While Souths had scored the least points in attack of the three sides their defence was much superior, a factor that would work in their favour when they reached the grand final.

Souths won a tough defensive battle against Brothers, coached by Ross Strudwick, 14-8 in the major semi-final and booked an amazing 6th grand final appearance in 7 years. A hat-trick of tries by Wynnum-Manly captain, David Green, saw Brisbane's green machine run over Brothers 35-16 to set up a grand final replay between Souths and Wynnum-Manly. It would have been natural for all the fears of the previous year's thrashing to come back to the players yet the wisdom of maturing coach, Wayne Bennett, focused the Souths team on the job at hand in a magnificent way.

Souths wonderful depth had been displayed in the lower grade grand finals. As well as playing in the first grade grand final, Souths played club championship winners Brothers in three lower grade grand finals and had another chance to win another clean sweep.

Like in 1980, Souths came tantalisingly close again. Souths beat Brothers in the Under 21 grand final and then Souths beat Brothers again in the C Grade grand final by 18-12. They only came short in the Reserve Grade grand final losing to Brothers 22-16.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

The mid 80's was perhaps the zenith of the BRL club competition. Referring to the 1985 Grand Final, Wally Lewis made the comment that there were more stars out there than heaven playing for Souths and Wynnnum-Manly.

For Souths we had Gary Belcher, Peter Jackson, Mal Meninga, Norm Carr, John Elias, Mark Meskell, Chris Phelan and Wynnnum had Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Greg Dowling, Gary Coyne and the French brothers. It was a quite sight to behold.

In the First Grade grand final the swarming Magpies defence rattled the premiers, and stars such as Wally Lewis, were forced into making uncharacteristic handling errors.

The Magpies scored the first try of the match eight minutes from half time when second rower, John Elias sliced through the Wynnnum defence 30 metres from the goal line. When the cover defence honed in on him Elias slipped a pass back inside to skipper, Norm Carr, who managed to stumble over the line despite a desperate ankle tap by Lewis.

Magpies centre, Mal Meninga, in his final club game in Brisbane before moving to Canberra, was a tower of strength in defence, though he was well backed up in that department by man of the match, Elias, centre, Peter Jackson, hooker, Eddie Muller and five eighth, Gary French.

The Seagulls struck back in the 68th minute with a try to replacement, Craig Adams but it was to no avail. The Magpies defensive line stood fast to enjoy an historic 10-8 win.

It was a moment to savour. In the space of just twelve months the Magpies had turned disaster into success, and amid the sound of popping champagne corks. Reporters scribbled notes telling stories of great pride and courage.

Perhaps the most moving dedication was that of former Souths and Australian captain, Greg Veivers to veteran prop, Chris Phelan. He described Phelan's efforts to play with a "dead leg" and ankle injury as one of the most courageous efforts he had ever witnessed.

Phelan needed 3 days of intensive physiotherapy for a knee injury just to make the starting line up. Apart from carting the ball into a bruising Wynnnum defence, time and time again he also topped the tackle count with 42 tackles. "I doubt whether that has been topped on any sporting arena anywhere in the world," Veivers said, "that bloke was dead set on one leg."

The demons of the previous year's defeat had been exorcised. In 1985 Souths had won their second great premiership of the 1980's and made it a more respectable 2 from 6 grand finals. It was indeed sweet revenge and a great premiership victory for the Souths faithful to savour.



**Back Row:** Wayne Bennett (coach), Mark Meskell, Chris Phelan, Scott Tronc, Ash Lumby, Gary Grienke, Jim Elder (Manager).  
**Middle Row:** Wayne Cullen, Gary French, Gary Belcher, Ken Gittens, Peter Jackson, Hubie Abbott, Paul Wallace, Bill Gardiner (Trainer).  
**Front Row:** Mal Meninga, David Bourke, Norm Carr, John Elias, Eddie Muller, Gary Thompson.



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

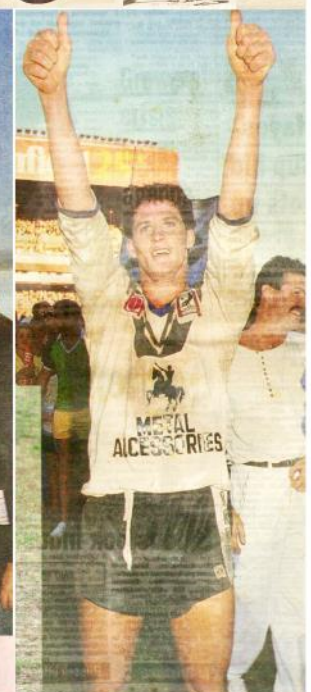
### 1985 Premiership

## LEAGUE FINAL '85 WYNNUM versus SOUTHS

## Sweet revenge



Souths skipper Norm Carr had to work overtime to score his team's only try. Stopped short by a Wally Lewis ankle tap he got up, got going and carried Terry Butler over the line.



# It's Souths — hail to the champs!

SOUTHS are the new Brisbane rugby league champions after tackling big match specialists Wynnum-Manly out of the Winfield Cup grand final at Lang Park yesterday.

The Magpies earned their victory lap with a magnificent defensive effort and the mere fact that they were able to win the grand final 10-8 without scoring a point in the second half spoke volumes for their commitment to a pre-set match plan.

Souths could not have hoped to match Wynnum-Manly in a free-flowing attacking game, so the players devoted themselves to nullifying the Seagulls attack — and reaped the reward.

To say that they were helped slightly by referee David Manson's unwillingness to police the five-metre rule would be churlish.

Champions do not deserve to have their triumph tarnished by sour grapes about a referee's performance and the Wynnum camp

### SOUTHS-WYNNUM BARRY DICK

was not about to whinge about Manson.

Seagulls coach Des Morris was quick to give credit where it was due. "We were beaten by a better team on the day," he said.

In capturing their first premiership since 1981, the Magpies wiped memories of last year's grand final disaster when they were on the wrong end of a record margin against Wynnum.

They also prevented what would have been an historic clean sweep by Wynnum, who were chasing the third leg of an unprecedented triple crown after earlier winning the Woolies and Winfield State League championships.

And the Magpies did it in style, picking up the under-21 and third grade titles on the way — with the only sad note on the day coming in reserve grade where Brothers finished on top of Souths.

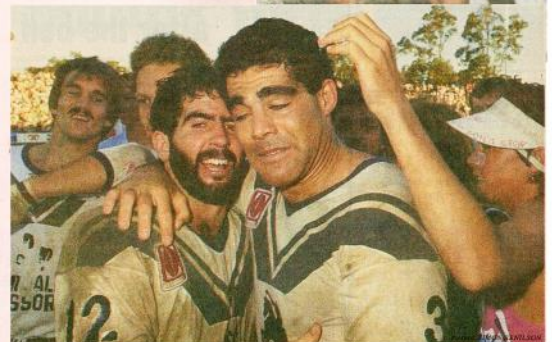
Rugby league purists would have been enthralled by the contest between two evenly-matched sides and, if sections of the 31,000 strong crowd walked away disappointed that they did not see more attack, they were hard to please.

There was more than enough action to satisfy the hungriest of appetites and the defence was as good as any seen at Lang Park, at club level at least, for a couple of seasons.

Despite reassurances from Souths coach Wayne Bennett that he was not nervous at any stage, there must have been some palpitations on the Magpies bench when the Seagulls began mounting desperate attack in the closing stages.

Forever the innovators, Wynnum tried everything to crack the defence in the final 10 minutes but they were thwarted by Souths' bravery and their own mistakes.

In the end the Seagulls paid the ultimate price for some basic handling errors.



An emotional Mal Meninga, in his last game of a long career for Souths, is warmly embraced by Eddie Muller after the siren.

Brisbane did not see the best of Wynnum in the last couple of months, but that was to be expected when one considered the tragic injury toll at Kougari Oval with quality players such as Bob Lindner, Brian Walsh, Mal Green and Tony Kajewski falling by the wayside.

And the sorry tale continued yesterday when Queensland full-back Colin Scott played as a passenger for 49 minutes after tearing rib cartilages in an early tackle.

It was perhaps fitting that Souths' "war horse" skipper Norm Carr, a player written off by many at the start of the season, should score the first of the only two tries in the grand final.

The breakthrough came eight minutes before halftime when Carr, using sheer determination and brute strength, forced his way over following a great run by man-of-the-match John Elias.

That gave Souths a 10-2 lead at the turnaround, although they withstood a pounding from Wynnum in the last five minutes of the half to earn their halftime lead.

Carr said later he had made no definite decision about whether to play again next year. "I'll see how I feel in a couple of months," he said.

Souths defence did not crack until the 68th minute of the match when replacement Wynnum forward Craig Adams used the sort of determination that Carr had shown earlier to crash over near the posts.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### WINFIELD CUP GRAND FINALS

##### SOUTHS 10 WYNNUM-MANLY 8

Scorers — Souths: N Carr try, G Smith 3 goals. Wynnum-Manly: C Adams try, W Green 2 goals. First scorers: Souths 6, Wynnum-Manly 5. First try scorers: Souths 6, Wynnum-Manly 8.

#### RESERVE GRADE

##### BROTHERS 22 SOUTHS 16

Scorers — Brothers: S McCarthy, B Davidson, J Tapp, S Carter tries; B Barry 3 goals. Souths: M Clarkson, G Parker tries; B Lesso 4 goals.

#### THIRD GRADE

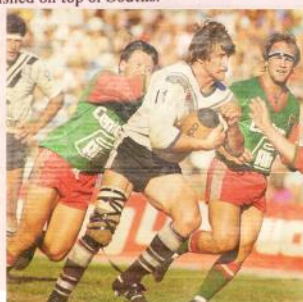
##### SOUTHS 18 BROTHERS 12

Scorers — Souths: W Wilson, C Donovan, P Bergin tries; D Jones 2, B Tickner goals. Brothers: V O'Brien, M Crowther tries; L Newman 2 goals.

#### UNDER 21

##### SOUTHS 21 BROTHERS 14

Scorers — Souths: P Marchant, S Hamilton, T Waddups, C White tries; W Adams 2 goals, J Gilbert field goal. Brothers: M Gander, P McGraw, R Sullivan tries; K McMaster goal.





THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

# BENNETT'S DAY

Souths 10, Wynnum 8 at Lang Park

QUEENSLAND's new director of coaching, Wayne Bennett, emerged the real victor in Souths' thrilling 10-8 Winfield Cup victory over Wynnum at Lang Park last Sunday.

Although very conscious that there was no need to prove himself as a coach, Bennett was elated and emotional at the Souths victory and in the manner in which that victory had been achieved.

He had learned a valuable lesson from the demoralising thrashing handed to Souths just 12 months earlier by the multi-talented Wynnum.

"We all learned from that. I surrounded myself with players who I knew wanted to win, who knew just what winning meant," he said.

"At no stage today was I worried. I knew we would win. We were the better side and we wanted to win more."

Rarely from a grand final does the coach emerge the real winner and the hero, but that was the case last Sunday. To lift Souths back onto the rails after such a drubbing last year was a magnificent effort.

But Bennett didn't do it on his own. He had 13 magnificent men out there last Sunday who played as though they were prepared to spill blood — and plenty of it — just to have that bold looking Winfield Cup back in their Davies Park clubhouse.

It was a tenacious effort and although the final scoreline read 10-8, with just one try apiece, the margin was much bigger than that.

Had Wynnum snuck back in those final dramatic moments, as they so nearly did, it would have been a travesty of justice. They did not deserve to be premiers in front of the courageous Magpies.

Peter McKenna, boss of Century, Wynnum's sponsor, summed it up perfectly after the match. He said: "On paper we may be the better side, and I still believe we are, but we weren't today."

And they certainly were not. It wasn't the Wynnum of old, or the Wynnum who had staged a remarkable comeback against Brothers the previous week or attacked so well



Gary French

## GRAND FINAL



Match report by  
**TONY DURKIN**

against Valleys in the knockout semi.

Mistakes were aplenty in the Seagulls' game, mistakes from players who normally don't make them. Even the master himself, Wally Lewis, made some uncharacteristic blunders to at least prove one thing — he is human.

But such was the swarming Souths defence that Wynnum were simply hemmed in and frustrated. Admittedly the Magpies moved up very quickly, both sides of the rucks, but I don't go along with the theory that Souths were allowed far too much latitude by referee David Manson.

Certainly Manson's meterage in the rucks varied from five to what appeared three on some occasions, as he took turns at standing over the play-the-ball with his back to the defending side, but I don't believe he favored one side more than the other.

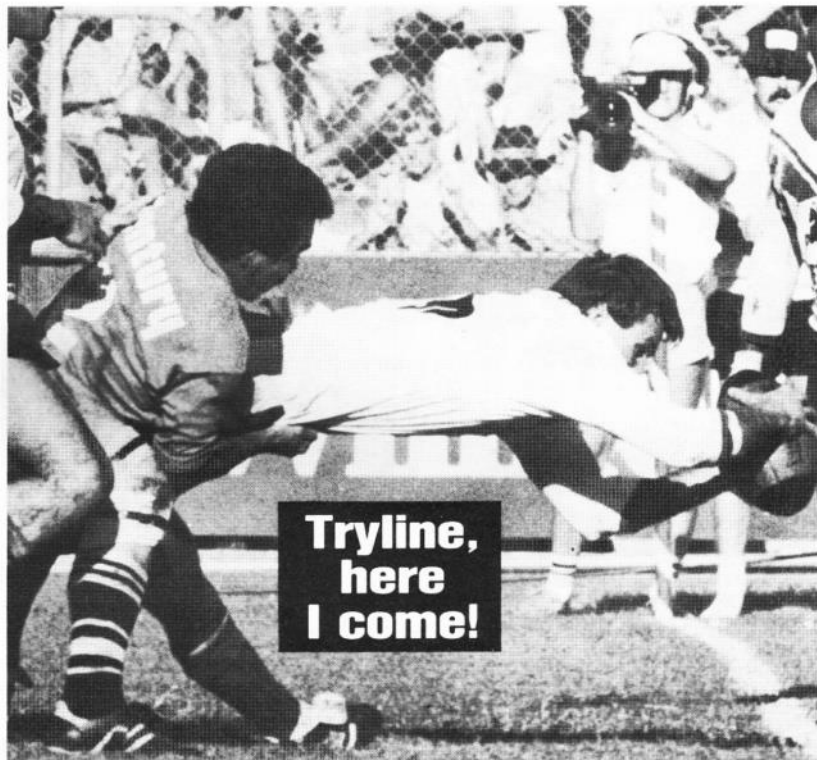
Wynnum may argue this allowed their much more potent attacking weapons less room to move, but on the day, Souths showed they had just as much in attack as the well-oiled Seagulls.

Des Morris, the Wynnum coach, wasn't going to be drawn in on the five metre rule. His only reply to that questioning was that Souths played well, but he asked the media men to remember that just one try apiece had been scored in the match.

And weren't they both desperate affairs?

The first was ignited by Magpies' second-rower John Elias, as he sliced through the edge of the Wynnum ruck about 30 metres out and then put on the gas. When cornered by the cover, he slipped a pass back inside to skipper Norm Carr who, despite the ankle tap from Wally Lewis, managed to stumble and stutter before burying the ball over the line.

That try came eight minutes before halftime and the resultant conver-



Tryline,  
here  
I come!

South's captain Norm Carr — plunges over for what turned out to be the premiership-winning try as Terry Butler strives to hold him back.

sion put the Magpies ahead 10-2, and in a very strong position.

They held onto that lead until 12 minutes from time when young Wynnum replacement second-rower, Craig Adams, scored for the Seagulls. It was almost a replica of the Souths try, with Lewis sending Gary Coyne through and then Coyne feeding Adams, back on the inside.

Like Carr, young Adams had to twist, turn and struggle, but eventually he put the ball down. Warren Green's conversion made it 10-8 and, as expected, the final 12 minutes were real grand final stuff.

But uncharacteristically, Wynnum made some blunders in those final 12 minutes. And in those few minutes, the Seagulls were penalised for offside play when players dived on loose balls, the result of some panic passing.

While Souths played committed, percentage football and kept their mistake rate to a minimum, Wynnum faltered. In the first half the Seagulls grassed the ball 13 times, to Souths' five.

And because Wynnum were making handling errors, many of them unforced, Souths had all the ball. In that vital first 40 minutes they won the scrums 7-3, and one of

those three was a tight-head win for David Green.

But despite Souths' magnificent commitment and obvious match plan, Wynnum appeared to play into their hands on some occasions.

One baffling aspect of their play was the ploy to keep turning the ball back inside, right into the swarm of Magpie defenders. Using the speed of their backs would have seemed more useful.

And Wynnum, like Brothers, seemed unable to contain the Souths dummy-half — usually hooker Eddie Muller — from running freely. Time after time, despite the two-marker system used by Wynnum, the Magpies pinched valuable ground.

In such a performance teams, and not players, deserve all the accolades. But it is difficult not to single out a couple of heroic Souths performers.

Prop Chris Phelan, for instance, was absolutely magnificent. Soon to turn 30 and running on just one leg — literally — the man was a 'monster'. One tackle on Greg Dowling was a gem.

Second-rower John Elias — my man of the match by a hair's breadth — came to Brisbane at the start of the season unknown, by mid-season he

was known as the tackling machine and by grand final day he had become the all-round footballer. His attack in this match was terrific, his defence great.

Mal Meninga, in his last club match in Brisbane — or so it seems — left a champion. Okay, there were none of those long, bruising, bumping runs which the big bloke is so well known for, but there was plenty of fierce defence.

Add to that list skipper Norm Carr, hooker Eddie Muller, five-eighth Gary French and centre Peter Jackson, and it's almost the entire side. It was an outstanding team effort.

Wynnum had their problems. Fullback Colin Scott was injured early and continued as a virtual passenger until the 59th minute. lock Craig Farrugia was replaced in the 32nd minute simply

because he was being asked to do far too much against the bigger Souths pack and centre Brett French had a terrible and contagious attack of the dropsy.

The Seagulls at times were very fractured in their attack, with players cutting back inside, to Souths' strength, rather than hitting the line hard out wide.

Their best were big centre Gene Miles, who did a mountain of work trying to inspire his side, halfback Peter Dawes and prop Gary Coyne. Lewis, despite a surprising mistake rate, kicked magnificently and always looked dangerous.

It was a typical grand final — much different to the classic event 12 months ago. Defence was tough and committed, with tries as scarce as hen's teeth. And it was a magic finish.



## VITAL STATISTICS

### THE SCORERS

Souths 10 (N. Carr try; G. French 3 goals) beat  
Wynnum 8 (C. Adams try; W. Green 2 goals)  
Scrums: Souths 12-9 Penalties: Souths 8-6

### WHEN THEY SCORED

4 min: Souths 2-0 (French goal)  
14 min: 2-all (Green goal)  
23 min: Souths 4-2 (French goal)  
32 min: Souths 10-2 (Carr try, French goal)  
68 min: Souths 10-8 (Adams try, Green goal)

### REPLACEMENTS

WYNNUM — 32 min: Craig Farrugia off, Craig Adams on. 59 min: Colin Scott off, Brad Morgan on.



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## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

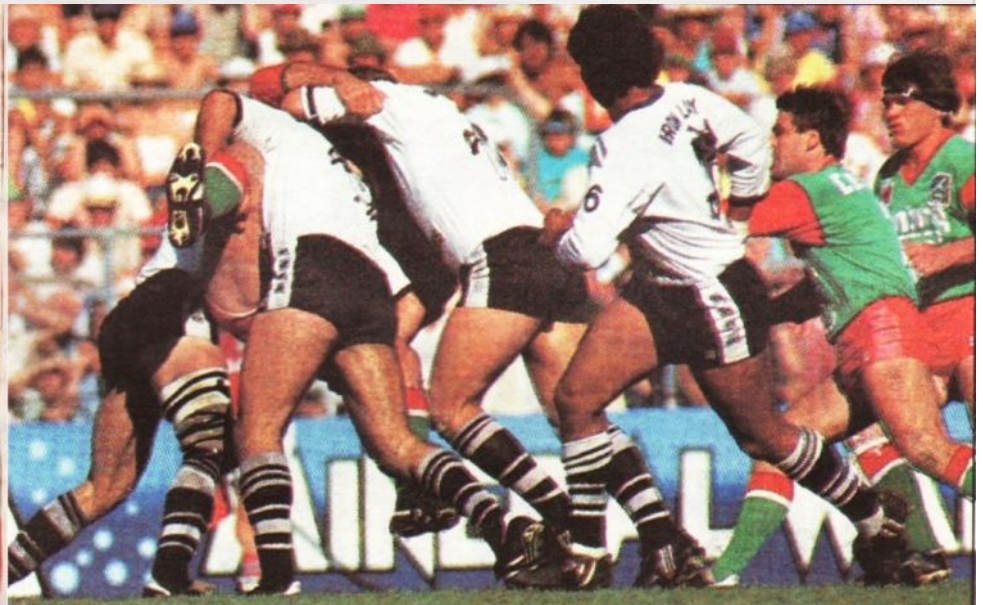


### Southern Suburbs RLFC BRL Premiers 1985

BACK ROW: R.Emmanuel (strapper), G.Prior (strapper), P.Jennings (strapper), K.Ragh (trainer), J.Elder (manager), W.Gardiner (assistant coach). THIRD ROW: E.Muller, M.Meskel, C.Phelan, S.Tronc, K.Gittens, H.Abbott, G.Greinke, A.Lumby. SECOND ROW: G.Belcher, M.Meninga, W.Bennett (coach), N.Carr (captain), J.Elias, P.Jackson, G.Thompson. FRONT ROW: G.French, D.Bourke, P.Wallace, W.Cullen.



• In a nail-biting Winfield Cup rugby league grand final at Lang Park yesterday, Souths beat last year's premiers Wynnum-Mantaro 10-6. Above, Souths' full-back Gary Belcher leaps high to take a bomb behind his tryline ahead of Wynnum's half-back Peter Dawes, who chased the kick. Souths' centre Mal Meninga watches anxiously. More pics, stories, Pgs 15, 16, 17, 18.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

## BENNETT

*Turning disaster into victory*

WAYNE BENNETT has always projected the image of a complex young man. He rarely shows his emotions in public — and that includes smiling — and until his appointment as Queensland director of coaching earlier this year, he was rarely seen in public. To some he may be complex, but to those who know him, underneath that sometimes arrogant exterior beats a heart of gold, and a personality to match. RLWS Queensland Editor, TONY DURKIN, caught up with Bennett and his family as they relaxed on the Gold Coast after his side's magnificent Brisbane Winfield Cup victory. Here is his insight to the man few really understand.

