

How Sweet it is!

The buzz around town following the QR Reds great win over the Sharks was sensational. I felt particularly pleased for Phil Mooney and his staff as their team finally produced the goods!

Coming back from a very unlucky loss to the Waratahs a week earlier with this win was truly inspiring.

With Van Humphries and James Horwill back for the Chiefs this weekend, Reds fans can't wait. I seem to recall a similar feeling before the Brumbies last year - although I'm sure this team will not make that mistake again.

Feedback from the State Cup has been great, with our Country teams enjoying and learning from exposure to Brisbane's Premier teams.

Whilst it's an expensive exercise, the Board believes it's vital for the development of Country players in particular and an important expansion of the pathway for talented players needing exposure.

Congratulations to Norths on their pre season game against famous Sydney club, Randwick. Not only did they secure an impressive victory but they attracted a sizable crowd as well – testimony to a creative and energetic bunch of volunteer administrators.

The ARU Annual General Meeting is on this week and your Board is keen for details on the planned expansion of the Investec Super 14. More home games for the Reds and a new television package are vital for the game.

The Sydney press have interpreted our nomination of Dick McGruther for Presidency as political. In fact, our motivation is to beef up the ARU's expertise to deal with the vital issues looming.

Whilst the President can't vote, he or she can attend all board meetings and be heard. Dick's relevant experience and acumen compared to his rival's is a "no brainer".

Let's hope the secret ballot produces a sensible outcome in the interests of the game.

All of us at Queensland Rugby were saddened to hear of the passing of Kevin Hodda, former Queensland and Australian player, former QRU Treasurer and a QRU Life Member.

The Reds will be wearing black arm bands in the match against the Chiefs on Saturday as a mark of respect.

Finally, I can't finish without mentioning Easts' fantastic win over Sydney University to claim the Australian Club Championship. To come back from 26-0 down at half time against this quality opposition is truly inspirational.

Congratulations to all involved.

Warm regards

Peter Lewis
Chairman



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