**T**WELVE months ago Wayne Bennett left the Souths clubhouse in Brisbane a shattered man, but a man with a fierce determination in his heart.

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 30 last year, Wayne Bennett saw his Rugby League world virtually disappear in front of him. His Souths side were flogged 42-8 by the glamor Wynnum combination. It had been a humiliating defeat.

"That was the longest day of my life. I still remember it so vividly," he said.

"Not too many people who weren't in our room after that match realise that I paid out on my players. I told them they had played without courage, and I singled out players who I thought had had a go. There were three or four.

"I left the room that day in the company of my wife, Tricia, and parents-in-law — Jack and Jeannie Veivers — and I remember Jeannie saying to me: 'Why do you do it? Why do you put yourself through this? It's not worth it.'

"I knew she was right, but I also knew that I had a need for the game, for coaching. It's a desire that needs to be fed."

Bennett said he then went back to the Souths club to be virtually ignored by the supporters.

"The hardened club supporters didn't want to talk to me. I could hear people saying things about me, but they weren't saying them to my face," he said.

"If ever I was going to drink, that was the night. I stayed there late and I was with the players first thing next morning and stayed with them until 7 o'clock at night."

It was then that Bennett decided Souths needed a change in personnel. He realised that to win the premiership in 1985 — and he believed that would be in a grand final against Wynnum — he would need players with a fierce determination to win.

"Last year I had confidence in the players, but they didn't believe in themselves," he said.

"We couldn't go out there against Wynnum again with the same 13. They had simply lost confidence in one another."



It's history now that Souths did what most pundits believed was the impossible — they beat Wynnum in this year's grand final. And although it's a hackneyed phrase, that victory fulfilled a dream for Wayne Bennett.

It wasn't a lifelong dream, it was a dream, or a plan if you like, evolved that fateful night just on 12 months ago. It was a plan to remove the hurt and the humiliation of the events of that fateful day.

But even though last Sunday week's victory was sweet, rewarding, courageous, disciplined — any adjective will fit — for Bennett it meant a turn in the road. It means people now accept him as a winner, and that's something that hurts the Magpie coach more than anything else.

"People only seem to accept you as being successful if you're a winner, and I believe that is wrong ... very wrong," he said.

"For instance, I survived for eight seasons before this grand final victory, without winning a premiership. I survived because those who employed me as a coach knew I had something to offer."

"But to many people I simply HAD to win a premiership to prove that I was a successful coach, even though I knew I didn't have to prove anything to myself or the players I have coached."

To say Bennett isn't a great fan of the game's knockers, or the 'backslappers' among the supporters' ranks, would be a gross understatement. He tolerates them with great difficulty.

He believes that for every genuine supporter, there are 10 backslappers. "You know, the kind who want to talk to you when you win, but snub you when you lose."

The knockers, he believes, never reach any great height at anything, and are supremely jealous types.

"How often have you heard an ex-international, in any sport, knock another sportsman? Not often, I'm willing to bet," he said.

"The public have a right to their opinions, I'm not denying that. They pay their dollars through the gate, and play an important part in our game — that's obvious."

"But I just can't tolerate the knockers. Conversely, I like the company of positive people."

Bennett doesn't allow the media to escape his clutches when he refers to knockers.

"I recognise that the media have a role to play, and it can be a difficult role. But I still think they should be more considerate of people's feelings when they knock someone," he said.

"I sometimes wonder whether people in the media realise what effect they can have, both on the public and the people they knock. It can be very traumatic and soul-destroying to sportsmen, and in our case, league players."

"The media are quick to place someone on a pedestal, and then just as quickly set about knocking them off that pedestal as soon as they make a slip. I can't agree with that."

Bennett also defended his reputation of being something of a social drop-out. He said that in previous years his job as a policeman, and the shiftwork involved, prevented him from attending many social functions.

But this year he has been to many, including the Rothmans Medal for the first time. And that's all since he became Queensland's director of coaching.

"No, I haven't changed just because



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

I'm no longer a copper," he said.

"My new job involves a lot more mixing with people involved in the game, and I appreciate that. It doesn't mean though, that I enjoy it.

"I suppose you could describe me as a social person, but a social introvert. I much prefer the company of three or four people I really like, than a crowd of 40 or 50.

"When I'm in that kind of company, I refuse to talk bull, I refuse to knock and I refuse to tell lies. As soon as that type of thing happens, I clam up and often move on. That's probably why I'm considered anti-social. But rest assured, it doesn't worry me one bit."

"I'd just as soon say exactly what I want to say, even if to some people it may seem very blunt. Then, at least when you do say something, people listen," he said.

"If I have nothing to say, then I say nothing. And I have the ability to turn off when someone around me is waffling on."

Bennett believes that a cliché he heard many years ago fits his character. It says: 'I don't talk a lot, but that doesn't mean I don't have an opinion, but the door is always open and I'm always available for conversation. I also don't smile a lot, but that does not mean I don't have a sense of humor. It's called in business 'the open door policy'.

Bennett is right - it's him to the tee.

One thing that does worry Bennett though, is loyalty. He regards himself as a very loyal person and expects that same loyalty in return.

"That's why winning the grand final was so important. It was so special to many loyal people tied up with Souths," he said.

"Henry Holloway (former top Brisbane coach) once spoke about loyalty and I remember him saying: 'Always remember those who stuck with you on the way up, because they'll be with you on the way down'.

"I have always adhered to that principle."

And Bennett revealed that kind of loyalty when he gave special thanks to Essendon VFL coach Kevin Sheedy for something he had told him last year.

"We were at a Rules function and he was introduced to me as the coach who had brought his side back from the dead," Bennett said.

"In the '83 VFL grand final, Essendon were thrashed by Hawthorn. It was the biggest grand final defeat in the history of the game. Yet 12 months later they came out and beat Hawthorn.

"Naturally, I related to that and I listened intently to his advice.

"He told me to go out and replace experienced players we'd lost with other experienced players. But he said it was also vitally important that we hang onto our youngsters.

"He told me to pick players who would not be intimidated by Wynnum and who believed in themselves and wanted to win. His other piece of advice was for us never to refer to Wynnum as the side who had belted us."

And it was on this advice that Bennett set about rebuilding the Magpies, setting them on that course to ultimate victory.

Players like Chris Phelan and Norm Carr were high on the priority list. They were sought, signed and delivered. Yet other champion signings, like Wayne Cullen and John Elias, were something of a fluke.

"John Elias, for instance, was cut from South Sydney and in sheer frustration he contacted Hubie Abbott, who had been dealing with Elias earlier concerning France," Bennett said.

"I remember contacting one of the Brisbane media men to sift out some information on Elias, and he returned with the message that he was a tough guy, and very hot headed. My reaction to that was: 'He'll do me'.

"And Wayne Cullen was on his way to talk with Norths when he called into David Bourke's family service station. He ended up here."

The culling of former players and the signing of new ones over, training started in January and Bennett knew that Wynnum were again the team to beat. It was then that he worked out a game plan and tactics to beat them on September 22.

"I believed that if our game plan was good enough to beat Wynnum on September 22, it would be good enough to get us there," he said.

"Every time we played Wynnum throughout the year, our plan was to methodically reduce that 42-8 scoreline.

***People only seem to accept you as being successful if you're a winner, and I believe that is wrong . . . very wrong***

That plan hiccupped a few times, but generally it was successful.

"What each and every team member knew was that between the start of the season and grand final day, we were to play 27 trial matches - trial matches for D-Day."

Bennett made a couple of very interesting revelations about the plans he adopted, and the manner in which he approached certain matches.

For instance the Magpies took the semi-finals of both the Woolies pre-season competition and the Winfield State League very low key. According to Bennett they weren't ready for Wynnum "just yet".

And he also revealed that had he not been convinced Souths could beat Wynnum in the grand final, they wouldn't have been there.

"We couldn't cop losing to them again. Had we not been so convinced of our ability to beat Wynnum, we wouldn't have been there. We'd have lost in the

semis.

"That's why we were so confident about winning. We had put in all the work and it was just a matter of turning up and finishing the job. At no stage in that grand final was I concerned. I knew we would win."

But strangely, the Magpies never talked about revenge, according to Bennett.

"We forgot about Wynnum and what they had done to us the previous year. There was not hate, just a great will to win."

Bennett's plan did backfire somewhat though, because the Magpies finished minor premiers. They were supposed to finish third.

"I believed Wynnum would win the minor premiership and as we only intended playing them once - in the grand final - that meant us finishing third," he said.

"But when we leap-frogged everyone and finished number one, and them

third, that turned out to be an extra bonus for us."

The softly-spoken Souths coach now confesses that he's a little amazed that everything worked so smoothly. But he won't relent one centimetre when it comes to the discipline and will to win of his players.

"Five years ago I didn't believe players made coaches. My theory was that coaches made players. I've changed my mind," he said.

"As far as I'm concerned, this year my players made me.

"Look at Frank Stanton, Jack Gibson and Ron Barassi. They've experienced the highs and lows of football coaching, with different personnel, in the past five years and because of that they haven't become lesser coaches.

"Wayne Bennett realises that only too well now."

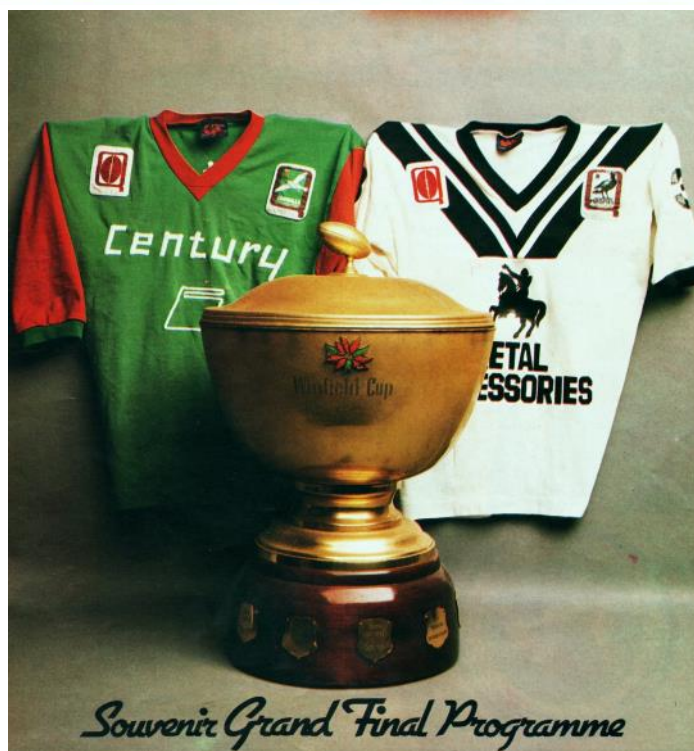
And in what may seem like an amazing final statement, Bennett said he enjoyed getting to the grand final more than the actual victory at the end.

"We knew we'd win once we got there. The developments along the way, the progression we made, the hurdles we all jumped together - that's what made it all so satisfying," he said.

And what was the most rewarding aspect of the past 12 months?

"That's easy - turning a disaster into a victory," he said.

And what a victory it was.



Below: The 1985 Souths team get together for a reunion.





**THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S****1985 Brisbane Grand Final****Sunday September 22, 1985****SOUTHERN SUBURBS****Coach: Wayne Benett**

Gary Belcher  
 Ken Gittens  
 Peter Jackson  
 Mal Meninga  
 Paul Wallace  
 Gary French  
 Wayne Cullen  
 Norm Carr (c)  
 Scott Tronc  
 John Elias  
 Chris Phelan  
 Eddie Muller  
 Mark Meskell

Reserve: David Bourke

**WYNNUM - MANLY****Coach: Des Morris**

Colin Scott  
 Terry Butler  
 Brett French  
 Gene Miles  
 Warren Green  
 Wally Lewis  
 Peter Dawes  
 Craig Farrugia  
 Ian French  
 Tony Jemmott  
 Greg Dowling  
 David Green (c)  
 Gary Coyne

Reserves: Brad Backer, Darryl Jenner

**SOUTHERN SUBURBS 10** (Norm Carr try: Gary French 3 goals) beat **WYNNUM - MANLY 8**  
 (Craig Adams try: Warren Green 2 goals) at Lang Park. Scrums 12-9 Penalties Souths 8-6.

**WHEN THEY SCORED:** 4 min: Souths 2-0 (French goal) 14min 2 all (Green goal) 23 min: Souths 4-2  
 (French goal) 32 min: Souths 10 - 2 (Carr try; French goal) 68 min Souths 10-8 (Adams try; Green goal)

**MAN OF THE MATCH :** John Elias (Souths)**DO YOU REMEMBER ?:**

Magpies second rower, Scott Tronc copping heaps from the Wynnum defence for admitting in Rugby League Week that his favourite movie of all time was "Sound Of Music".

Big Mark Meskell leaving the wild celebrations at Souths to eat a meal at the Pancake Manor and watch the movie "Back to the Future".

The critics who tipped Wynnum to do the victory lap.

Former Magpies and Australian skipper, Greg Veivers celebrating the grand final win by turning 35.

Skipper, Norm Carr also leaving early to watch the Canterbury-Parramatta preliminary final from Sydney.

**A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAGPIE - MAL MENINGA**

At Southern Suburbs anyone who has worn the Club's battle colours is considered someone special. An achiever. But in Mal Meninga there stands a man who has given future generations something to live up to.

In their book, "Laurie and Clyde, Young Guns of Rugby League", Canberra stars, Laurie Daley and Brad Clyde describe their former captain as a true champion and great ambassador for Rugby League. And who at Davies Park dare disagree?

The rise and rise of Malcolm Norman Meninga was, and still is something all Souths fans take great pride in.

After cutting his teeth in the famous black and white Souths' jumper they watched as Meninga graduated through the ranks to represent the Canberra Raiders, Queensland and Australia with distinction. His barnstorming running style made him one of Rugby League's most explosive players, and he became a man spectators from Sydney to St Helens clamoured to see. Apart from his obvious class and skills, Meninga was also blessed with mountains of courage, a trait the Bundaberg born centre had tested time and again. To take his place in the '85 Grand Final Meninga inspired his team mates by taking a painkilling needle for a hairline fracture of the kneecap, and in the late 80's had his mettle tested when broken arms threatened to end his career. Big Mal refused to surrender and by the time he retired after leading the Australian team on its triumphant tour through Great Britain and France in 1994, Meninga had achieved enough to be regarded as one of the game's all time greats.

He bowed out of Rugby League with a swag of Origin, Club and Test records to sit alongside the premiership medals he won at Souths and Canberra.

For Wayne Bennett, who coached Mal at the Magpies after first spotting him at the Brisbane Police Academy in 1977, there is a special reason to embrace Meninga's many achievements.

"If you ask me what gave me the greatest pride, it's the person Mal turned out to be. I always knew he'd be a great footballer, that was God given, but that's only half the story. I see how he developed personality and character, got tougher as he got older, yet remained the same person as 10 or 15 years ago. He never thought of himself as bigger than the game or bigger than anyone else. Fans see their champions on the field and that is their only vision. When you are close to them you know some of them are dunces off the field, fools in their private lives, full of themselves and think they are above the game and everyone else - Not Mal Meninga"



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

### THE FLIGHT OF THE MAGPIES

**WAYNE BENNETT'S** football world virtually crumbled around him when his South's team was overwhelmed 42 - 8 by the Wynnum All Stars in the Brisbane grand final.

The following morning's newspaper headlines captured the humiliation of the Magpie's loss.

"That was the longest day of my life. I still remember it so vividly," he confessed to Rugby League Week's Tony Durkin a year later. "Not too many people realise I paid out on my players. I told them they had played without courage, and I singled out players who I thought had not had a go. There were about three or four."

Bennett realised he needed a change in the club's personnel and his intuition was reinforced when he attended a sports function and met the then (and now) Essendon coach, Kevin Sheedy.

"In the 1983 VFL Grand Final, Essendon were thrashed by Hawthorn. It was the biggest Grand Final defeat in the history of the game. Yet 12 months later they came out and defeated Hawthorn," he said.

"Naturally, I related to that and listened intently to his advice. He told me to go out and replace the experienced players we'd lost with other experienced players. But, he said, it was vitally important that we hang on to our youngsters. He told me to pick players who would not be intimidated by Wynnum, who believed in themselves and who wanted to win. His other piece of advice was for us to never refer to Wynnum as the side that had belted us."

And with that Bennett recruited Norm Carr (Brisbane Wests), Chris Phelan (Parramatta) Wayne Cullen (Canterbury Juniors) and John Elias (South Sydney) to add muscle to the Magpies of Davies Park. Boasting such calibre players as Mal Meninga, Peter Jackson, Gary Belcher and Scott Tronc, the Magpies took no time to share the status as the 1985 premiership's trailblazers with Wynnum.

"What each and every team member knew was that between the start of the season and grand final day we were to play 27 trial matches - trial matches for D-Day," Bennett said.

While some hard nosed critics threw cold water on Souths premiership chances after they failed to progress past the semis of the Woolies pre season and the Winfield State League, the notes on Bennett's clipboard read both campaigns were to be treated as 'low key'. Bennett revealed he didn't think his side was ready to face the eventual winners of both competitions, Wynnum, so soon after the '84 Grand Final experience. However he stressed the Magpies marched into the competition brimming confidence in their ability to reverse the fortunes of 1984.

"We couldn't cop losing to them again," he revealed, "Had we not been convinced of our ability to beat Wynnum we wouldn't have been there. We'd have lost in the semis. That's why we were so confident about winning. We had to put in all the work and it was just a matter of turning up and finishing the job. At no stage of the Grand Final was I concerned we wouldn't win. We forgot about Wynnum and what they had done to us the previous year. There was no hatred, just a great will to win."

While Bennett certainly created the blueprint for Souths to win the title, it would have been impossible for the club to savour premiership glory without the blood, sweat and tears of 13 great footballers. The swarming Magpies defence rattled the premiers, and stars such as Test trump, Wally Lewis, were forced into making uncharacteristic handling errors. The Magpies scored the first try of the match eight minutes from half time when second rower, John Elias sliced through the Wynnum defence 30 metres from the goal line. When the cover defence honed in on him Elias slipped a pass back inside to skipper, Norm Carr, who managed to stumble over the line despite a desperate ankle tap by Lewis. Magpies centre, Mal Meninga, in his final club game in Brisbane before moving to Canberra, was a tower of strength in defence, though he was well backed up in that department by man of the match, Elias, centre, Peter Jackson, hooker, Eddie Muller and five eighth, Gary French.

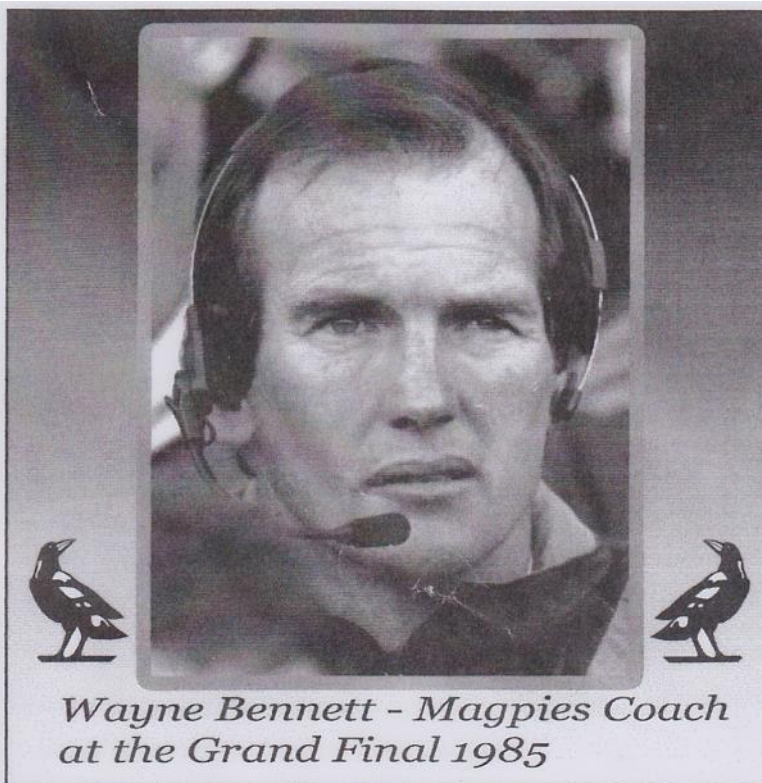
The Seagulls struck back in the 68th minute with a try to replacement, Craig Adams but it was to no avail. The Magpies defensive line stood fast to enjoy an historic 10-8 win.

It was a moment to savour. In the space of just twelve months the Magpies had turned disaster into success, and amid the sound of popping champagne corks reporters scribbled notes telling stories of great pride and courage. Perhaps the most moving dedication was that of former Souths and Australian captain, Greg Veivers to veteran prop, Chris Phelan. He described Phelan's efforts to play with a "dead leg" and ankle injury as one of the most courageous efforts he had ever witnessed. Phelan needed 3 days of intensive physiotherapy for a knee injury just to make the starting line up. Apart from carting the ball into a bruising Wynnum defence, time and time again he also topped the tackle count with 42 hits.

"I doubt whether that (Phelan's effort) has been topped on any sporting arena anywhere in the world," Veivers said, "that bloke was dead set on one leg."

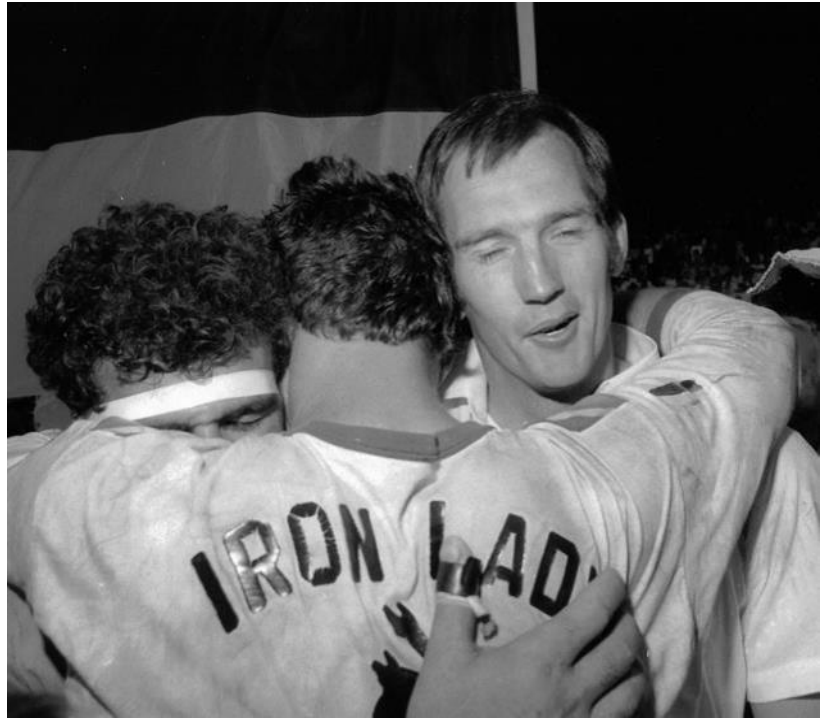
Former Souths coach and Rugby League legend, Bob McCarthy was another captivated by the power and passion of the Magpies. "Rugby League has been an important part of my life for almost all of my 40 years," he said, "and one thing I've learnt in that time is that there's no such thing as a certainty. Sunday's Grand Final result just goes to show that when the human brain and body are involved, the biggest upsets are possible."

Souths 10, Wynnum 8. The demons of the previous year's defeat had been exorcised and a two decades on, the story of a great football team continues.....





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above Left:** Norm Carr leads out the Magpies at the start of the 1985 Grand Final. **Above Right:** Wayne Bennett embraces his players after winning his first BRL Grand Final with Souths in 1985. **Below:** Mal Meninga making a determined run during the 1985 Grand Final with Scott Tronc looking on.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



*Souths centre Mal Meninga breaks away from Wynnum's defence.*

## SOUTHS ERASE BAD MEMORIES

SOUTHS, Brisbane, made it an astonishing comeback when they trumped favorites Wynnum 10-8 in the grand final.

The previous year Wynnum had whipped the Magpies 42-8.

The grand final was a triumph

for Wayne Bennett's coaching, and for the determination, will to win and dogged defence of Souths.

Skipper Norm Carr scored the Souths try, and Craig Adams the one for Wynnum.



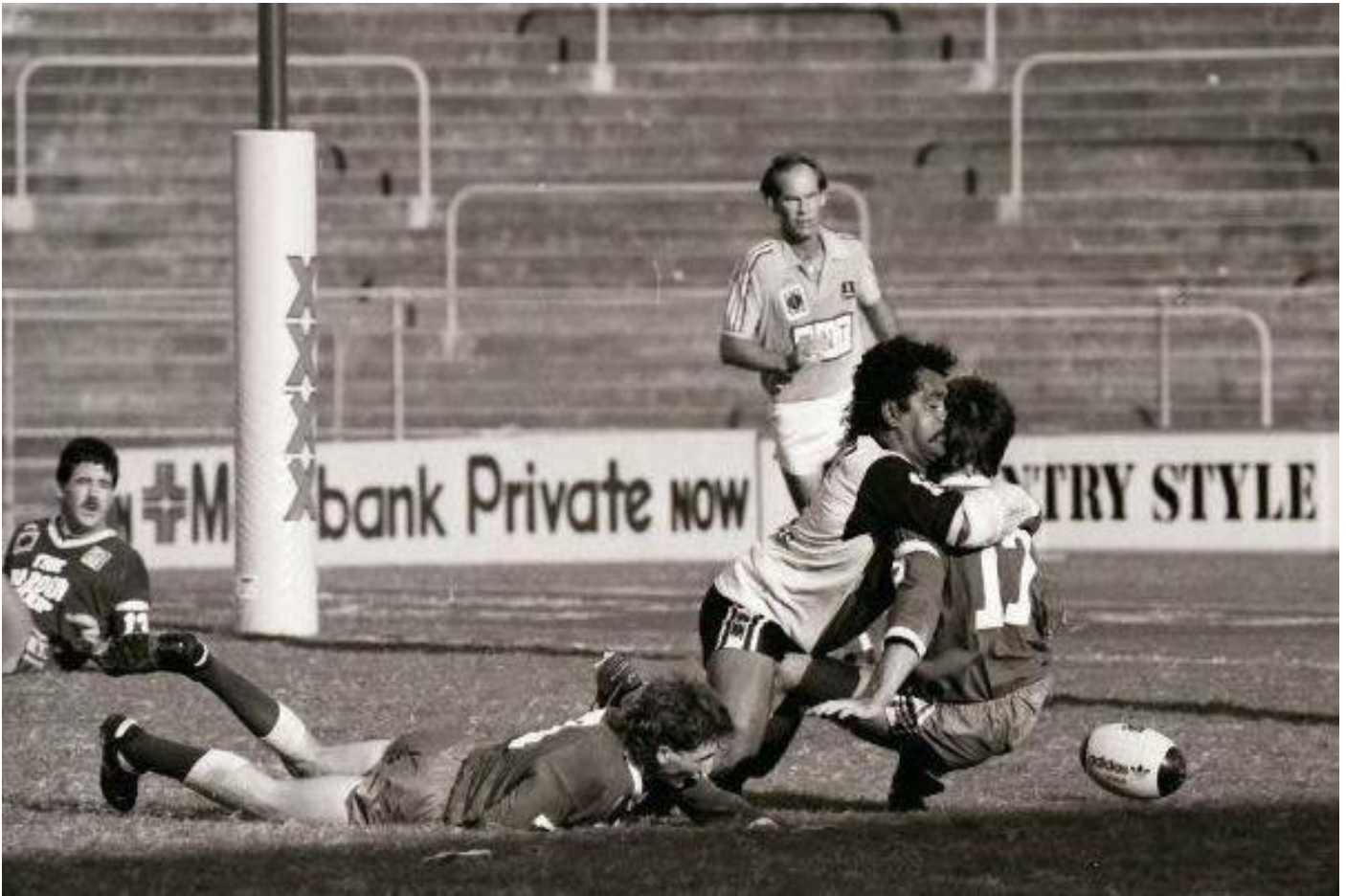
*Wally Lewis launches himself at Souths' fullback Gary Belcher.*

**Below:** The John Elias break and the Norm Carr try that followed it in the 1985 Grand Final.





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

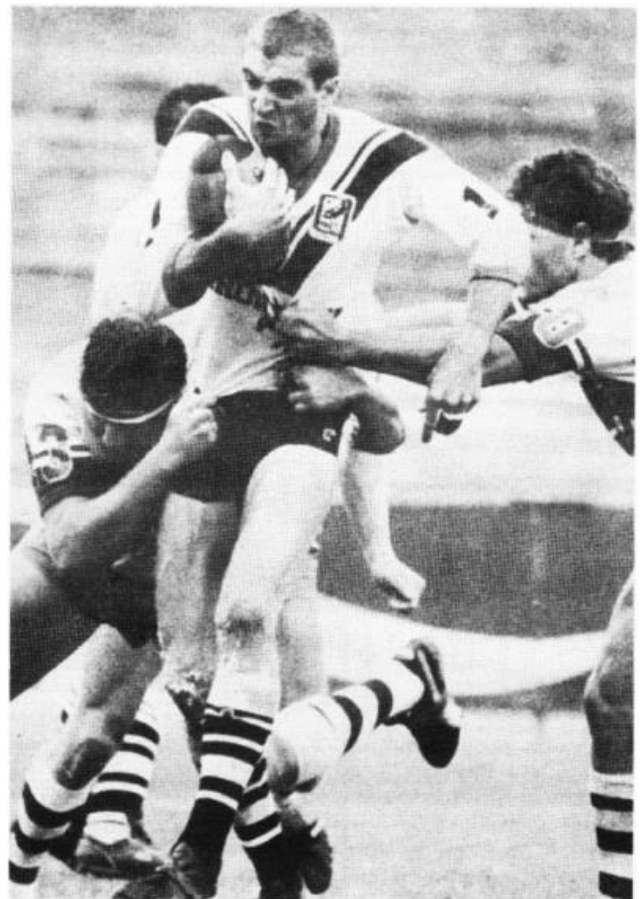


**Above:** Crowd favourite Richo Hill solidly tackles a Valleys player in a State League game.



*Souths didn't have to try this hard to beat Valleys . . . Scott Trone is the recipient of this pushed pass from Peter Jackson.*

**Below:** Gary French



*Souths fullback Steve Gibson — charges into a combined tackle by Trevor and Gary Smith.*



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



# The Norm Carr years

## A decade of devotion

**P**ICTURE this scene 30 years from now. A crackling open fire, a bottle of warm cognac and an elderly gentleman named Norm Carr deep in thought, recalling past footballing deeds.

The moments came flooding back — his first A-grade game with Wests, representing Queensland, rubbing shoulders with countless famous players, being chaired from the field after his final game one gloomy August afternoon in 1986.

Thirty years, though, is a long wait. Bearing that in mind *RLW* last week asked Norm Carr to pinpoint his greatest memories, as the sun sets on a remarkable career.

"They're all great. Captaining Queensland in 1980 was a terrific honor, but there is a better one than that, and a more lasting one, too!" claimed Carr.

"It's been a privilege to meet the great bunch of blokes I've been associated with. That's been the highlight for sure!"

Surprisingly, Carr declared his toughest game *WASNT* against NSW or a hyped-up 1985 Wynnum outfit hell bent on winning the Winfield Cup.

"Without a doubt the hardest game was my last, against Brothers. It was tough because it was my last — there's no coming back now," he said.

"Call it sentiment if you like, but that last game was a hard one to finish."

By DANIEL LANE

Carr was not renowned for his try-scoring prowess, but there's one four pointer he'll always savor — his try against Wynnum in last season's grand final. That try turned the tide in Souths' favor and gave the Magpies the Winfield Cup.

"I'll always cherish that one," he said.

He's met some memorable people through football, but none more so than his number one fan, Geoffrey Wright, a mildly handicapped man who made Carr his idol.

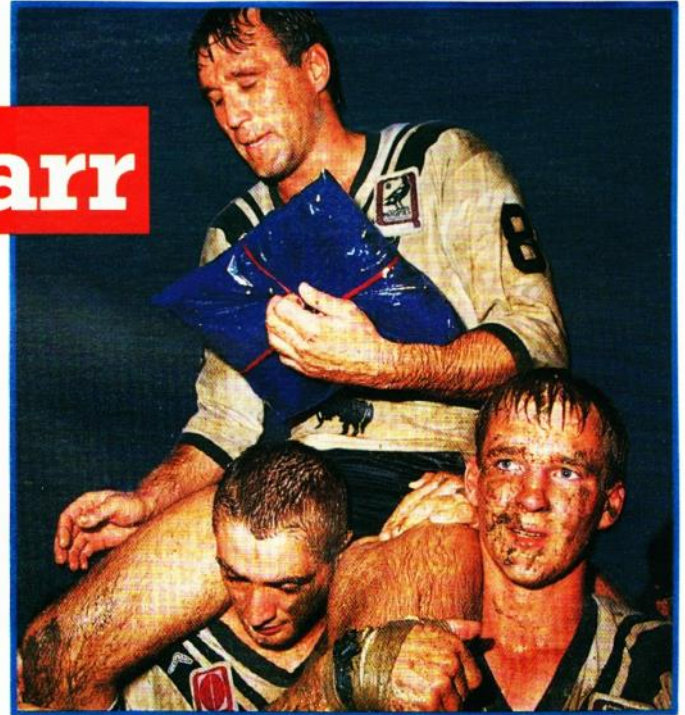
"Geoff is a true champion. He never missed a game, he's a top supporter and an inspiration," said Carr.

Not all of Carr's playing career was free of incident. He felt the bruises and bumps like normal players and one knock kept him out of the game for 10 'long' weeks.

"I smashed my arm in one game. I can remember it clearly as if it happened 10 minutes ago. I went in to tackle Larry Briggenshaw, he ducked and I broke my arm," recalled Carr.

"Nothing happened to Larry. I guess he has a hard head!"

Norm has clashed with the game's toughest men. He has wrestled with Greg Dowling, Greg Veivers, Les Boyd and Chris Phelan, to name but a few.



Norm Carr is chaired from the field after his farewell performance in Brisbane Rugby League.

yet a relative 'youngster' from the Wynnum Seagulls earned Carr's tag as the hardest to handle.

"I don't know why, but Ian French always gave me a tough time. Whether he'll go on the Kangaroo tour I don't know — it's up to the selectors!" he said.

And luck according to Carr, is what this great game is all about.

"There are three things which make a footballer — ability, skill and luck. The last criteria is the one that counts. It can make or break you," he said.

And the injury which cost him the chance to represent Australia was

clearly playing on his mind.

Carr has it 'on good authority' that he was to be Australian lock against New Zealand in 1982 until injured in a preceding club match.

But now that he is out of the game, he has one major ambition.

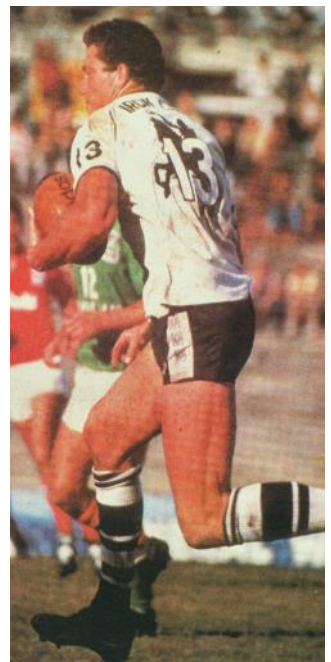
"I want to get to know my children. Football hasn't allowed by to spend time with them," Carr said.

But his kids will have a memory — almost a legend — on which to focus their attention in the coming years. And so will Norm Carr, even without the cognac and the open fire.



Left: Norm Carr and his shadow, Geoffrey, after his final game for Souths.

Below: Bob Kellaway





## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



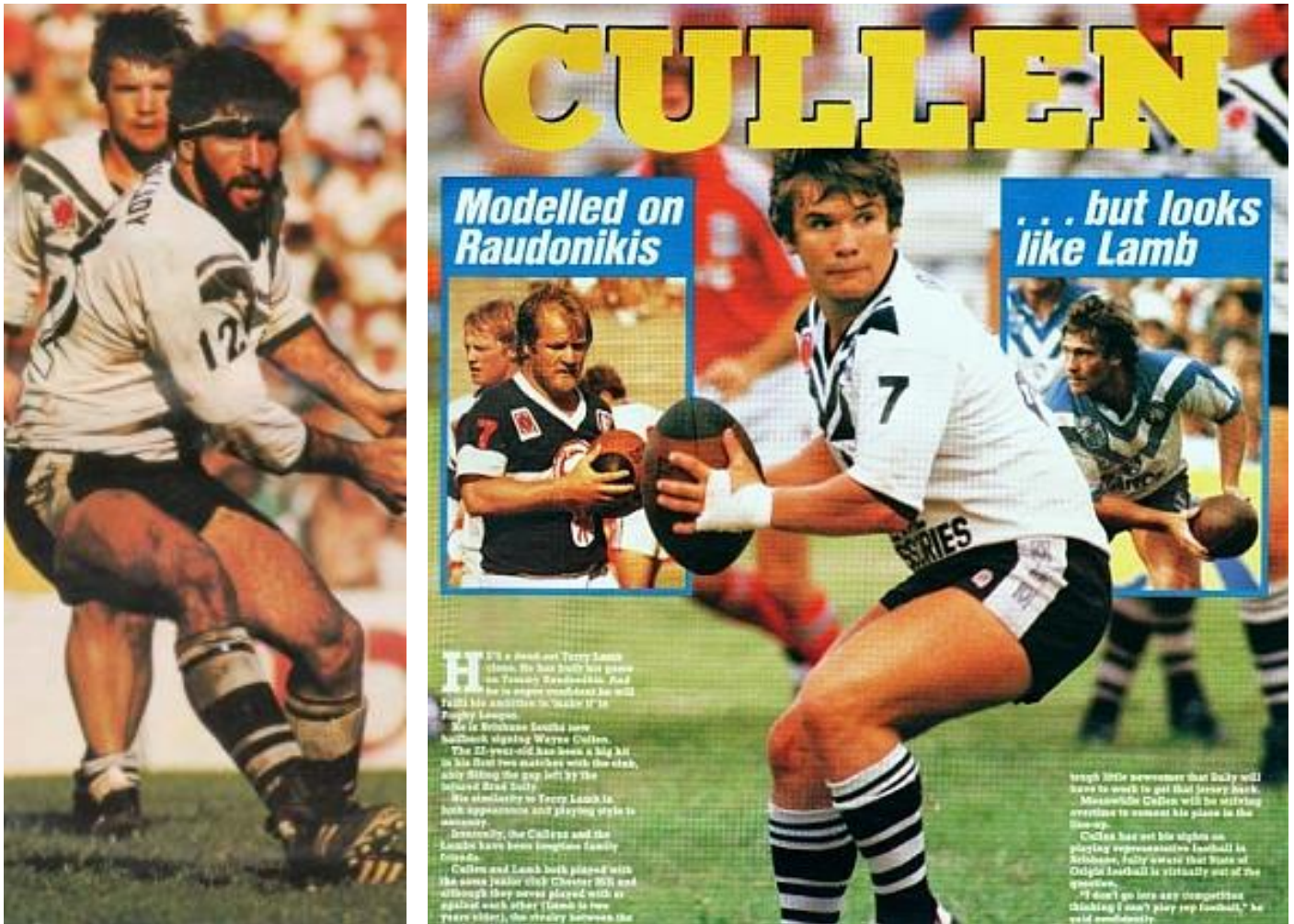
**Above and Below Left:** Action from a Souths v Norths game at Davies Park.



**Above:** Gary French



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above:** Eddie Muller **Below:** Two Souths players wrap up former Souths player, Mitch Brennan in a game at Dolphin Oval.

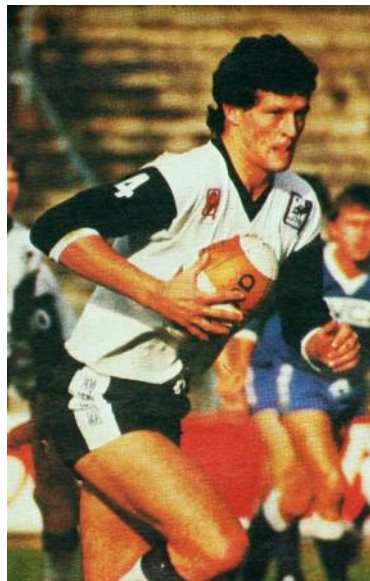




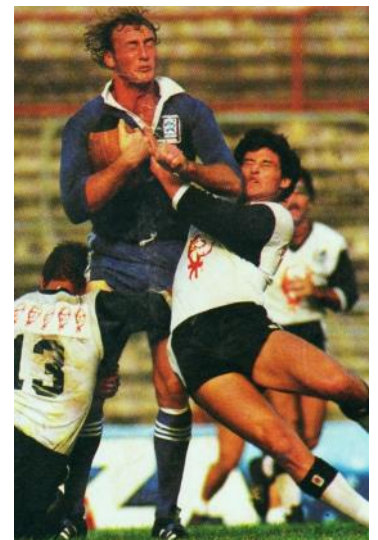
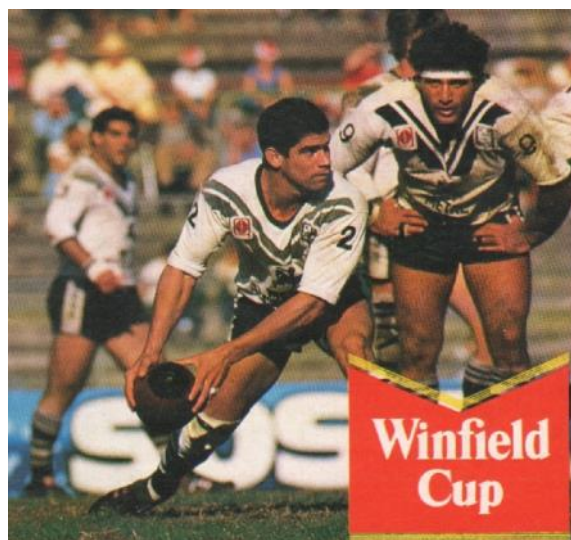
## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



**Above Left:** Mark Meskell passes in a pre-season game against Redcliffe. **Above Right:** Wayne Cullen tackles a Redcliffe player around his ankles. **Below:** Some action shots of Peter Jackson playing in the State League.



**Below Left:** Scott Tronc **Below Centre:** Ken Giddens **Below Right:** Peter Jackson cops an elbow in a tackle against Valleys.





**THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S**

**RUGBY**

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PUBLICATION AND PROGRAMME OF THE QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE LTD

# LEAGUE NEWS

**Winfield**  
State League

**ROUND 4**

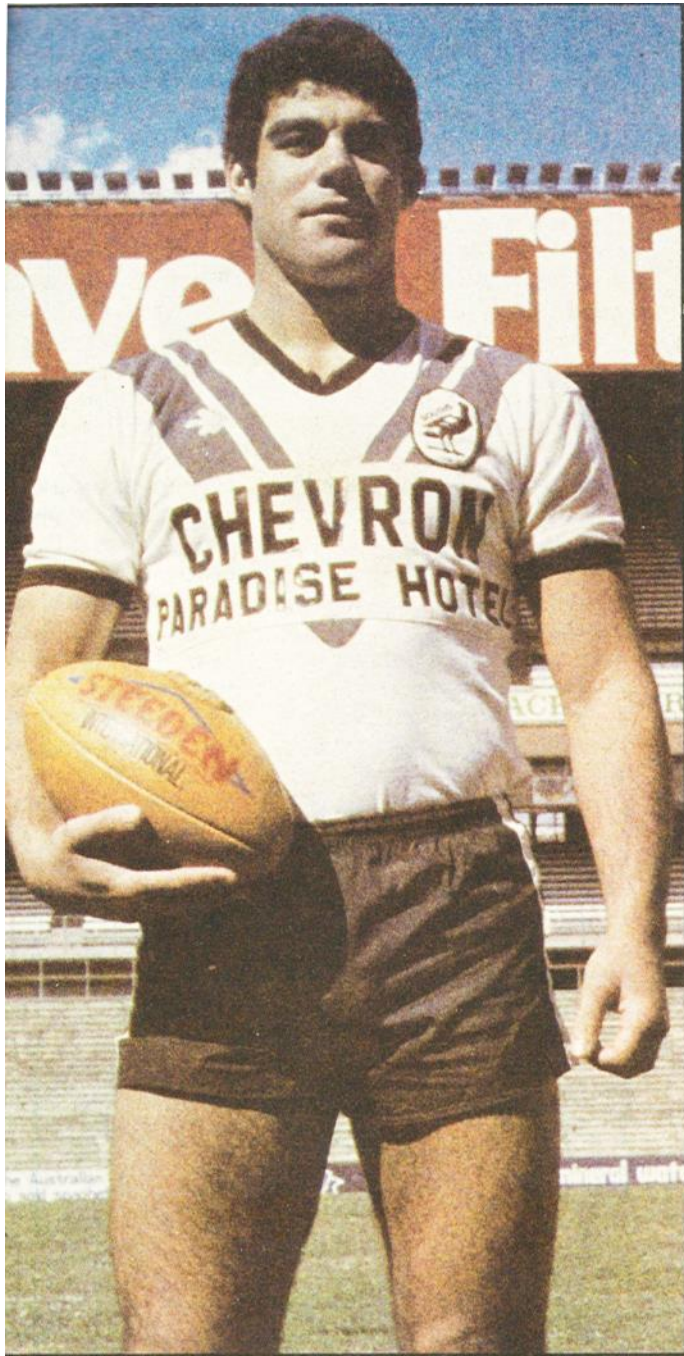
APRIL 22

**\$1.50**

**Above:** Crowd favourite Richo Hill



## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S



### MAL MENINGA (Souths, Brisbane)

**Name:** Malcolm Norman Meninga.  
**Nickname:** 'Chicken George' — after the main character in the TV mini-series *Roots*.  
**Birthdate:** July 8, 1960.  
**Birth place:** Bundaberg, Qld.  
**Height:** 1.83m (6ft).  
**Weight:** 98 kg (15st 7lb).  
**Eye color:** Brown.  
**Hair color:** Black.  
**Occupation:** Police officer.  
**Marital status:** Single.  
**Favorite food:** Chicken.  
**Favorite drink:** Pure orange juice and Fourx beet.  
**Favorite television show:** *Hart to Hart*.  
**Favorite music/singers:** Elton John and the Doobie Brothers.  
**Last book read:** RLW.  
**Favorite holiday resort:** The Sunshine Coast.  
**Own car:** Datsun Bluebird.  
**Favorite other sports:** I like most other sports, except Aussie Rules.  
**Favorite animal:** It's not an animal, but my favorite pet is my budgie, called George.  
**Favorite position:** Centre, but it will probably be second row in two years.  
**Fears:** Losing.  
**Superstitions:** I always get to the game fairly late, because I hate watching the early games.  
**Dislikes:** Drink-affected know-alls after a game.  
**Favorite relaxation:** Sleeping and watching TV.  
**Luckiest break:** Coming to Brisbane at the start of 1979.  
**Greatest football moment:** I can't separate the first and second State of Origin matches.  
**Biggest disappointment:** Losing last year's grand final.  
**Worst injury:** Torn rib cartilage in 1979, kept me out for two weeks.  
**Most respected rival:** Mick Cronin.  
**Hardest player to tackle:** Fast, nippy players, like some of the young Brothers side.  
**Hardest tackler:** None have worried me too much.  
**Most respected referee:** All of them.  
**Favorite all-time player:** Graeme Langlands.  
**Who in the world would you like to meet most:** The Prince and Princess of Wales, but especially Lady Diana.  
**What would you do if you won Lotto:** Invest the money and continue with my two loves, the police force and Rugby League.  
**Most embarrassing moment:** Being pushed over the sideline by John Ribot in the second interstate match in Sydney this year.  
**Ambitions:** To play for Australia and to go as far as I can in the police force.



• Thinking all the time — Souths' live eighth, Bob Hudson.



Above: Gary French

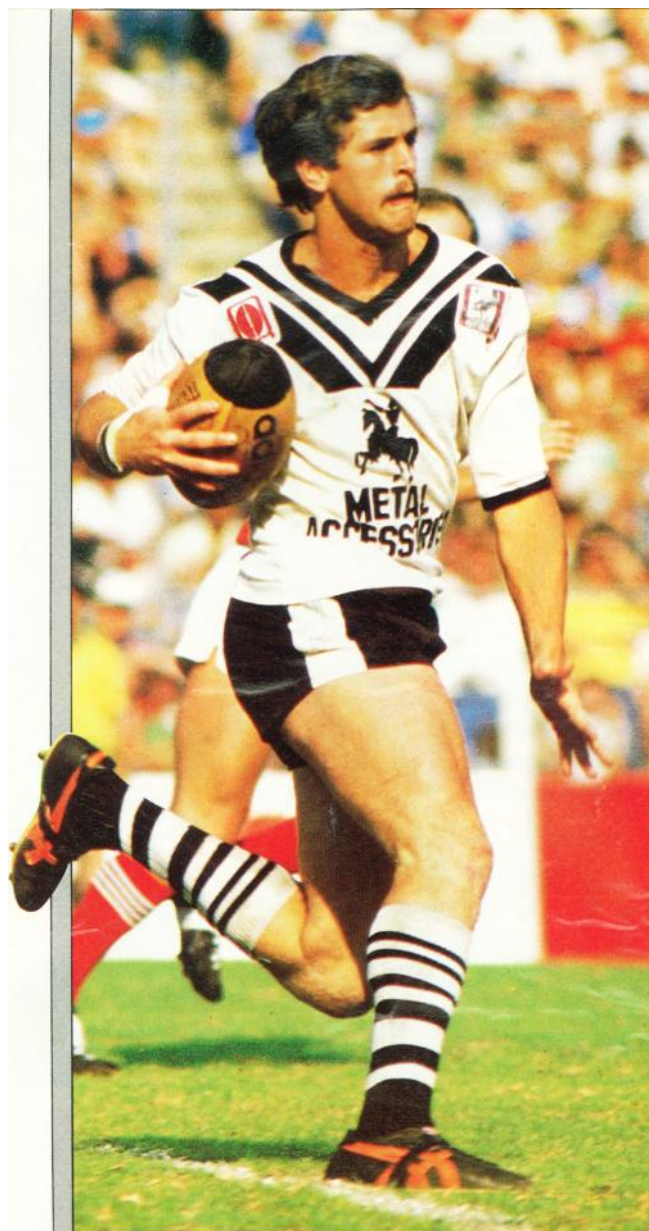


## THE GLORY YEARS OF THE 80'S

Souths would lose two of their greatest players at the end of 1985. Mal Meninga went to the Canberra Raiders to continue a brilliant playing career that would include three more premierships with Canberra. Following him to Canberra in 1986 was fullback Gary Belcher who was frustrated about his chances of making representative teams and went to Canberra to improve his chances of selection. They would be joined at Canberra by brilliant Magpies centre, Peter Jackson, in 1987.

Mal Meninga was born in Bundaberg, went to school on the Sunshine Coast and was enrolled by his mother in the Police Academy based at Oxley when he was 15. This was where he came to the attention of Wayne Bennett, who worked at the Police Academy and coached him and other future Souths players in the Police Academy's league side. A tall and very powerful centre, he made his debut with Souths at 18 in 1978 when Wayne Bennett first coached Souths. He was picked to play for Queensland the next year in 1979, the year before State of Origin was born. He would play for Queensland 32 times between 1979 and 1994. He made the 1982 Kangaroo Tour and played a record 46 times for Australia before that was eclipsed by Darren Lockyer. He played one season for St Helens in 1984/85 and from 1986 to 1994 he played for Canberra. He has used his connections with Canberra to build a strong bond with Souths and has shown a deep loyalty to both his playing clubs. Further to all of that, Mal Meninga coached Queensland to 9 State of Origin series wins between 2006 and 2015 including a record 8 in a row. In 2016 he became the Australian coach.

Gary Belcher was chosen as the fullback for Souths Team of the Century. He played for Souths in the 1982 grand final and played for Souths until 1985 before his move to Canberra. Following his move to Canberra where he continued to shine as a great fullback he was selected for Queensland and played 16 times up until his retirement in 1993. He also made the Australian team and played 15 tests from 1986 to 1991.



### Gary Belcher — Brisbane Souths

**Full name:** Gary Walter Belcher.  
**Nickname:** 'Badge'. I've had it since school.

**Birthdate:** May 28, 1962.

**Birthplace:** Brisbane General.

**Marital status:** I'm engaged to Karlene.

**Schools attended:** Watson Road State School and Acacia Ridge High.

**Greatest asset as a footballer:** My attacking ability and anticipation.

**Biggest fault as a footballer:** Earlier, it was my defence. But I'm confident I've rectified all the problems in that area.

**Religion:** C of E.

**Person you most admire in the world:** Our own Prime Minister, Bob Hawke. I think he's straight down the middle and he gets things done.

**Place you would most like to visit:** Firstly, I'd like to see all of Australia and, until I've done that, I have no great ambitions to tour overseas. But I wouldn't mind a playing stint in England.

**Favorite drink:** Bundy Rum and Coke (I'm a sales rep for Coke).

**Favorite food:** Roasts, any kind, with heaps of roast vegies.

**Favorite movies:** 'Arthur' and '48 Hours'.

**Favorite book:** 'Day of the Jackal', by Frederick Forsythe. I'm reading it at the moment.

**Favorite music:** Neil Young and Bob Dylan. I've just been to see Neil Young at the Chandler Auditorium. He was magic.

**Favorite animal:** I'd better say a dog, seeing we have one called Cindy. She's an Australian Terrier. I'd hate to hurt her feelings.

**Favorite TV show:** 'M.A.S.H.' I'm still enjoying the repeats — for the third time, I think.

**Favorite car:** I've always been a Holden man and the new Commodore Calais would do me.

**With whom would you most like to be stranded on a deserted island:** Cindy Lauper. She's certainly a different type of person. I'm sure Karlene will understand that I HAD to answer that question.

**What do you rate the single greatest sporting achievement of your life-time:** I don't want to sound like the others before me, but I have to say the America's Cup victory by Australia II. I've never known Australia to be more 'together' over a sporting event.

**Greatest moment in your life:** Learning that I had been selected in the Brisbane side last season.

**Worst moment in your life:** A few weeks ago when I collapsed while playing and was 'out' for 10 minutes. It was the realisation, afterwards, of what could have happened that frightened me.

**What cheeses you off:** I know this sounds like a standard answer, but it's the way I feel: big-mouth spectators, 'know-alls' and fickle supporters.

**Rate the attributes you believe have made you successful as a footballer:** Firstly, my ability to attack. Secondly, in recent years my ability to easily adapt to the fullback position, after playing all my earlier football at centre and lock.

**What world issue concerns you most:** Obviously the nuclear issue, but also the racial tension in many countries.

**Superstitions:** None.

**Diet:** Nothing special. But I do like good natural food with no added salt or sugar. I stick to mainly carbohydrates a couple of days before each game, which isn't always easy.

**Hobbies:** Surfing, anywhere on the coast, anytime I get the chance. Also tennis and golf, but opportunities these days are limited.

**Favorite relaxation:** When there is nothing pressing to do I like to read.

**Favorite all-time footballer:** My hero as a kid was Bobby Fulton. I thought he was the best attacking footballer I'd ever seen.

**Your all-time favorite sports hero:** Muhammad Ali, because of his tremendous endurance over so many years.

**Your rating of the top three players in Rugby League:** Wally Lewis, Wayne Pearce and Steve Mortimer.

**What would you like to be doing 10 years from now:** Coaching football — a senior team — and being a company manager, hopefully with Coke.

**Ambition in Rugby League:** The obvious one — to wear the green and gold. But first, it's Queensland.

**Ambition in life:** To have a happy marriage (I'm being married in November) and to keep lots of friends.

**What is the key advice you could give any young player who hopes to make it to the top:** To have a go, and not be frightened to use every ounce of their ability.







## THE POST BRONCOS ERA

When the Brisbane Broncos and the Gold Coast-Tweed Giants entered the NSWRL competition it marked a point of no return for the Brisbane Rugby League competition. The BRL was now a second tier competition much to the disappointment of many diehard Queensland rugby league fans.

Before the entry of the Brisbane Broncos the top national talent was shared between the Brisbane and Sydney competitions with more playing in the Sydney competition thanks mainly to the bigger money offered by clubs that could benefit from poker machine profits which weren't introduced in Queensland until 1992.

With the entry of the Brisbane Broncos all the top national talent would now be in the NSWRL competition. A player could no longer be picked straight from Souths or any other BRL club to play for Queensland or Australia like you could in the years before the Broncos came along. From now you had to play in the "Sydney" competition to ever be picked for Queensland or Australia.

The Brisbane Broncos needed the agreement of the BRL and the BRL clubs to enter into the NSWRL. When a meeting involving the Broncos and BRL delegates to vote on the issue was held the initial vote was 6-4 against.

Gary Balkin, a patron of Souths and former player, was part of the Broncos consortium. He said:

"The Brisbane competition was strong at the time and most of the clubs were worried about the implications of a locally-based team playing in Sydney. Everyone was concerned, many for the welfare of their clubs and some for their own positions... I wanted to assure them they would be treated well and looked after if we gained the nod to take a team into Sydney."

Their issues of key concern were potential loss of sponsorship, dwindling attendances and a mass exodus of players. Gary Balkin was convincing as the next day they voted 10-0 to put a team into the Sydney competition.

Jack Gallaway in his book "The Brisbane Broncos – The Team to Beat" (p.17-19) wrote that the Broncos promised the BRL a 30% share of profits and that this ongoing annual return was a deciding factor in why the Broncos were chosen ahead of the Norwood-McKay consortium that was reported to have been favourites and had offered a one-off lumpsum of \$2 million to the BRL. There is some controversy over what became of this agreement.

Going to a national competition from the two city-based competitions was inevitable to be able to continue to compete with other sports that had already headed in that direction. Had Brisbane clubs enjoyed the revenue benefits of being licensed poker machine clubs like the Sydney clubs in the 1980's, rather than from 1992, they may have enticed more Sydney-based Queenslanders back to the BRL competition in the 1980's.

As a result of that extra financial leverage, we may have seen a divisional system with promotion and relegation, like in England, where the top four Brisbane and top six Sydney teams could have formed the beginnings of a new and separate national competition rather than having a national competition that some feel is a glorified Sydney competition. Ron MacAuliffe proposed just such a new and separate competition in 1984. In that scenario the two city-based competitions could have still continued separately with the lower ranked teams followed by a cross-over final series between the top teams from Brisbane and Sydney.

FROM THE DOCUMENTARY  
"THE GROUND I WALK ON"



You get some of the guys who played in the early 70's, some of those guys were serious hard heads. They were fearless and there was the traditional softening up periods in the first 10 minutes of the game. It was pretty well a free for all until one team could out psyche the other...

[After the Broncos came along] The press jumped on the bandwagon and ditched the Brisbane rugby league [competition] like it never existed.

**Below: Craig Grauf**





## THE POST BRONCOS ERA

In 1988 Logan City entered the BRL competition and Souths had a brief resurgence on the field by finishing the BRL competition as minor premiers, three points ahead of Valleys-Seagulls Diehards and Ipswich. However, Souths in 1988 bowed out in straight sets in the finals, firstly, losing to Valleys 25-14 and then being beaten by Ipswich 20-16 who would then lose to Valleys in the grand final.

Souths closed out the 1980's by finishing 6th in 1989. In 1990 Souths finished 5th but started the season well by winning their second Woolies pre-season competition trophy. Souths defeated premiers Valleys 20-12.

In 1991 they finished 9th and in 1992 Souths finished 6th.

The next five years for Souths would see another resurgence for the club. In 1993 Souths finished 3rd behind eventual grand finalists Wests and Easts. Exciting flyer Floyd Hill, prop Chris White and second-rower Brent Vincent were all survivors of that 1988 season when they bowed out in straight sets after being minor premiers. Souths completely outplayed Ipswich in the minor semi-final 36-4. Floyd Hill picked up a double scoring 2 tries. Shane Buckley, Craig Grauf, P. Donaghy and Chris Hastings also scored tries. They then came up against Wests in the preliminary final and were beaten by the eventual premiers 15-2.

The next year in 1994 there was a change to the finals system with the top five going into the finals. Souths finished second on the ladder behind Redcliffe and faced Wests, who finished third, in week 1 of the finals. They were beaten in a tight contest 14-8 and then faced Ipswich in week 2 of the finals. Like the previous year they had a convincing win over Ipswich and beat them 18-4. Craig Grauf had an outstanding game after taking over at halfback following a late injury to Peter Nocon. Souths, depleted by injuries, again faced Wests in the preliminary final and again the result was the same with a Wests victory by 21-10.

Wests were beaten by Redcliffe in the 1994 Grand Final. Redcliffe not only broke through to win their first premiership in nearly 30 years (the first came in 1965) but won all three grades emulating the only other clean sweep by Souths back in 1945. With the introduction of poker machines in Queensland in 1992 Redcliffe, with their large leagues club, profited very much from it and became a powerhouse in the BRL and Queensland Cup.

In 1995 Souths just made the top five and played Redcliffe in the first week of finals. Souths won 16-4 with tries to Ian Turner, S. Barnes and exciting halfback Peter Nocon who was playing off the bench. The following week they played Brothers and, for the third season in a row, they were bundled out of the premiership race because of their inability to string together back-to-back wins in the finals. Souths suffered a humiliating 30-nil defeat at the hands of Brothers.

Some real quality players played for Souths during the 1990's and at a function in 2011 a Souths 90's Team of the Decade was announced. The following was the team that was chosen:

1. Phil Cameron 2. Ian Turner 3. Shane Buckley 4. Ken Robertson 5. Floyd Hill 6. Craig Grauf 7. Peter Nocon 8. Peter Deaves 9. Mick Davis 10. Jason Adams 11. Matt McCosker 12. Brett Vincent 13. Mark Lane 14. Mark Rockley 15. Mohammed Allouche 16. Jeff Wakefield 17. Brett Stevens Coach: Chris Phelan.

**Below:** The Souths 90's Team of the Decade pose for a group photo.





THE POST BRONCOS ERA

1990 Woolies Pre-Season Title

# Spirited Souths vanquish Valleys

By JACK CRAIG



VALLEYS hooker Paul Fitzgerald was sent off in the Woolies final yesterday to be treated for a facial cut. He is the first player affected by the Queensland Rugby League ruling that bleeding wounds must be treated as a safeguard against AIDS and hepatitis B. Fitzgerald was back in the action within 30sec after a trainer sterilised the wound.

SOUTHS will start building a new trophy cabinet after taking out their first final in five years with a 20-12 victory over Valleys in the Woolies rugby league final at Lang Park yesterday.

"We're not the flashiest team around, but the spirit is tremendous," Magpie skipper Scott Lewis said. "Look out for us winning a lot more important games this year."

Lewis' faith in his side was backed by coach Geoff Naylor, who said the players had the basics right and could improve on their success.

The Magpies controlled the game magnificently yesterday, although the Diehards looked like making a cakewalk of the match after scoring in the first five minutes.

From a midfield scrum, Tony O'Neill split a tentative defence and won a 40m sprint to score, but that was the last time Valleys were in command.

With five-eighth Gary Morrissey directing traffic in the backs, and forwards Lyle Brownlie and Chris Cuthbertson causing havoc in the middle, Souths kept Valleys on the back foot for the remainder of the game.

It was the giant Cuthbertson who set up their first try. The long-striding second-rower repeatedly beat the first man in defence and invariably palmed-off a second.

It was with this tactic in the 18th minute that he broke through with lock Denis Hastie



**SOUTHS 20** (L. Brownlie 2 tries; B. Leaso 6 goals) **VALLEYS 12** (T. O'Neill, P. Anderson tries; S. Hoggart 2 goals). First scorers (and first try scorers): Valleys 3, Souths 9. Reserve grade: Souths 28 d Valleys 10.

in support and hooker Brownlie in position to take the final pass for the try.

Ten minutes later, Lewis and Brownlie capitalised on a long break by replacement winger Floyd Hill, with Lewis wrong-footing the last-ditch Valleys defenders and creating the opening and the try for Brownlie.

The Magpies went to the break leading 12-6 and extended it to 18-6 with Brett Leaso adding three second-half penalties.

Valleys reduced the scoreline to 18-12 when Souths fullback Miles Harm split a difficult high kick in his own in-goal and Valleys prop Peter Anderson recovered for the try.

Valleys at this stage were reduced to 12 men with second-rower Ziggy Strasser sent off. He will face three charges of obscene language to referee Ian Irwin and the tough judges.

Valleys were frustrated by a 17-7 penalty count against them and Irwin was abused as he left the field. However, not all the abuse was from Valley fans as Magpie supporters also were upset by some of the decisions.



SOUTHS five-eighth Gary Morrissey comes in for attention from Valleys defenders Ziggy Strasser (No 12) and Tony Catton in yesterday's Woolies final. Souths won 20-12.

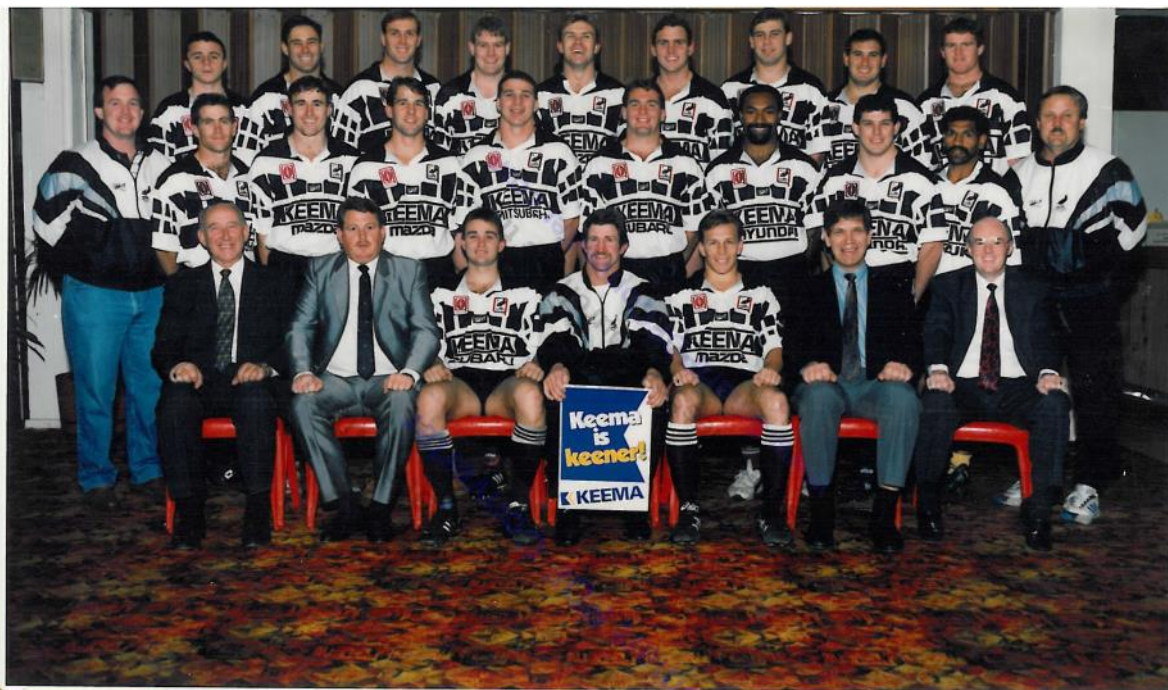
**Below:** Steve Renouf on the burst during his brief time playing for the Magpies.

**Below:** A funny incident occurred during a Souths v Wests finals game when a ball burst open. Mohammed Allouche looks on in disbelief.





## THE POST BRONCOS ERA



### SOUTHERN SUBURBS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB FIRST GRADE - 1994 PRELIMINARY FINALIST

**FRONT ROW:-** (L to R) Henk Kable (Sponsor Keema), John O'Leary (Secretary), Chris Hastings, Chris Phelan (Coach), Craig Grauf (Capt.), Graham Stallard (Sponsor Keema), Warren Crompton (Sponsor Keema).  
**SECOND ROW:-** (L to R) Greg Taylor (Manager), Gavin Darwin, Ian Turner, Mark Rockley (Club Capt.), Chris White, Jason Adams, Isea Sigan Yavi, Shane Buckley, Floyd Hill, Ron Emmanuel (Sports Trainer).  
**THIRD ROW:-** (L to R) Peter Nocon, Anthony Catton, Robert Marshall, Mark Lane, Troy McCarthy, Jeffrey Wakefield, Phillip Cameron, Peter Deaves, Michael Davis.  
**ABSENT:-** Brent Vincent, Edgar Eve.



### SOUTHERN SUBURBS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB PREMIER GRADE - 1997



**FRONT ROW:** (L to R) Dave Irvine (Trainer), Graeme Broccardo, Mark Lane, John Payne (Coach), Shane Buckley (Capt.), Peter Nocon, Max Mason (Manager).  
**SECOND ROW:** (L to R) Brett Stevens, Peter Roberts, Mattie McCosker, Grant Benson, Ian Turner, Mohammed Allouche, Johnny Ruscoe, Shane Tegan.  
**THIRD ROW:** (L to R) Greg Taylor (Trainer), Brian McCarthy, Brad Wright, Gavin Aitken, Jason Ormon, Sean O'Grady, Nathan Sgassoni, Edgar Eve (Trainer).



## THE POST BRONCOS ERA

In 1996 the QRL boldly introduced a new statewide competition called the Queensland Cup that superceded the Winfield State League. From 1982 to 1995 the State League was played over about the first third of the season followed by the regular BRL competition.

A total of 16 teams from Brisbane and across Queensland began this new expanded competition that was played over the whole of the premiership season. The pioneer teams of this new competition were Norths, Souths, Easts, Wests, Redcliffe, Wynnum-Manly, Brothers, Logan City, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Central Qld, Mackay, Cairns and Port Moresby.

Valleys folded at the end of 1995 and briefly re-emerged for a year in 2004 when they merged with Brothers. That was the end for the only other remaining foundation club in Valleys that had won the most premierships (24) as well another iconic club in Brothers who had been in the competition since 1930 and won 9 premierships. Souths fans can empathise with their demise as Souths have had more than their fair share of fiscal crises that have almost seen Souths go the same way. Thankfully we have dodged that bullet so far.

Of those initial Queensland Cup clubs some have re-branded such as Cairns now being home to the Northern Pride. Port Moresby only lasted two seasons. In 1998 the Burleigh Bears were admitted. There was a separate Gold Coast team for 1997 and 1998 that was a feeder team for the Gold Coast Chargers before they folded in the NRL. Bundaberg only lasted until 1998.

Townsville competed just in 1998. Another Townsville based team, the North Queensland Young Guns, a feeder club to the North Qld Cowboys, competed between 2002 and 2007 taking the 2005 Queensland Cup. Tweed Heads joined the competition in 2003 as a result of a vacancy created by the joint venture that created the Souths Logan Magpies that year. Wests pulled out of the Queensland Cup in 2003 though still compete in the FOGS Cup and have plans to re-enter the Queensland Cup down the track. Toowoomba, a powerhouse back in the days of the Bulimba Cup competition, pulled out of the Queensland Cup in 2006 after winning the initial Queensland Cup in 1996 and later winning again in 2001.

For the first two years of the Queensland Cup (1996 and 1997) a separate final series involving just the Brisbane clubs took place following the Queensland Cup. The top Brisbane teams based on their placing in the Queensland Cup would then compete to see who would become the BRL premiers. This was motivated by a desire to preserve the Brisbane rugby league competition but lack of popular support saw this additional final series scrapped in 1998.

Souths won 10 and drew 1 of their 15 round games finishing third just behind Toowoomba and Redcliffe. We faced off against Wests in the first week of semis and Wests beat Souths in a tight game 22-15. The next week Souths put on a magnificent display of football to beat Easts 34-6 in an attacking and highly entertaining game.

The following week saw us up against Wests again who proved to be our bogey team yet again knocking us out of the Queensland Cup final series by 21-8.

### FROM THE DOCUMENTARY "THE GROUND I WALK ON"



My early memories were trying to find a place where I could see the game and it was impossible so all the kids used to sit on the inside of the fence to get a view because everywhere else was packed.

You could imagine how in awe I was to come onto this field and think Mal ran onto this field and Gary Belcher and Peter Jackson. All these players and Johnny Elias and Norm Carr. They were my heroes and being able to run onto the same field as these guys, it was something special.

There was a lot of different community aspects here. There was Lebanese, there were Greeks, there were Italians. The one thing that held the community together was the football club down the road so we all felt the affinity to Davies Park. That's what this is about. That's what Davies Park is about. It brought all those people together with something in common. They might not be able to speak the same language. They might come from different backgrounds and different cultures but we all had something in common. This is it.

The bakeries full of black and white cakes and scones and everyone decorated their stores black and white. It embraced the whole community.

I remember seeing Tank full as an old boot and crying at the end of the game [2008 Grand Final] and bawling. It wasn't just tears. He was bawling when Souths had won. That image will stay with me forever. It proves how passionate people are about this place. It brings men to tears.

The last time that we won a grand final my father took me to that grand final. 23 years later my father and I were at that grand final and I've taken my son and he had the honour of leading the team out as well. But the relief was more for the people who believed in us and hung around. It was more for the likes of Jim, for the supporters who stuck by us even through the hard times.



## THE POST BRONCOS ERA

We then progressed to the final series to determine who would become the BRL premiers. In the major semi-final we beat Brothers 24-16 progressing to yet another preliminary final against our bogey team Wests who had already beaten us the three previous times they had played us that year. This time it was to be our day.

For most of the game Souths were behind on the scoreboard until six minutes before full-time when replacement Shane Brown scored an excellent try in the corner to take the lead. Another try by Souths in the last minutes sealed a 22-16 win to book a BRL grand final against Redcliffe.

The 1996 BRL Grand Final almost became a repeat of the 1981 Grand Final against Redcliffe. Despite scoring three tries to Redcliffe's two tries, Souths were down 16-12 with 45 seconds left to go.

After a scrum win they surged from deep in their own half down the right side of the ground with good passing and hard running. The "Mick Reardon corner" beckoned only 30 metres away. The ball was passed to Shane Brown, who had been the hero the week before, but he was unable to hold the ball and knocked it on.

In 1997 Souths finished 11th on the Queensland Cup table but were the 6th placed Brisbane team which just qualified them for the separate BRL finals series. They had a big 31-10 win against Brothers before being knocked out by Norths 20-10. This was the last finals appearance for Souths until 2008.

From a results point of view, the decade from 1998 to 2007 was the most dismal ever for the club and were dark years where the club's very existence was on the line.

This is where Souths placed in those years – 1998 (14th), 1999 (12th – wooden spoon), 2000 (9th), 2001 (11th – wooden spoon), 2002 (11th), 2003 (11th), 2004 (11th), 2005 (10th), 2006 (11th), 2007 (10th).



**Above:** Mohammed Allouche takes the ball up in a game against Wynnum-Manly.

### Let's not forget the history behind the two clubs set merge under the umbrella of the Canberra Raiders.



#### LOGAN SCORPIONS

The Logan City Scorpions were admitted to the Brisbane League in 1987 as a C grade side. That year they made the grand final and in 1988 they were accepted as a fully fledged club with firsts, reserves and colts.

There have been some hard times on the financial front and the colts at first struggled to be competitive.

But generally there was consolidation and growth and the Scorpions have a fine home base at Meakin Park, Kingston.

Former Test halfback Tom Raudonikis brought a new spirit and will to win to the club in 1994 even playing at one stage.

The club's short term goals were the development of strength in the playing ranks from juniors to seniors, efficient administration and financial stability.

Prominent players have included, Paul Bartier, Paul Fisher, Brad Pike, Bradley George, Glen Haggath, Bill Dart, Shane Perry, Brendon Lindsay and Shane Tronc.

The Scorpions have always been competitive, until this year, but the players who turned up every week and gave 100% are deserving of the highest praise.



#### SOUTHS MAGPIES

Souths originally were known as Carltons and they won three premierships under that banner before changing their name under the district football format introduced in 1933.

Since that year Souths have had the distinction of being the only club to win three major grades in one year.

Souths were formed at the West End School of Arts by about 40 members following the break-up of Carltons who left the new club with a debt of \$180. The first president was Jack Adams who also purchased the Club's first set of jerseys. They were red and white with Souths now wearing the famous black and white Magpie strip.

During World War II Souths had to leave their Davies Park home ground because American soldiers required it as a camp. The Magpies were forced to play at Musgrave Park where they made showers under gum tress for use after training.

Bill Tyquin, vice-captain of the 1948-49 Kangaroos to England and France, led Souths to one of their most memorable premierships – the 1949 grand final against Easts at the Brisbane Cricket Ground. It was a wild match with referee Digger

Chambers assaulted by spectators along with steward Harry Hunter. It was Souths second premiership the first having been achieved in 1945 under the captaincy of Len Pegg.

Mal Meninga played for Souths from 1978 to 1985 before he linked with the Canberra Raiders. He first represented Australia in 1982 against New Zealand and he was a fixture in Test sides, inheriting the captaincy from Wally Lewis in 1990.

**PREMIERSHIPS:** First grade: 1921, 1925, 1930 (As Carltons), 1945, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1981, 1985.

Reserve grade: 1924, 1931 (both undefeated), 1932, 1939, 1945, 1946, 1961, 1980, 1983, 1984.

Third grade: 1922, 1942-45, 1948, 1980, 1982, 1985. Club champions: 1946, 1948, 1980.

**Internationals:** Bill Tyquin, Tom Tyquin, Johnny Grice, Len Pegg, Mick Crocker, Alan Thompson, Alan Hornery, Reg Kay, Mick Veivers, Frank Drake, John Grant, Greg Veivers, Mal Meninga, Gary Belcher, Dave Brown, Jason Smith.

**Ten Prominent players:** Bruce Astill, Chris Phelan, Pat Phelan, Graeme Atherton, Gary Dobrich, Mitch Brennan, Eddie Muller, Billy Johnstone, Mohammed Allouche, Chris White.



## THE POST BRONCOS ERA



A DAY for Magpie memories, and a few tears ... *LEFT* Souths stalwarts, *left to right*, Jim McClelland (whose wife Barbara is at left), Graeme Atherton, Doug Stapleton and Bruce Astill in an emotional pre-match dressingroom.

*BELOW:* Souths defenders Nathan Squassoni, *right*, and Matthew Lockyer wrap up Wests' Ashley Lanfranchi in yesterday's 18-12 loss.

*TOP:* Matthew Lockyer, brother of Bronco Darren cheered on to the ground.

Pictures: David Kapernick



The question of the club's existence came to a head in 2002. Souths had finished second last and Logan had taken the wooden spoon. Going it alone the next year was financially unviable and a full merger or a joint venture with the Logan Scorpions was needed to keep both clubs going.

Canberra Raiders, who had connections with Souths through Mal Meninga and Gary Belcher, also came to the party. The deal would give Canberra one of Brisbane's best rugby league catchment areas that covered most of the south side of Brisbane and Logan. Canberra had already bought Logan Bowls Club in Kingston and a full corporate merger between Souths and Logan under the umbrella of Canberra to be named the Souths Logan Raiders with the Raiders calling the shots was the plan at the time Souths Magpies played their last game at Davies Park in the 2002 season. It was an emotional farewell for what they thought would be the last time Souths would play as the Magpies.

The corporate merger did not eventuate and a joint venture happened instead. Souths Magpies and Logan Scorpions remained separate corporate entities but merged their teams for the 2003 season with the generous financial backing of the Canberra Raiders. Souths retained its autonomy, though Canberra had a lot of leverage due to the financial backing it was giving. Thankfully, with Mal Meninga's guidance in the process, Souths did not become a puppet team for the Raiders. Not only that, a couple of months after the final game as Souths Magpies, the decision was made to drop the name Raiders for the joint venture team and call the team the Souths Logan Magpies.

Mal Meninga at the time said, "For me personally, to be involved in helping both the Raiders and Souths go forward is tremendous. (Keeping the name Magpies) was mostly due to the enormity of the change and the lateness of the change. Having the Souths name and the Magpie gives us instant credibility, history and tradition." The new coach for the joint venture was Anthony Griffin who would later become coach of the Brisbane Broncos.

The club split its home games between Davies Park and Logan's Meakin Park in Slacks Creek, although they had moved full time to Davies Park by the end of the year. About this time the Logan Scorpions licensed club folded and all games were transferred back to Davies Park. Though the Logan Scorpions folded, Souths has chosen to continue with the merged name of Souths Logan Magpies. In the years to follow many games were also played at Souths Juniors ground at Brandon Park in Acacia Ridge.

In 2008 many of the home games were played out of Meakin Park after an arrangement with the Strikers soccer club that had taken over Meakin Park. Subsequent to that, this arrangement came to an end and all home games were moved back to Davies Park except for televised ABC Saturday games that were played at Brandon Park due to the clash with the Saturday markets at Davies Park. Jim McClelland, Souths CEO, has indicated a desire to play some future home games in the Logan area should it work out economically and facilities of sufficient standard become available.



THE POST BRONCOS ERA

2008 Premiership

# MAG-NIFICENT

## Kevvie misses his fairytale as the Jets crash

Damien Stannard

KEVIN Walters' hopes of coaching Ipswich to a Queensland Cup title will, for now, remain just a dream.

In his farewell match at the helm of the Jets, the hometown hero was denied by Souths Logan Magpies who were in raptures after claiming a 24-18 win in yesterday's grand final at North Ipswich Reserve.

The Jets trailed for most of the game but stormed back to level the scores at 18-all with less than 10 minutes remaining.

It took an act of brilliance in the 80th minute from man-of-the-match Alby Talipeau to settle the premiership.

With the rest of the Magpies prepared for a field goal attempt, the halfback ran the ball before sending centre Kyle Lodge over for a try.

"I just took a chance, looked up and saw some gaps," the Duncan Hall Medallist said. "They didn't know I was going to do that. There was a hole and I backed myself."

Souths' punishing defence made the difference. It rattled Ipswich and the Jets did well just to ensure the game was still alive in the 80th minute.

Walters, who has signed to coach Catalans Dragons in the English Super League, had no complaints.

"We weren't up to scratch today. Souths deserved their victory," the former Broncos five-eighth said.

"We did well to get back in the game. But it didn't happen. It wasn't to be."

Front-row Aaron Sweeney recovered from a jolting hit in the first tackle to play a

gargantuan role for the Jets.

He scored a long-range try and went close to notching a double to be Ipswich's best.

While the outcome was disappointing for Ipswich supporters, the day was a winner for the city and the QRL.

Forced to move from Suncorp Stadium due to last night's Bledisloe Cup match, the QRL was beaming after more than 6000 people provided a carnival atmosphere.

Ipswich, although on its home turf, started the game nervously.

Sweeney's loose carry and dropped ball in the first set seemed to encourage the Magpies to hit even harder.

A try to Souths forward Cy Lasscock in the second minute was followed by another error when Ipswich pivot Josh Lewis put the restart out on the full.

It was not one of Lewis's best outings and he took some low-percentage options when the game was on the line.

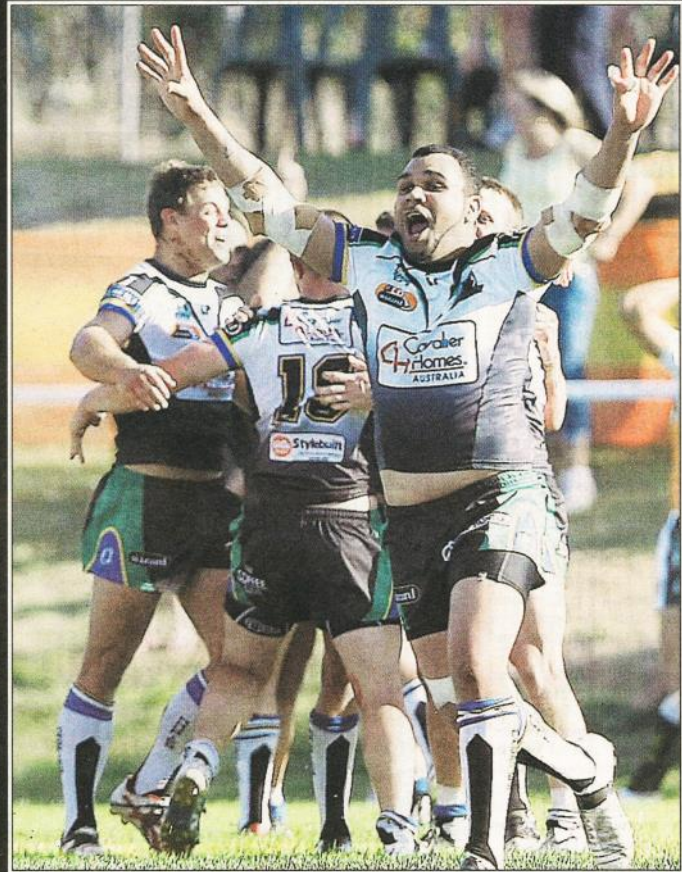
The Jets' jitters appeared over in the second half after Sweeney and hooker Michael Ryan helped settle their side.

A period of sustained pressure yielded three unanswered tries for the home side.

The Magpies bench fumed after Lewis's conversion of the second try was awarded, believing the kick had not made it through the uprights.

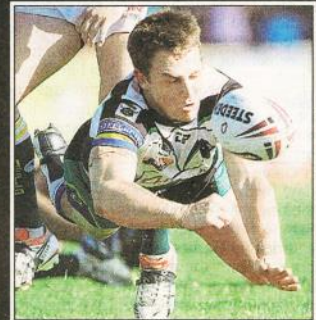
But the controversial decision did not play a lead role in the result.

**SOUTHS LOGAN 24** (Lasscock, Gibson, Templeman, Lodge tries; Cannard 2, White 2 goals) **d IPSWICH 18** (Ryan, Malone, Sweeney tries; Lewis 3 goals).



PHIL'S GOOD: Magpie Phil Dennis celebrates victory

Pictures: Peter Wallis



ALL ACTION: Tempers flare (left) and McKanah Gibson takes his eyes off the ball

THE SUNDAY MAIL September 14, 2008



SA152246

■ Jane Villettri, Dennis Brennan and Barry and Marion Larkin.



## THE POST BRONCOS ERA

Though Souths Logan was linked with Canberra they were not benefiting from dual registration of Canberra players in both the NRL and the Queensland Cup that allowed Canberra players not in the 17 for any NRL games to play for Souths in the Queensland Cup. That changed in 2008 when Souths Logan would really benefit from these fly-ins each week and what a difference it made!

One reporter said of Souths Logan in 2008 that they had changed quicker than Superman in a phone booth! In the game's centenary year Souths Logan surged to second place on the ladder winning 14 out of their 20 games, two wins behind minor premiers Ipswich. One of those wins was a record 78-8 win against Norths at Davies Park. Their second placing gave them a home semi-final against the Northern Pride who finished third. There was a vote on whether to host it at Meakin Park or Davies Park and it was decided to play their first semi-final in 10 years at Souths' spiritual home of Davies Park. Led by the experienced halfback, Chris Sheppard, Northern Pride shocked Souths-Logan beating them 40-16. Souths Logan then faced Redcliffe in the minor semi-final and just beat Redcliffe 16-14.

The Northern Pride were beaten by minor premiers, Ipswich, in the major semi-final which meant we faced Northern Pride again in the preliminary final. The Pride had been a bogey side for Souths Logan who had lost to them all three times so far that season. Souths Logan led the game 12-8 with two minutes to go before the Pride scored off a bomb to level the scores. They failed to convert from the sideline in the blustery conditions and the game was sent into extra time. Nine minutes into extra time Kyle Lodge scored for Souths Logan to win the game 16-12 and qualify for the grand final against Ipswich. Tom Cannard and fullback Quentin Lauu Togagae, two of Souths Logan's best players for the year, also scored tries as they booked themselves a place in their first grand final since 1996.

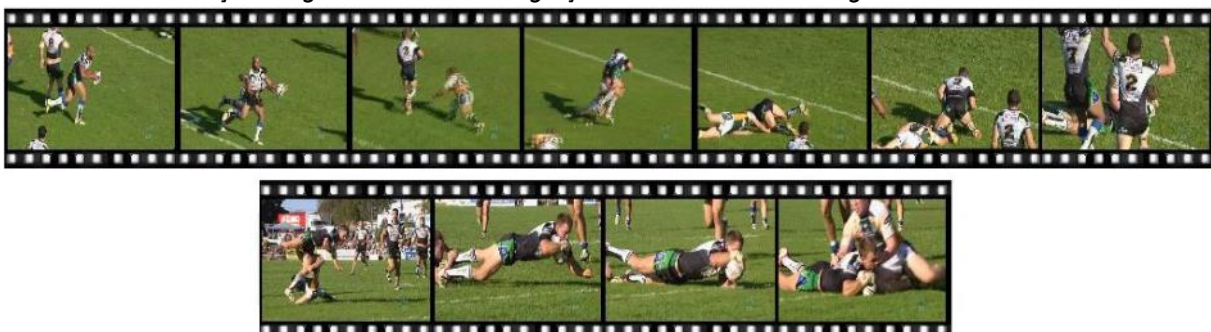
Suncorp Stadium was unavailable the day of the grand final so the grand final was played at North Ipswich Reserve, scene for many of Ipswich's famous Bulimba Cup contests. It was a wonderful carnival atmosphere with over 6000 in attendance. Souths fans came out from everywhere and provided plenty of support for the Magpies who were rated as underdogs to beat the minor premiers. While Souths Logan benefited from the Canberra fly-ins much of this centenary year, injuries at Canberra meant that most of the fly-ins were unavailable for the grand final. That didn't matter. Led by inspirational skipper, Phil Dennis, the Souths Logan boys had great self-belief going into the game and that really showed as they got off to a flyer.

Straight after the kick-off a big hit by Brad Cross and Daniel Joyce caused Jets' prop Aaron Sweeney to knock the ball on. Four tackles later an angled run off a dummy half pass close to the line sent Cy Lasscock in for the first try. Five minutes later hooker McKanah Gibson crashed over for Souths Logan's second try. Later in the first half Ipswich spun the ball out wide and centre Matt Templeman plucked an intercept and charged over for Souths Logan's third try. A penalty goal made the score an amazing 18-0 at half-time. A period of sustained pressure by the Jets in the second half led to a dramatic comeback where Ipswich scored three tries and levelled the score at 18-all. When prop Aaron Sweeney, who knocked on in the first minute, redeemed himself with a 30 metre try the momentum appeared to have completely swung in Ipswich's favour. The Magpies held their nerve with some great goal line defence and good sustained pressure in the final minutes.

On the fifth tackle of the last set for the Magpies in the game, when they were set to have a shot at a field goal, halfback and man of the match, Alby Talipeau elected to run down the blind side and passed the ball to centre Kyle Lodge, who had scored the winning try in extra time the previous week. He surged to the line and was almost tackled but slipped the tackle just before they both came to the ground. That brief release gave him the right to reach for the line and he put the ball over the line. It was sent to the video referee to decide whether or not a double movement had occurred. Even though the player who made the attempted tackle had grabbed his foot as he was putting the ball down, he was correctly adjudged to have had the right to make the extra reach for the line because he wasn't held in the initial attempt at the tackle. As his ball-carrying arm had not touched the ground when his foot was grasped in the second effort, he wasn't ruled held either as he was placing the ball over the line.

After what seemed an eternity for Souths Logan fans the referee awarded the last minute try which was converted after the full time siren and Souths Logan had beaten Ipswich 24-18 to win the 2008 Queensland Cup. Kyle Lodge made history by repeating what Mick Reardon had done 27 years earlier by scoring the winning try in the last minute on the last tackle of the game.

**Below: Kyle Lodge scores the winning try in the last minute of the game on the last tackle.**





## THE POST BRONCOS ERA



**Above:** Jim McClelland, Lyra Lister and Mohammed Allouche hold the 2008 Queensland Cup trophy.



**Above:** Mohammed Allouche leads the team victory song.



**Left:** The Queensland Cup trophy won by Souths Logan in 2008.

**Right:** The Queensland Cup runneth over with beer as CEO, Jim McClelland, pours in another can of XXXX.

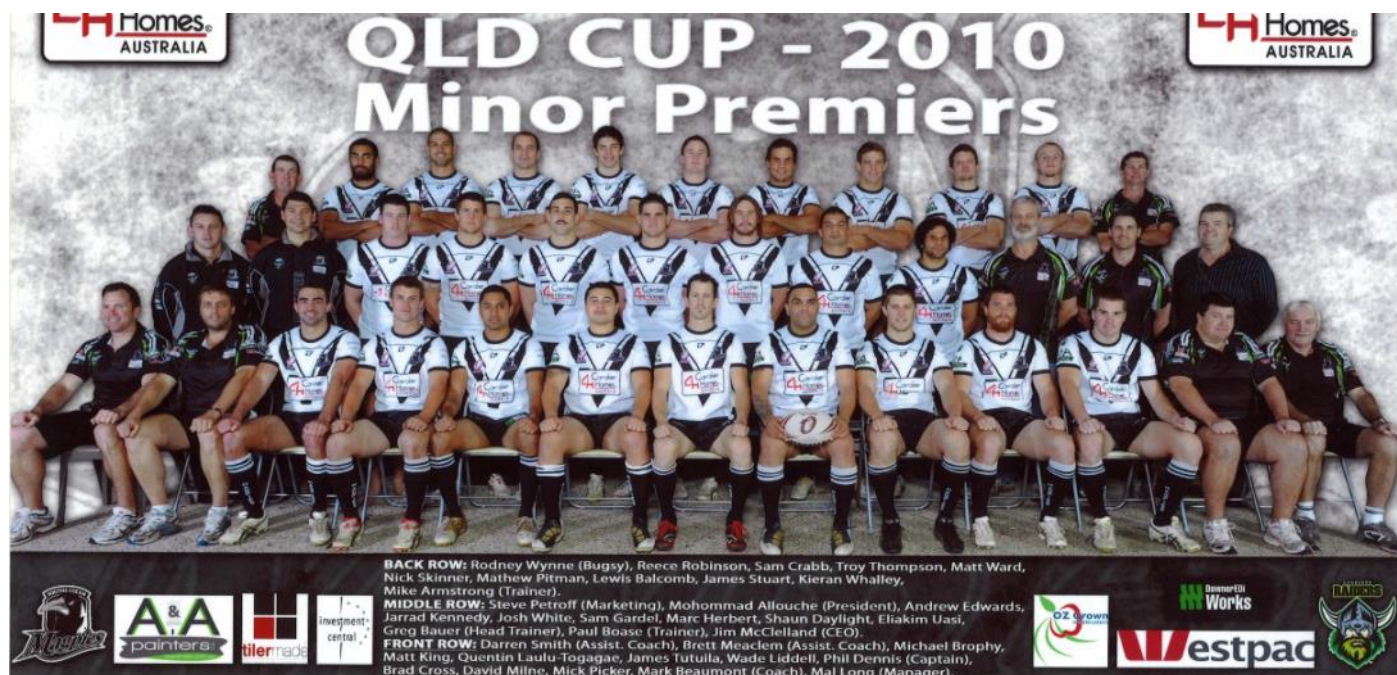




## THE POST BRONCOS ERA



**2009 QLD CUP MINOR PREMIERS – SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES**





## THE POST BRONCOS ERA

Mal Meninga said after the 2008 Grand Final win that it was very symbolic and fitting that Souths, the only remaining BRL foundation club left, won the premiership in their 's and the game in Australia's centenary year. There were wild celebrations amongst the Magpie faithful. Lyra Lister, who had supported Souths for 80 years since she was four, came out of her sick bed to watch a stunning upset and one of the greatest grand finals there has ever been.

Souths Logan have benefited from the close relationship that they have had with the Canberra Raiders and there have been a fair number of players who have played for Souths and now play in the NRL or conversely were NRL players for Canberra who have had stints playing for Souths with their dual registration in both competitions. Some of those players include Jason Smith, Daniel Veto, Jo Picker, Josh Dugan, David Milne, Nev Costigan, Tom Learoyd-Lahrs, Reece Robinson, Adam Mogg, Brandon Costin and Jack Reed. A couple of other notable players who came from Logan Brothers (now a junior affiliate club for Souths Logan) before the joint venture with Logan are Lote Tiquiri and Cameron Smith. The most notable player to come from the junior club I played for as a kid, Souths Sunnybank Magpies, is current Australian halfback Jonathan Thurston. That sort of talent shows what a wonderful junior catchment area the Souths Logan catchment area is.

Following their wonderful success in 2008 Souths Logan continued playing well the next year in 2009 and took out the minor premiership. Their first semi-final was a solid 16-8 win over Tweed Heads. This put them into one of the two preliminary finals in which they faced the Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles who had become the main feeder team for Manly in the NRL. They certainly benefited from the Manly fly-ins and in their debut season as the Sea Eagles (the Sunshine Coast Falcons only played in 1996) they upset Souths Logan 30-26 and continued their stunning form beating the Northern Pride to win the Queensland Cup.

With the assistance of the Canberra fly-ins Souths Logan managed a second minor premiership in a row in 2010. Despite finishing at the top of the table their form was patchy at times and that occurred in the finals when they bowed out in straight sets. They played second placed Norths in one qualifying final which was meaningless other than deciding who would play either the Pride or Mackay in the next semi finals. They lost a close game against Norths 20-16 before being thoroughly outclassed at Davies Park by eventual premiers, the Northern Pride by 28-8. Souths Logan fans rued the fact that neither of the two minor premierships were converted to even a grand final appearance.

In 2011 the NSWRL ruled that those NRL clubs under their jurisdiction could no longer have players dual registered with Queensland Cup clubs after June 30 but had to put in teams into the NSW Cup. This affected Manly, who were connected with the Sunshine Coast, and Canberra, who were connected with Souths Logan, despite the fact that Canberra isn't even in NSW but in the ACT. What added to the inconsistency of this decision was, if they were really looking to strengthen the NSW Cup, why didn't they put the hard word on Tweed Heads, who were from NSW and the 2011 Queensland Cup minor premiers, to switch from the Queensland Cup to the NSW Cup?

This decision brought an end to Souths Logan benefitting from Canberra fly-ins in the second half of 2011. Despite this outcome the Souths Logan boys did very well in the back half of the season, in fact, playing even better than the first half of the season. They finished third behind Tweed Heads and the Northern Pride who they beat 40-22 in a very impressive performance three weeks before the finals in Bamaga near Cape York. In the first week of the finals they were pipped 22-20 by Redcliffe who placed fourth. Part of what made this final series so bizarre was that the all three top teams got beaten by the next three including Tweed being beaten by sixth-placed Wynnum. As Souths Logan were the lowest places of the three losers, despite finishing third they were bundled out of the finals and Wynnum went on to repeat their upset beating Tweed again in the Grand Final.

In 2012 Souths Logan had to stand alone as one of the few clubs in the Queensland Cup without an NRL affiliation. This had an immediate adverse affect with the club taking the wooden spoon. A reversal of the NSWRL decision on dual registration allowed Souths Logan to re-affiliate with the Canberra Raiders though Souths struggled low on the table. The affiliation with Canberra was short-lived and broke down soon after. Souths Logan then reached out to the Brisbane Broncos and established a new affiliation with them which continues to the present.

In 2017 they made the finals for the first time in 5 years finishing 5th on the table only to be eliminated in the first week 26-18 by the Sunshine Coast. After a strong start they were unable to replicate this in 2018 when they finished 9th. In 2019 Souths finished 10th and in 2020 after losing their only game by 2 points to PNG the competition was cancelled due to the restrictions put in place to deal with the spread of COVID-19.

At this point in time there are a number of Souths ex-players and coaches in rather influential positions in the game. John Grant was the first chairman for the Australian Rugby League Commission. After coaching Queensland to a record 9 series wins including a record 8 series in a row, Souths legend, Mal Meninga, is the current Australian coach. Former Brisbane Broncos CEO Paul White played for Souths. The Brisbane Broncos coach for many years before his recent switch to Souths Sydney was Wayne Bennett, a former Souths premiership winning coach.

Whatever the future holds, Souths will battle on and this Magpie supporter believes that the future looks bright, even though it will have its ups and downs. Go the Mighty Magpies!!!



## THE POST BRONCOS ERA



**Above Left:** Souths' inspirational Phil Dennis who has played the most games for Souths in the Queensland Cup. **Above Right:** A Souths player is wrapped in a tackle against Tweed Heads, up for a kick at goal for Souths. **Below Left:** A Souths player looks to get past two PNG Hunters players. **Below Right:** Scoring a try for Souths against Redcliffe in the opening game of 2018.





## SOUTHS TEAM OF THE CENTURY

**1) GARY BELCHER.** Gary Belcher was an outstanding fullback for Souths. He played in the 1982 grand final and in the winning 1985 grand final. Following his move to Canberra where he continued to shine as a great fullback he was selected for Queensland and played 16 times up until his retirement in 1993. He also made the Australian team and played 16 tests from 1986 to 1991. In 1988, after impressing for his club as well as in Queensland's clean-sweep Origin series, Belcher was called up to the Australian squad again to play in the Centenary Test match against Great Britain. Belcher was called up for the 1990 Kangaroo tour, in which he played all five test matches despite the challenge from other players such as Greg Alexander. In 1991, injury ruled him out of the test series against New Zealand. He regained his number one spot in the Australian squad for the fullback position on the tour of Papua New Guinea, where he played in all five matches and top scored with 32 points.



**2) MITCH BRENNAN.** Originally coming from Charleville, Mitch Brennan trialed with the Toronto Argonauts (Canadian Football League) in 1975 and was offered a contract before visa restrictions prevented his career there. He went straight from Colts to A grade without going through the grades. He returned to Australia to play for Souths Magpies. His NSWRL career began controversially when in the 1977 pre-season, he was coaxed by his former coach Harry Bath to play for St. George in a trial match at Grafton. Brennan played under the pseudonym 'Mickey Lane' because he was still in contract negotiations with Brisbane Souths. He was recognised and fined \$500. He joined St George in 1978. He played 4 State of Origin games for Queensland between 1981 and 1983. He was with South Sydney when he was first picked before moving back to Queensland to play for Redcliffe before finishing his career in 1988 with Canberra.



**3) MAL MENINGA.** Mal Meninga was born in Bundaberg, went to school on the Sunshine Coast and was enrolled by his mother in the Police Academy based at Oxley when he was 15. This was where he came to the attention of Wayne Bennett, who worked at the Police Academy and coached him and other future Souths players in the Police Academy's league side. A tall and very powerful centre, he made his debut with Souths at 18 in 1978 when Wayne Bennett first coached Souths. He was a fast blockbusting runner of the ball. He was picked to play for Queensland the next year in 1979, the year before State of Origin was born. He would play for Queensland 43 times between 1979 and 1994. He made the 1982 Kangaroo Tour and played a record 46 times for Australia before that was eclipsed recently by Darren Lockyer. He played one season for St Helens in 1984/85 and from 1986 to 1994 he played for Canberra. He has used his connections with Canberra to build a strong bond with Souths and has shown a deep loyalty to both his playing clubs. Further to all of that, Mal Meninga has coached Queensland to 9 State of Origin series wins, including a record 8 in a row (2006-2013) and in 2016 became the Australian coach.



**4) BRUCE ASTILL.** Bruce Astill played for Souths in the 1970's and 1980's and was a great centre. He captained Souths to victory in the 1981 Grand Final. He first represented Queensland against New South Wales in 1979. He was selected on the bench for the first ever State of Origin match in 1980 but did not take the field. He again played for Queensland in the third and deciding match of the 1983 State of Origin series.



**5) JOHN GRANT.** John Grant was one of the best and fastest wingers and centres in the 1970's. He played for Queensland 6 times in 1972 to 1973. He had great attacking flair and also played in the 1972 World Cup for Australia. He was appointed as the inaugural chairman of the Australian Rugby League Commission.



**6) TED VERRENKAMP.** Ted Verrenkamp played in both the winning C grade (as a centre) and Reserve Grade (as a five-eighth) premierships sides in 1945 during Souths famous clean sweep. He was a smart five-eighth with great ball handling skills. Verrenkamp represented Queensland as a player six times in 1946-47 from the Souths club before accepting an offer from English giants Leeds, where he played for the next seven years. He coached Qld to a 2-2 series draw in 1960 and Easts to a BRL premiership in 1972 and was known for his love of attacking football.



**7) NORM MCLEAN.** Norm McLean was a halfback in the 1953 Premiership side. He was a strong defender, good ball handler and organiser of his forwards.





## SOUTHS TEAM OF THE CENTURY

**8) JACK VEIVERS.** Jack Veivers had a strong work ethic regularly commuting from Beauderset to train for Souths. This showed in his football as he was a tireless forward. He represented Brisbane in the Bulimba Cup before playing four games for Queensland in 1953. Three of those games were against NSW and the other was against the touring American All-Stars at the Exhibition Ground. He also played in Souths premiership sides of 1949, 1951 and 1953. His son, Greg, and nephew Mick Veivers also played for Souths, Queensland and Australia.



**9) ALAN HORNERY.** A former Wests Sydney hooker went on to have a long career in the Brisbane competition with Souths. Alan Hornery was a hooker and a great striker of the ball. He was a very fiery player would not take a backward step. He played for Souths in the 1953 premiership side. He played 17 games for Queensland between 1953 and 1957.



**10) GREG VEIVERS.** Greg Veivers was the son of Jack Veivers who played in the 1950's. He was a front rower like his father He was an excellent ball handler, strong defender and also a great leader.. He was a regular in the Queensland team in the 1970's as well as a Queensland captain (1974) when the state team was still resident based and NSW completely dominated, quite often with several players who originated from Queensland. He represented Australia in 6 World Cup matches from 1975 and 1977 and captained the Kangaroos in a World Cup match in 1977. He played his entire career with Souths.



**11) BILL TYQUIN.** Bill Tyquin was a lock and was a strong defender and brilliant in attack. He could kick a ball with a torpedo kick over 75 yards. He played in 6 Tests between 1948 and 1949 as captain on 3 occasions. He returned to Brisbane after World War II playing five seasons for Souths from 1945-50 including playing in the 1945 and being captain-coach of the 1949 premiership sides. He first represented for Queensland in 1945 and then regularly over the next 5 years making 8 appearances against New South Wales as well as captaining Queensland in 1948 against a touring New Zealand side. He made his Test debut against New Zealand in the first Test of the 1948 series in Sydney and played in both Tests. He was subsequently named as vice-captain to Col Maxwell for the 1949 Kangaroo Tour of England and France an appointment overshadowed by the controversial non-selection of Len Smith. On that 1949 tour Tyquin played in 4 Tests and 10 minor tour matches. He enjoyed the honour of captaining Australia in two Tests against France and then in the third dead-rubber Test against Great Britain in Bradford. He was also President Souths Brisbane Rugby Leagues Club during the 1970's.



**12) HARRY BATH.** Harry Bath was a product of the Souths district and started playing for Souths in 1940 at age 16. Five years later in 1945 at age 21 he starred in Souths' first premiership since the change from being called Carltons. He was a brilliant second rower and played for Queensland that year. In all his playing career Harry Bath was never chosen to represent Australia and was possibly the best player never to represent his country. Some suggested his time in England was held against him. He was lured to Sydney playing two years for Balmain (1946-47), then went to play in England to play for Barrow (1948) and Warrington (1948-56) before returning to play his last three seasons with the all-conquering St George Dragons (1957-59). All five years he played in Sydney his teams Balmain and St George won the premiership. He coached Balmain (1961-66) and Newtown (1969-72) before moving back to Brisbane to coach Souths in the mid 1970's and then finished his coaching career with St George (1977-81) which included their 1979 premiership.



**13) HAROLD "MICK" CROCKER.** He was one of the greatest lock forwards to play for Souths, Queensland, New South Wales, and Australia, his cover defence was brilliant and his backing up of halfbacks and five-eighths was in the same mould as John Raper. played in the C grade side that won the premiership in 1945. After playing C grade he then went straight into the first grade side. He played in Souths winning 1949 premiership side. He was chosen for Queensland in 1949. He then played for Queensland against Great Britain in 1950 before playing in the final two Tests of the Ashes series. Mick played in the historic Third Test victory in 1950 in the mud at the SCG where Australia won the Ashes for the first time in 30 years. He had to recover from another operation to rectify the loss of feeling in his hands and feet to play in subsequent Test series against France (1951), Great Britain and France (1952-53 Kangaroos) and NZ (1953). He played in Souths winning premiership sides in 1951 and 1953.



**Note:** The jersey numbers above represent the current numbers for these positions. When these players played the jersey numbers ran the opposite way. Lock was number 8, second rowers were 9 and 10, front rowers were 11 and 13 and the hooker wore number 12.



## SOUTHS TEAM OF THE CENTURY

**14) LEN PEGG.** He was a great centre similar in both attack and defence and played inside his brother Reg "Bubbles" Pegg. He captained Souths to their winning 1945 premiership and was vice-captain in the 1949 winning premiership side. He played for Queensland 13 times and played two tests for Australia in 1948.



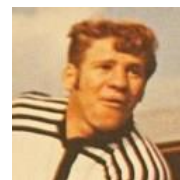
**15) MICK VEIVERS.** He was convinced into playing for Souths by his uncle Jack Veivers. Nicknamed "Farmer" he used to commute from Beechmont in the Gold Coast Hinterland to training for Souths. He became an excellent front rower for Souths and later went on to play for Brisbane in the Bulimba Cup and representative football for Queensland and Australia. He played for Queensland 14 times between 1961 and 1964 and played 6 tests for Australia against Great Britain and New Zealand.



**16) CHRIS PHELAN.** Chris Phelan was a lock and a versatile forward for Queensland with a tremendous work ethic in defence. He was playing for Souths when he first was first selected for Queensland at lock in all three games of the 1981 interstate series. He was the Rothmans Medal winner that year and then signed with to Sydney's defending premiers Parramatta in 1982. He played at prop in the Eels' two Grand Final wins over Manly in 1982 and 1983 but moved to the second-row for the 6-4 loss in the 1984 decider against Canterbury. In 1984 he was recalled to the Queensland side for game III of the State of Origin series where he appeared at second-row. Phelan returned to play for Souths in 1985 and was a part of the premiership winning side that year, being involved with four grand final wins in five years for Souths and Parramatta.



**17) GRAEME ATHERTON.** Graeme Atherton was a great five-eighth who made a great combination with halfback Doug Stapleton in the early 1970's. He was a great thinker and organiser with a brilliant pair of hands. He also won the 1970 Rothmans Medal Winner. That year he also played 2 games for Queensland.



**COACH - WAYNE BENNETT.** Wayne Bennett is one of the most outstanding coaches the game has ever seen. He brought a number of great players to Souths through his connections working at the Queensland Police Academy. After suffering terrible grand final defeats with Souths in 1979 and 1984 he learned from those failures and moulded a tough, disciplined Souths side that broke through and defeated a star-studded Wynnum-Manly team in 1985. After a stint at Canberra he was sought out to become the Broncos debut coach in 1988 and continued with the Brisbane Broncos for an amazing 21 years where they won all 6 of their grand final appearances. He coached St George to success in 2010 bringing his tally up to 8 premierships in the BRL and NRL. He has also had great success coaching Queensland 21 times and Australia 16 times.



Team of the Century		
Souths Greats		
<b>FULLBACK</b> Frank Drake Gary Belcher 1 Ray Hogarth Tony Scott	<b>WINGERS</b> Barry Prior Mitch Brennan 2 Reg Pegg Des Hendry Dennis Farrell	<b>CENTRES</b> Bruce Astill 4 Ron Dutton Mal Meninga 3 Len Pegg 14 Peter Jackson John Grant 5
<b>FIVE-EIGHTHS</b> Graeme Atherton 17 Ted Verrenkamp 6 Val Fraser Daly Johnson	<b>HALF-BACKS</b> John Grice Ivan Jones Norm McLean 7 Doug Stapleton Brad Sully John Salter	<b>LOCKS</b> Mick Crocker 13 Bob Lindner Bill Argeros Stan Gayton
<b>FRONT ROW</b> Reg Kay Allan Thompson Greg Veivers 10 Jim Murphy Jack Veivers 8 Henry Holloway	<b>SECOND ROW</b> Tom Tyquin Bill Tyquin 11 Harry Bath 12 Mick Veivers 15 Bob Kellaway Chris Phelan 16	<b>HOOVER</b> Claude O'Connell Reg Webster Alan Hornery 9 Chook Janouris
<b>COACHES</b> Bob McCarthy Harry Bath Wayne Bennett ✓ Scott McRae		

Celebrating 100 years of Magpies • Past, Present & Future





## **SOUTHS CLUB SONGS**

*Glory, glory to the Magpies*

*(to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic")*

The Magpies are the leaders in the game of Rugby League  
When the going's tough, they overcome with skill and speed  
Their opponents know the battle's lost at the very sight  
Of the men in Black and White.

*Glory, glory to the Magpies  
Glory, glory to the Magpies  
Glory, glory to the Magpies  
Southern Suburbs marches on.*

Rugby League's undoubtedly the greatest game of all  
And if you play the Magpies, then be prepared to fall  
The pace is so tremendous that you'll just have to yield  
When Souths take to the field.

*Glory, glory to the Magpies etc.*

When the season closes and the games have all been played  
Souths will be remembered for the victories they've made  
So followers of Rugby League, give a mighty cheer  
Follow Souths to victory this year.

*Glory, glory to the Magpies  
Glory, glory to the Magpies  
Glory, glory to the Magpies  
For Premiers this year.*



## **SOUTHS VICTORY SONG**

**Three Cheers for the old black and white**

**Souths boys are coming in sight**

**Men before us made our name**

**Tradition will always win the game**

**So whether the odds be great or be small**

**Souths boys will win overall**

**See those loyal sons of ours**

**Go onwards to victory**

**HEY! HEY! HEY! Heyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy**



## SOUTHS WOMEN AND JUNIORS

The Brisbane women's competition has been played for over 20 years now. Our Souths womens team have dominated the competition winning the premiership 10 times.

They won back to back premierships in 1998 and 1999 but did not taste success again for 10 years but once they did they took a stranglehold of the competition winning 8 premierships in a row from 2009 to 2016. In the first 6 of those premierships they went through the season undefeated!

Souths captain during that dream run of premierships, halfback Karyn Murphy, has played the most games for Souths with 192 games. Her halves partner, five-eighth Ali Brigginsshaw (daughter of former Easts halfback Larry Brigginsshaw), has played the next highest number of games (132) and has scored over 1000 points in her career.

Souths players have heavily represented both the Queensland (over 40 players) and Australian representative teams, the Jillaroos (over 30 players). Souths players played a big part in record run of winning the first 14 interstate games (2003-2016) before NSW won the first two State of Origin games.

Karyn Murphy is the most capped South player for the Australian Jillaroos playing 27 Test matches. Quite a number of Souths players represented the Broncos in winning the first premiership of the NRLW competition in 2018.

**Top Right:** Two Origin greets Rohan Hancock and Wally Lewis with their daughters Steph and Jamie Lee who currently play for Souths with coach Rob Brough in the centre.

**Right:** A driving run in a recent game at Davies Park.



WOMEN'S HONOUR BOARD				
Australian Representatives	Queensland Representatives	Premiers	20th Anniversary Team	100 Games Club
Karyn Murphy 27 Natalie Dwyer 26 Theresa Anderson 24 Loretta O'Neil 20 Stephanie Hancock Veronica White 17 Debbie Merritt 16 Tracey Thompson 16 Renae Kunst 16 Ali Brigginsshaw Tarah Westera 14 Heather Ballinger Karen Stuart 11 Melissa Edwards 11 Neena Fraser 11 Karen Shaw 10 Tracy Bailey 10 Jodie Billing 9	Joanne Barrett 9 Rebecca Tavo 8 Annette Brander Deanna Turner 7 Caitlin Moran Jackie White 5 Kelly O'Doherty 5 Tanya Mulder 4 Patricia Fraser 4 Amie Solomona 3 Lisa Elkins 3 Meg Ward Kerri Swan 3 Casey Karklis 2 Jennifer Pope 2 Amy Turner 2 Libby Cook-Black 1	Karyn Murphy Teresa Anderson Karen Shaw Tracey Thompson Karen Stuart Veronica White Jodie Billing Gina Sterling Sharon Mitchell-Cowan Kellie O'Doherty Yvonne O'Neil Tanya Mulder Selena Malone Melissa Edwards Tracy Bailey Lisa Elkins Neena Fraser Rebecca Tavo Tarah Westera Joanne Barrett Steph Hancock Rebecca Jones	Caroline White Patricia Fraser Therese Alton Jennifer Pope Tammy Cole Amie Solomona Renae Kunst Deanna Turner Heather Ballinger Natalie Dwyer Kerri Swan Ali Brigginsshaw Annette Brander Courtney Lockwood Sarah Walker Annella Kuk Libby Cook-Black Stefanie Gallagher Courtney Robinson Meg Ward Frieda Faulato Seu	1998 1999 2009 Undefeated 2010 Undefeated 2011 Undefeated 2012 Undefeated 2013 Undefeated 2014 Undefeated 2015 Grand Finalists 2016 Grand Finalists
		<b>Minor Premiers</b> 1998 1999 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	1 Tracey Thompson 2 Amy Karklis 3 Karen Shaw 4 Teresa Anderson 5 Casey Karklis 6 Ali Brigginsshaw 7 Karyn Murphy (C) 8 Steph Hancock 9 Nat Dwyer (VC) 10 Milly Edwards 11 Jodie Billing 12 Renae Kunst 13 Tarah Westera 14 Rebecca Jones 15 Veronica White 16 Amie Solomona 17 Heather Ballinger	Karyn Murphy 192 Ali Brigginsshaw 132 Renae Kunst 126 Natalie Dwyer 118 Tracy Thompson 106 Amie Solomona
Australian Coaches	Australian Manager	Queensland Coaches	Highest points scorer	
2004 David Leat 2005 David Leat 2006 David Leat 2007 David Leat 2008 Karen Stuart 2009 Karen Stuart	Jenny Luker 1997-2004	2000 David Leat 2001 David Leat 2002 David Leat 2003 David Leat 2004 David Leat 2005 Karen Stuart 2006 Karen Stuart 2007 Karen Stuart	Ali Brigginsshaw 1086	





## SOUTHS WOMEN AND JUNIORS



**Above:** Action from a womens played at Davies Park.

Souths Juniors originally formed in 1951, the inaugural meeting was held at Davies Park, West End and was one of the foundation clubs of the Brisbane Junior Rugby League, playing in the U/15 to U/18 grades. The original home field was Davies Park, West End under the president of Col Bennett. For the next 20 years all of the Junior games were played at Davies Park.

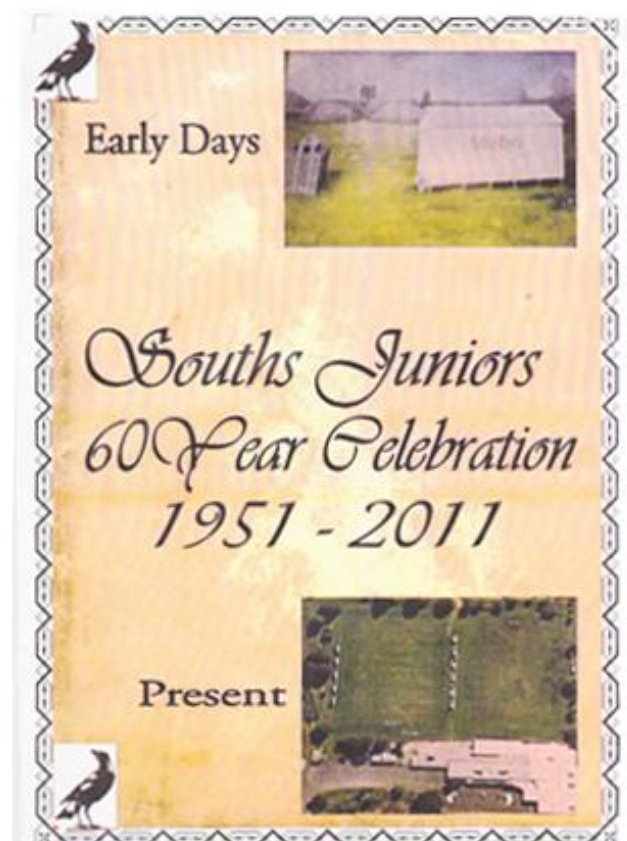
In 1969 West End was becoming an old area for the Juniors to play, so the committee at that time decided to look at the Acacia Ridge area for Junior Football. They were granted a lease at Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge. Under the direction of Jack Astill and the committee they could see the potential in the Acacia Ridge area and after a lot of planning the present club of Souths Juniors was built.

"We desire no future that will break our ties with the past". These words are inscribed on a plaque of a painting that hangs proudly within the Souths Acacia Sporting Club. It depicts the first club house erected on Brandon Park in 1970. As an investment to the future, Souths Juniors purchased land at Algester in 1976. This was subsequently developed as a sports field and named Col Bennett Oval.

Over the years Souths Juniors have had a lot of great players come from their ranks such as Gary Belcher, playing all of his junior football from U/7 to U/18. Bruce Astill, John Grant, Mal Meninga, Mitch Brennan, Brendan Hurst, Jason Smith, Chris White and Cooper Cronk went on to play senior football for Queensland and Australia.

Souths Juniors employed their original Coaching Director for the 1981 football season. This original coaching director was none other than former Broncos coach, QRL State of Origin and Australian Coach, Wayne Bennett. During his term at the Juniors, Wayne developed and implemented his training and well documented skills program which was designed for the benefit of players and coaches alike. Some other great contributors to Souths Juniors over the years are Doug Bell, Dennis Brennan and Peter Brownlie.

Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Club Inc. was founded by Jim Murdoch and local people led by Ray Davis in 1966. The first official meeting on the 14th March 1967 elected Jim Murdoch as its founding President. Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Football Club has continued to produce many representatives including Mark Coyne, Peter Coyne, Scott Logan, Wayne Challis, Phil Lee, Lote Tuqiri, Paul Fisher and Jonathon Thurston.





## SOUTHS ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Souths has affiliations with a number of other junior clubs that Souths assist with junior development. Some of those junior clubs include Souths Juniors, Souths Sunnybank, Logan Brothers, Waterford Demons, Wests Centenary Panthers, Browns Plains Bears, Greenbank Rugby League, Flagstone Phoenix, Mustang Brothers, Forest Lake and Souths Graceville.



**Above:** Davies Park from the air.



**Above:** Souths Graceville Junior RLFC.



**Above Right:** Brandon Park (Souths Juniors) from the air.



**Left:** Souths Sunnybank Junior RLFC.

**Below:** Logan Brothers Junior RLFC.





## SOUTHS ADMINISTRATORS & SUPPORTERS

Jack Adams was a notable president in the 1930's. Following the introduction of District Football in 1933 by the Brisbane Rugby League, Carltons were forced to relinquish their identity and became known as Southern Suburbs. Souths inherited a debt of 90 pounds, and also suffered an exodus of players, resulting in doubts over their ability to field a first grade team. Newly-elected President Jack Adams re-started the club in 1934 with regular meetings under his West End clothing factory, which also made the club's first jerseys free of charge.

Other notable presidents after the war were Jimmy Montgomery, George Whalley and Bill Tyquin, who the oval at Davies Park was named after in honour of his service to the club. Jim Montgomery, father of Lyra Lister, was elected a foundation committee man of the new Southern Suburbs club when Jack Adams was elected President.

Lyra Lister recalls, "Committee meetings were held in our house and players like Harry Bath and Len Pegg used to come around after training to make up the doubles on the first scorers."

Lyra Lister was nine when she attended that original meeting that saw the beginning of the Southern Suburbs club. She recently passed away in 2010 in her mid-80's and her whole life was devoted in service to the club running the canteen at Davies Park for decades. She served pies and soft pies to many kids who are now grandparents. Lyra and her father Jim were just one of a number of families intimately involved with Souths.

Harry Bath was a brilliant player in the 1940's for Souths and became a playing and coaching legend later in the Sydney competition and over in England as well coming back to coach Souths in 1975. His son-in-law, Ted Beaumont, was involved in the club's administration and Ted's son, Mark Beaumont who has previously coached Souths Logan in the Queensland Cup.



**Above:** Souths supporters Chris Eglezos of Venus Hellas Store in Vulture Street and Phil Apolocaitas from Phil's Barber Shop in the lead up to a Souths grand final.



Harold "Mick" Crocker was a great player after World War II who played many tests for Australia. His nephew Michael Crocker has played many State of Origin games for Queensland.

The Veivers family is another club intimately connected with Souths. Jack Veivers used to commute faithfully from Beaudesert to training for Souths and went on to represent Queensland. His nephew, Mick Veivers, played for Souths and went on to play for Australia. Jack had two sons who also played for Souths, Phil and Greg Veivers. Greg Veivers went on to represent Queensland and Australia. Legendary coach, Wayne Bennett was also a brother-in-law to Greg Veivers.

The club had a lot of support from the Greek community. West End was Little Greece in the 60's, 70's & 80's with its large Greek population. The Greek community embraced Souths just as anyone other "West Endian", not to mention the Greeks that played A grade: John Elliseos & Chooky Janouris in the 60's, Mick & Bill Argeros in the 70's & 80's to name a few. All were local residents.



## SOUTHS ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

The Larkin Family have been South Supporters for nearly 100 years. Barry Larkin, now in his late 70's and a faithful attendee at Souths games, was President in the mid 70's and helped financially turn the club around for a time from a serious financial position. His father, Beecher, played for West End Juniors in 1923, He ultimately became Player, Vice President, Committee Man, Life Member of Souths Juniors and Seniors, BRL Juniors and Seniors.

His father and Barry Larkin's grandfather, Bill Larkin took him to games at Davies Park as a boy. All of his 4 Sons, Allan, Barry, Beecher and John played Junior and Senior Football for Souths. Ruby Larkin Beecher's wife washed the Seniors Jerseys for many years. His grand-daughters Allison, Debbie and Diane were in the first Cheer squad.



**Above:** Barry Larkin (brother of Beecher), Beecher Larkin holding his son Barry and Bill Larkin.



*John 310, Mrs. Carolyn McLeod, Dianne Larkin, Cheryl Walker, Julie Lauman, Lorelle Roderick, Jean Wright, Karen McLeod, Suzanne Beaumont, Karen Walker, Debbie Larkin, Karen Lister, Leanne Simpson, Allison Larkin, Jenny Madden, Nancy Lauman, Dalene Bowe*

Tony Testa was the son of an Italian immigrant but grew up to be a quintessential Aussie with an unrivalled passion for sport. Barry Dick, in his 2008 Courier Mail obituary article on Tony Testa wrote the following about Tony:

"In the 1960s, he turned his hand to the insurance industry where he established a successful private business. One of his employees, former Australian rugby league captain Greg Veivers talked Mr Testa into becoming involved with the Souths club, first as under 18 team manager and later as club president for 21 years.

"Dad loved the Magpies,' Chris Testa recalled. "He had a chemist's shop at Acacia Ridge in the middle of Souths juniors' territory and got a 1.8m magpie made and put it on the roof of the shop. It became a landmark. I went into dad's office at home only recently and there were pictures everywhere of Greg Veivers, Mal Meninga, Bruce Astill and the 1985 premiership team, but there were no pictures of me or the other children. I didn't mind one little bit."

"In 1977, Wayne Bennett was playing for the Magpies and, when coach Tom Berry resigned, Mr Testa asked the young policeman to be a player coach.

"I was 27 and I was coaching at the Police Academy but I didn't feel as though I was ready to coach first grade,' Bennett said...'I said to Tony 'I'm not ready' and he said 'Yes, you are', so I gave it a go. We finished second-last that year and there weren't too many people at the club, including the players, who wanted me back in '78 but Tony stuck by me.'

"Bennett has gone on to coach Australia and Queensland. He won a Brisbane Rugby League premiership with Souths in 1985 and has won six premierships with the Brisbane Broncos. Bennett's decision to leave Souths to join Brothers in 1980 strained his friendship with Mr Testa.



**Above:** Beecher Larkin with the Cheer Squad.

### SOUTHS CHEER SQUAD — 1974



From Left:— Mrs. Carolyn McLeod, Dianne Larkin, Cheryl Walker, Julie Lauman, Lorelle Roderick, Jean Wright, Karen McLeod, Suzanne Beaumont, Karen Walker, Debbie Larkin, Karen Lister, Leanne Simpson, Allison Larkin, Jenny Madden, Nancy Lauman, Dalene Bowe





## SOUTHS ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORTERS

"'I certainly broke his heart with that one,' Bennett said. 'But when I wanted to go back to Souths in 1984 he was the first to support me.'

"Chris Testa recalled: 'Dad was a man with an enormous capacity to love and an even greater capacity to forgive. He would never allow anyone to say a bad word about Wayne.'

"Bennett remembered having to ban Mr Testa from the Magpies' dressing room. 'He was so passionate and the players loved him but he would get so wound up before a game he was putting too much pressure on the team so I had to ban him,' he laughed. 'There wouldn't have been many occasions when a club president was banned from his own dressing room.'

Last, but certainly not least, on the roll call of great administrators and supporters of Souths is current CEO, Jim McClelland. He was involved as a secretary of the club in the early-mid 80's and after a hiatus returned to work for Souths in 1995.

He was chairman from 1997 to 2003 before starting his current role as CEO in 2004. Jim, with the support of his wife Barbara, has been the driving force behind the survival of the battling Magpies. Jim has never waived in his love, support and work ethic for the Souths club, remaining at Davies Park when many others walked away in tough times. The club's survival can partially rest on his shoulders, and he is a credit to what rugby league is about.



South secretary, Jim McClelland accepts a \$15,000 cheque from Metal Accessories company head Mrs Iris Dempsey (The Iron Lady).



**Above Centre:** Souths CEO Jim McClelland with former Souths player Mohammed Allouche.

**Above Left:** Souths CEO Jim McClelland with Souths legend and the ARLC's first chairman John Grant at the launch of Steve Haddan's book "Our Game".

**Left:** The Long Brothers pose with long time office volunteer Joan Baillie and former club president Barry Larkin (white shirt).





# **SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES TEAM FOR 2019**



**AJ TUIMAVAVE**



**ALEX BISHOP**



**BENAIHA BOWIE**



**BRENDON GIBB**



**CAMERON BOOTH**



**CODY MCINTOSH**



**DAN TAMOU**



**ELUAH ALICK**



**GEORGE FAI**



**GEROME BURNS**



**GUY HAMILTON**



**HARRISON MULLER**



**JAMAYNE ISAAKO**



**JAYDN SU'A**



**JOEY BURCHILL**



**JOHNNIE FOX**



**JORDAN MAGO**



**JORDAN SCOTT**



**JUSTIN FAI**



**KEENAN YORSTON**



## **SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES TEAM FOR 2019**



**LANE FERLING**



**LENNY MAGEY**



**LUKE ARCHER**



**MARION SEVE**



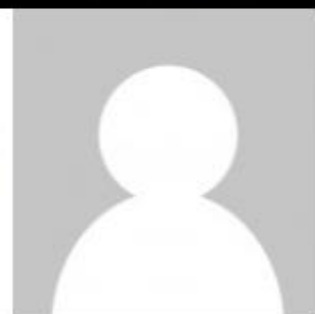
**PATRICK MAGO**



**PAUL ROKOLATI**



**PHIL DENNIS**



**RAY BAIRA**



**RHYS MELVILLE**



**SAM ELLIOT**



**SAM SCARLETT**



**SAMUELU LAVEA**



**SCOTT DOYLE**



**SCOTT DOYLE**



**TEVITA PANGAI JNR**



**THOMAS FLEGLER**



**TRAVIS WADDELL**



**UITI BAKER**

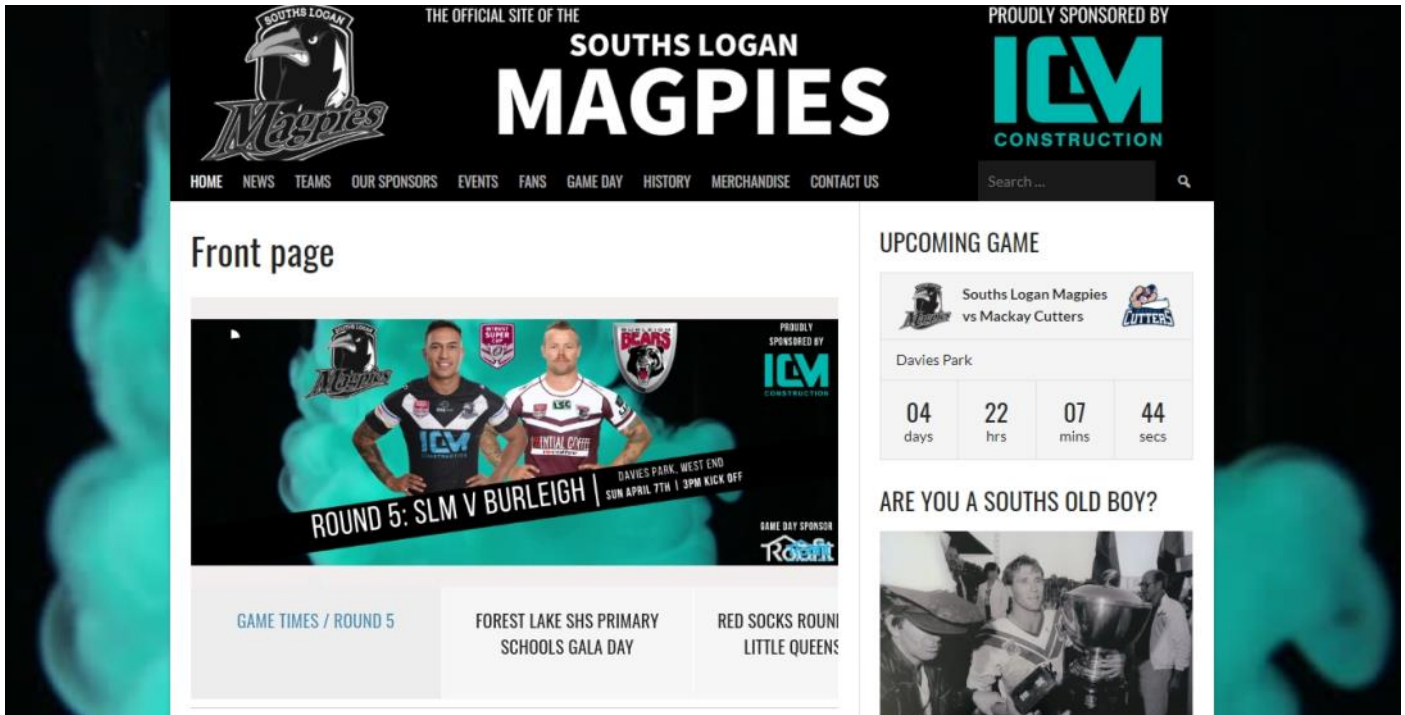


**WILLIAM SAMUEL**



## SOUTHS ON THE INTERNET

**SOUTHS WEBSITE:** [southsloganmagpies.com.au](http://southsloganmagpies.com.au)



**SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES FACEBOOK GROUP:**  
[www.facebook.com/SLMagpies](http://www.facebook.com/SLMagpies)





## STATISTICS

### Winning Premierships (11)

**1913** West End 5 defeated Natives 2  
**1921** Carlton 12 defeated Coorparoo 10  
**1925** Carlton 26 defeated Coorparoo 5  
**1930** Carlton 19 defeated Valleys 8  
**1945** Souths 21 defeated Norths 10  
**1949** Souths 22 defeated Easts 8  
**1951** Souths 20 defeated Easts 10  
**1953** Souths 21 defeated Easts 4  
**1981** Souths 13 defeated Redcliffe 9  
**1985** Souths 10 defeated Wynnum-Manly 8  
**2008** Souths Logan 24 defeated Ipswich 18

### Runners-Up (11)

1909 Valleys 23 defeated South Brisbane 4  
 1912 Natives 10 defeated South Brisbane 0  
 1914 Valleys 18 defeated West End 8  
 1928 University 10 defeated Carlton 7  
 1942 Brothers 20 defeated Souths 11  
 1947 Easts 15 defeated Souths 2  
 1963 Norths 18 defeated Souths 8  
 1979 Valleys 26 defeated Souths 0  
 1982 Wynnum-Manly 17 defeated Souths 3  
 1986 Wynnum-Manly 42 defeated Souths 8  
 1996 Redcliffe 16 defeated Souths 12  
 (BRL Final, not QLD Cup)

### Minor Premierships

(Min. of 11. We only have final results, not ladders prior to 1935)

1921  
 1928  
 1930  
 1949  
 1951  
 1953  
 1981  
 1985  
 1988  
 2009  
 2010

### Reserve Grade Premierships (11)

1924 Carltons  
 1929 Carltons  
 1931 Carltons  
 1932 Carltons  
 1939 Souths  
 1945 Souths  
 1946 Souths  
 1961 Souths 22 defeated Easts 7  
 1980 Souths 20 defeated Brothers 13  
 1983 Souths 18 defeated Easts 10  
 1984 Souths 10 defeated Valleys 6

### Third Grade Premierships (10)

1922 Carltons  
 1941 Souths  
 1942 Souths  
 1943 Souths  
 1944 Souths  
 1945 Souths  
 1948 Souths  
 1980 Souths 20 defeated Norths 6  
 1982 Souths 22 defeated Redcliffe 3  
 1985 Souths 18 defeated Brothers 12

### Club Championships (6)

1931 Carlton  
 1946 Souths  
 1948 Souths  
 1980 Souths  
 1983 Souths  
 1984 Souths  
 1993 Souths

### Clean Sweep of All Three Top Grades (1)

1945



## STATISTICS

### PLACING AFTER EACH SEASON

**NOTE: This is AFTER not before finals.**

**Prior to 1935 we only have final results to determine the club's position.**

1909 2nd (SB)	1971 3rd
1911 Equal 3rd (SB)	1972 5th
1912 2nd (SB)	1973 7th
<b>1913 1st (Premiers [WE])</b>	1974 4th
1914 2nd (WE) Equal 3rd (SB)	1975 7th
1915 Last (WE)	1976 4th
South Brisbane did not compete	1977 8th (Last)
1916-18 Neither South Brisbane	1978 5th
nor West End competed	1979 2nd
1919 3rd (C) 4th (WE)	1980 2nd
1920 Equal 3rd (WE)	<b>1981 1st (Premiers)</b>
<b>1921 1st (Premiers)</b>	1982 2nd
1922 Equal 3rd	1983 4th
1923 Equal 3rd	1984 2nd
1925 1st (Premiers)	<b>1985 1st (Premiers)</b>
1928 2nd	1986 6th
1929 Equal 3rd	1987 5th
1930 1st (Premiers)	1988 3rd
1931 3rd	1989 6th
1935 6th (Last)	1990 5th
1936 6th (Last)	1991 9th
1937 6th (Last)	1992 6th
1938 4th	1993 3rd
1939 5th	1994 3rd
1940 5th	1995 4th
1941 6th (Last)	1996 QLD Cup 4th / BRL 2nd
1942 2nd	1997 QLD Cup 11th / BRL 5th
1943 4th	1998 14th
1944 3rd	1999 12th (Last)
<b>1945 1st (Premiers)</b>	2000 9th
1946 4th	2001 11th (Last)
1947 2nd	2002 11th
1948 3rd	2003 11th
<b>1949 1st (Premiers)</b>	2004 11th
1950 3rd	2005 10th
<b>1951 1st (Premiers)</b>	2006 10th
1952 7th	2007 10th
<b>1953 1st (Premiers)</b>	<b>2008 1st (Premiers)</b>
1954 7th (Last)	2009 Equal 3rd
1955 5th	2010 Equal 3rd
1956 5th	2011 Equal 5th
1957 6th	2012 12th (Last)
1958 7th (Last)	2013 9th
1959 7th (Last)	2014 10th
1960 8th (Last)	2015 12th
1961 6th	2016 7th
1962 3rd	2017 5th
1963 2nd	2018 9th
1964 6th	2019 10th
1965 8th (Last)	2020 Season cancelled due to COVID-19
1966 5th	restrictions.
1967 7th	
1968 8th (Last)	
1969 8th (Last)	
1970 4th	



## STATISTICS

### SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

1909 Semi-Final - South Brisbane 21 v North Brisbane 11

**1909 GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 23 v SOUTH BRISBANE 4**

1911 Semi-Final - Valley-Toombul 10 v South Brisbane 8

**1912 GRAND FINAL - NATIVES 10 v SOUTH BRISBANE 0 (No semis this year)**

**1913 GRAND FINAL - WEST END 5 v NATIVES 2 (No semis this year)**

1914 Semi-Final - West End 9 v South Brisbane 5

**1914 GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 18 v WEST END 8**

1919 Final - Coorparoo 16 v Carlton 9 (Coorparoo challenged after by minor premiers Valleys)

1920 Semi-Final - Wests 20 v West End 8

1921 Semi-Final - Carlton 8 v Valleys 3

1921 Final - Coorparoo 24 v Carlton 18

**1921 GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 12 v COORPAROO 10**

(Carlton were minor premiers and exercised their right of challenge. They won re-match and premiership)

1922 Semi-Final - Coorparoo 21 v Carlton 0

1923 Semi-Final - Valleys 18 v Carlton 10

1925 Semi-Final - Carlton 21 v Wests 8

1925 Final - Carlton 10 v Brothers 0

**1925 GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 26 v COORPAROO 5**

(Carlton were challenged by minor premiers Coorparoo)

1928 Semi-Final - University 18 v Carlton 6

**1928 GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - UNIVERSITY 10 v CARLTON 7**

(Carlton were minor premiers exercising their right of challenge and lost)

1929 Semi-Final - Coorparoo 13 v Carlton 5

1930 Semi-Final - Carlton 8 v Coorparoo 6

1930 Final - Valleys 10 v Carlton 0

**1930 GRAND FINAL CHALLENGE - CARLTON 19 v VALLEYS 8**

(Carlton were minor premiers and exercised their right of challenge. They won re-match and premiership)

1931 Semi-Final - Carlton 17 beat University 5

1931 Final - Grammars 16 v Carlton 13

(Grammars challenged after by minor premiers Valleys)

1938 Minor Semi-Final - Wests 18 v Souths 11

1942 Minor Semi-Final - Souths 13 v Norths 10

1942 Preliminary Final - Souths 19 v Valleys 16

**1942 GRAND FINAL - BROTHERS 20 v SOUTHS 11**

1943 Minor Semi-Final - Norths 17 v Souths 14

1944 Major Semi-Final - Valleys 27 v Souths 10

1944 Preliminary Final - Norths 23 v Souths 11

1945 Major Semi-Final - Norths 12 v Souths 8

1945 Preliminary Final - Souths 22 v Valleys 6

**1945 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 21 v NORTHS 11**



**STATISTICS****SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS**

1946 Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 17 v Souths 8	1988 Major Semi-Final - Valleys-Tweed 25 v Souths 14
1947 Minor Semi-Final - Souths 34 v Norths 19	1988 Preliminary Final - Ipswich 20 v Souths 6
1947 Preliminary Final - Souths 5 v Valleys 2	1993 Minor Semi-Final - Souths 36 v Ipswich 4
<b>1947 GRAND FINAL - EASTS 15 v SOUTHS 2</b>	1993 Preliminary Final - Wests 15 v Souths 2
1948 Major Semi-Final - Wests 22 v Souths 9	1994 Major Preliminary Semi-Final - Wests 14 v Souths 8
1948 Preliminary Final - Easts 16 v Souths 14	1994 Minor Semi-Final - Souths 18 v Ipswich 4
1949 Major Semi-Final - Souths 30 v Easts 16	1994 Preliminary Final - Wests 21 v Souths 10
<b>1949 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 22 v EASTS 8</b>	1995 Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Souths 16 v Redcliffe 4
1950 Minor Semi-Final - Souths 23 v Valleys 14	1995 Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 30 v Souths 0
1950 Preliminary Final - Easts 15 v Souths 6	1996 QLD Cup Qualifying Semi-Final - Wests 22 v Souths 15
1951 Major Semi-Final - Souths 27 v Easts 16	1996 QLD Cup Minor Preliminary Semi-Final - Souths 34 v Easts 6
<b>1951 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 20 v EASTS 10</b>	1996 QLD Cup Minor Semi-Final - Wests 21 v Souths 8
1953 Major Semi-Final - Easts 7 v Souths 2	1996 BRL Major Semi-Final - Souths 24 v Brothers 16
1953 Preliminary Final - Souths 35 v Valleys 14	1996 BRL Preliminary Final - Souths 22 v Wests 16
<b>1953 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 21 v EASTS 4</b>	<b>1996 BRL GRAND FINAL - REDCLIFFE 16 v SOUTHS 12</b>
1962 Major Semi-Final - Norths 21 v Souths 6	1997 BRL Elimination Semi-Final - Souths 31 v Brothers 10
1962 Preliminary Final - Valleys 15 v Souths 9	1997 BRL Minor Semi-Final - Norths 20 v Souths 10
1963 Major Semi-Final - Souths 23 v Norths 3	2008 Qualifying Semi-Final – Northern Pride 40 v Souths Logan 16
<b>1963 GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 18 v SOUTHS 8</b>	2008 Minor Semi-Final – Souths Logan 16 v Redcliffe 14
1970 Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 41 v Souths 9	2008 Preliminary Final - Souths Logan 16 v Northern Pride 12
1971 Major Semi-Final - Valleys 12 v Souths 8	<b>2008 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS LOGAN 24 v IPSWICH 18</b>
1971 Preliminary Final - Easts 19 v Souths 11	2009 Qualifying Semi-Final - Souths Logan 16 v Tweed Heads 8
1974 Minor Semi-Final - Brothers 27 v Souths 12	2009 Preliminary Semi-Final - Sunshine Coast 30 v Souths Logan 26
1976 Elimination Final (4 v 5) - Souths 14 v Redcliffe 6	2010 Qualifying Semi-Final - Norths 20 v Souths Logan 16
1976 Minor Semi-Final - Wests 11 v Souths 5	2010 Preliminary Semi-Final - Northern Pride 28 v Souths Logan 8
1979 Minor Semi-Final - Souths 22 v Wests 13	2011 Qualifying Semi-Final – Redcliffe 22 v Souths Logan 20
1979 Preliminary Final - Souths 18 v Easts 16	2017 Elimination Semi-Final - Sunshine Coast 26 v Souths Logan 18
<b>1979 GRAND FINAL - VALLEYS 26 v SOUTHS 0</b>	
1980 Major Semi-Final - Souths 22 v Valleys 14	
<b>1980 GRAND FINAL - NORTHS 17 v SOUTHS 15</b>	
1981 Major Semi-Final - Redcliffe 21 v Souths 10	
1981 Preliminary Final - Souths 16 v Wynnum 12	
<b>1981 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 13 v REDCLIFFE 9</b>	
1982 Major Semi-Final - Souths 10 v Valleys 6	
<b>1982 GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 17 v SOUTHS 3</b>	
1983 Minor Semi-Final - Valleys 30 v Souths 22	
1984 Major Semi-Final - Wynnum 46 v Souths 22	
1984 Preliminary Final - Souths 14 v Valleys 8	
<b>1984 GRAND FINAL - WYNNUM 42 v SOUTHS 8</b>	
1985 Major Semi-Final - Souths 14 v Brothers 8	
<b>1985 GRAND FINAL - SOUTHS 10 v WYNNUM 8</b>	



## STATISTICS

### Biggest Win:

78-8 v Norths in 2008 (Round 21) at Davies Park

In C Grade 145-0 v East Fallon Boys Club in 1956/57(?) at New Farm Park Oval. Bob Friswell scored 62 points for Souths, every player except Souths fullback (who only had one arm) scored for Souths.

### Biggest Defeat:

76-0 v Burleigh in 2003 at Pizzey Park

### Other trophies:

2 Pre-Season Trophies

4 Presidents Cups - Played between leaders after first round

3 Pike Cups - Played between leaders after first round 1 Redcap Cup - Played between 3rd and 4th after first round

1 Kaye Cup - Played between leaders after second round 1 Vic Jensen Cup - Played between leaders after second round

2 Peter Scott Memorial Trophies - Played between leaders after second round

1 Chairman's Trophy (1993) - Played between leaders after first round

1 4IP Cup (1972) – Played between bottom four teams

### Australian Test Players

Note: The Test career of some of these players shown here or in table below were either before or after their time with Souths. Test counts include World Cup & PNG games:

William Heidke (4 Tests - 1908-10),  
Vic Anderson (1 Test - 1909)  
Herb Brackenreg (3 Tests - 1909-10)  
Robert Nicholson (2 Tests - 1909-10)  
Claude O'Donnell (4 Tests - 1919)  
Harry Fewin (1 Test - 1920)  
Neville Broadfoot (1 Test - 1920)  
John Grice (2 Tests - 1946)  
Len Pegg (2 Tests - 1948)  
Bill Tyquin (6 Tests - 1948-49)  
Reg Kay (3 Tests - 1946)  
Harold (Mick) Crocker (17 Tests - 1950-55)  
Alan Thompson (3 Tests - 1950-51)  
Tom Tyquin (6 Tests - 1956-57)  
Henry Holloway (3 Tests - 1955)  
Frank Drake (2 Tests - 1961-62)  
Elton Rasmussen (18 Tests - 1959-68)  
Alan Gil (2 Tests - 1962)  
Mick Veivers (6 Tests - 1962-66)  
Greg Veivers (6 Tests - 1975-77)  
Jim Murphy (1 Test - 1972)  
John Grant (3 Tests - 1972)  
Lew Platz (6 Tests - 1975)  
Ray Higgs (9 Tests - 1974-77)  
Mal Meninga (46 Tests - 1982-94)  
Dave Brown (5 Tests - 1983-84)  
Brad Tessimann (1 Test - 1983)  
Bob Lindner (24 Tests - 1986-93)  
Gary Belcher (15 Tests - 1988-91)  
Peter Jackson (9 Tests - 1988-92)  
Jason Smith (16 Tests - 1995-2000)

### Test Captains (3):

Bill Tyquin  
Greg Veivers  
Mal Meninga (Mal had moved onto Canberra when appointed captain)



## STATISTICS

### QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE PLAYED FOR SOUTH BRISBANE, WEST END, CARLTONS OR SOUTHS

Chronological order				Alphabetical order			
NAME	YEAR	QLD	AUSTRALIA (TESTS)	NAME	YEAR	QLD	AUSTRALIA (TESTS)
William Heidke	1908-10	12	4	Anderson Vic	1908-11	18	1
Vic Anderson	1908-11	18	1	Astill Bruce	1979-83	2	
Harold Heidke	1909-12	13		Atherton Graeme	1970	2	
Herb Brackenreg	1909-11	14	3	Bath Harry	1945	4	
Robert Nicholson	1909-11	18	2	Bath Thomas	1919-21	4	
George Rousell	1909-12	5		Belcher Gary	1986-91	16	15
Phillip McGrory	1910	3		Bennett Wayne	1972-73	9	
Alfred Jones	1910-11	3		Brackenreg Herb	1909-11	14	3
Evan Lewis	1910-14	9		Brennan Mitch	1981-83	6	
Alf Dreverson	1911	3		Broadfoot Neville	1920	13	1
Joseph Haylock	1911	1		Brown Dave	1983-86	12	5
Dave Hazelton	1911-12	6		Callinan Bill	1949	2	
August Schatz	1911-12	5		Carr Norm	1979-82	13	
B. Nalder	1912-13	4		Challis Wayne	1982	2	
Thomas (Topper) Dean	1912-15	5		Coll John	1919	1	
Richard Greaves	1913	1		Colwell Marshall	1981	1	
Jack Sargood	1913	1		Cooke Reg	1967	6	
C. Wilson	1913	1		Crocker Harold (Mick)	1949-53	19	15
Steve Keogh	1918	1		Dean Thomas (Topper)	1912-15	5	
John Coll	1919	1		Dobrich Gary	1972	2	
Moran Patrick	1919	9		Drake Frank	1959-63	21	2
Jim Sigley	1919-24	7		Dreverson Alf	1911	3	
Claude O'Donnell	1919-22	12	4	Fewin Harry	1919-21	6	1
Harry Fewin	1919-21	6	1	Gayton Stan	1965	1	
Neville Broadfoot	1920	13	1	Gil Alan	1960-62	15	2
Thomas Bath	1919-21	4		Grant John	1972-73	6	3
William Kavanagh	1926-29	2		Greaves Richard	1913	1	
Jack Stapleton	1933-40	4		Grice John	1945	9	2
Harry Bath	1945	4		Haylock Joseph	1911	1	
John Grice	1945	9	2	Hazelton Dave	1911-12	6	
Len Pegg	1945-49	13	2	Heidke Harold	1909-12	13	
Reg Pegg	1945-49	8		Heidke William	1908-10	12	4
Bill Tyquin	1945-49	12	6	Hendry Des	1958-59	3	
Reg Kay	1946	4	3	Higgs Ray	1974-77	2	9
Ted Verrenkamp	1946-47	6		Holloway Henry	1955-59	3	3
Bill Callinan	1949	2		Hornery Alan	1953-57	17	
Robert Neilson	1949	1		Jackson Peter	1986-91	16	9
Harold (Mick) Crocker	1949-53	19	15	Johnson Leo	1954-60	3	
Alan Thompson	1949-51	12	3	Jones Alfred	1910-11	3	
Jack Veivers	1953	5		Kavanagh William	1926-29	2	
Alan Hornery	1953-57	17		Kay Reg	1946	4	3
Tom Tyquin	1953-57	16	6	Kellaway Bob	1982	3	
Trevor Niebling	1953-69	9		Keogh Steve	1918	1	
Leo Johnson	1954-60	3		Lewis Evan	1910-14	9	
Henry Holloway	1955-59	3	3	Lindner Bob	1984-93	27	23
Des Hendry	1958-59	3		McGrory Phillip	1910	3	
Frank Drake	1959-63	21	2	Meninga Mal	1979-94	43	46
Elton Rasmussen	1959-68	15	15	Moran Patrick	1919	9	
Alan Gil	1960-62	15	2	Muller Eddie	1984	1	
Michael Veivers	1961-66	14	6	Murphy Jim	1970-72	7	1
Benny Wall	1964	3		Nalder B.	1912-13	4	
Stan Gayton	1965	1		Naylor Geoff	1980	2	
Tony Scott	1965-70	5		Neilson Robert	1949	1	
Reg Cooke	1967	6		Nicholson Robert	1909-11	18	2
Graeme Atherton	1970	2		Niebling Trevor	1953-69	9	
Doug Stapleton	1970	5		O'Donnell Claude	1919-22	12	4
Greg Veivers	1970-78	19	6	Pegg Len	1945-49	13	2
Jim Murphy	1970-72	7	1	Pegg Reg	1945-49	8	
Wayne Bennett	1972-73	9		Phelan Chris	1981-84	7	
Gary Dobrich	1972	2		Platz Lew	1973-77	9	6
John Grant	1972-73	6	3	Rasmussen Elton	1959-68	15	15
Lew Platz	1973-77	9	6	Rousell George	1909-12	5	
Ray Higgs	1974-77	2	9	Salter John	1977	1	
John Salter	1977	1		Sargood Jack	1913	1	
Darryl Van de Velde	1977	1		Schatz August	1911-12	5	
Norm Carr	1979-82	13		Scott Tony	1965-70	5	
Bruce Astill	1979-83	2		Sigley Jim	1919-24	7	
Mal Meninga	1979-94	43	46	Smith Jason	1994-2000	16	16
Geoff Naylor	1980	2		Stapleton Doug	1970	5	
Marshall Colwell	1981	1		Stapleton Jack	1933-40	4	
Mitch Brennan	1981-83	6		Tessmann Brad	1983-87	9	1
Chris Phelan	1981-84	7		Thompson Alan	1949-51	12	3
Wayne Challis	1982	2		Tronc Scott	1988	1	
Bob Kellaway	1982	3		Tyquin Bill	1945-49	12	6
Dave Brown	1983-86	12	5	Tyquin Tom	1953-57	16	6
Brad Tessmann	1983-87	9	1	Van de Velde Darryl	1977	1	
Eddie Muller	1984	1		Veivers Greg	1970-78	19	6
Bob Lindner	1984-93	27	23	Veivers Jack	1953	5	
Gary Belcher	1986-91	16	15	Veivers Michael	1961-66	14	6
Peter Jackson	1986-91	16	9	Verrenkamp Ted	1946-47	6	
Scott Tronc	1988	1		Wall Benny	1964	3	
Jason Smith	1994-2000	16	16	Wilson C.	1913	1	



**STATISTICS**

**Queensland Residents Representatives:**

Michael Davis  
Peter Deaves  
Craig Grauf  
Brent Vincent  
Chris Hastings  
Chris White  
Tahi Reihana  
Jace Van Dijk  
Brandon Costin  
Kyle Lodge  
Brett Kelly  
Cy Lasscock  
Lewis Balcomb  
Daniel Joyce  
Phil Dennis  
James Stuart  
Joel Thompson  
Brad Cross  
Kieran Whalley  
David Milne  
Travis Waddell  
Mathew Pittman  
Luke Scott



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