

DIEHARD DIGEST

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FORTITUDE VALLEY RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB - April 2021 VOL 5 - ISSUE 5



Men's BRL A Grade team after jersey presentations at the 2021 season launch

Valleys Rugby League BRL and BHP Season Launch

On Wednesday, April 7, Valleys Rugby League Club held an event for sponsors and players of the club to launch the 2021 BRL and BHP Premiership seasons.

Players from our senior men's and senior women's teams were present, as were numerous sponsors.

Committee members showed the sponsors around the club while

outlining some of Valleys' history. Sponsors were able to see the senior men and women teams training before jerseys were presented to the BRL A Grade and BHP Premiership teams prior to this weekend's round One matches.

Both team captains and coaches thanked the sponsors who through their generous support provide our wonderful club the chance to compete in these competitions.



Women's BHP Premiership team after jersey presentations at the 2021 season launch

Junior update

Our Under 15 and Under 16 teams get their seasons underway on the weekend of April 16-18.

All of our other teams from Under 6 through to Under 12 are scheduled to begin their seasons on the weekend of April 30-May 2. No draws have been created for these competitions as the Digest goes to print. We will share them once they are published.



Team Staffing

Last month we outlined what a fully staffed Junior Rugby League team looked like.

This is a reminder for all parents that our teams cannot participate without the following roles being undertaken by volunteers.

Coach: The General. The leader of the onfield team.

Manager: The Manager looks after the administrative details of the team and helps to manage the other off field positions.

Duty Officials: Each team needs to have two duty officials for all home games and one duty official at away games.

League Safe trainer: All teams must have a League Safe Sports Trainer.

League First Responder: All teams must have a person dedicated to administering first aid should it be required.

There are courses to be completed for anyone wishing to take on one of these roles.



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Ball Persons Required



With matches for our Under 20s, BRL Reserve and A Grade and our BHPP teams at Emerson Park this weekend, we are in a perfect position to see if we can secure ball boys or ball girls for our senior teams.

As we have a few Ball Boys for the BRL A Grade team already, our hope is to engage between 2 and 4 young Valleys people to act as ball persons for the BRL Reserve Grade, for the BRL Under 20s and our BHP Premiership team. The aim of the club is to have the same people involved with the same team each weekend. We also hope to have Ball Girls for the BHPP Team. Valleys Junior players are preferred, but anyone from a Valleys family will be welcomed.

Contact the club secretary if you are interested.

secretary@valleysrugbyleague.com

The Valleys Diehards' Community thanks all of our generous sponsors for 2021

Senior Matches this weekend, April 17

VALLEYS DIEHARDS

SATURDAY 17TH APRIL
EMERSON PARK

VALLEYS DIEHARDS
VS
WEST BRISBANE PANTHERS

MAL MENINGA CUP
12 NOON

BRL U20's
1.30 pm

BHP PREMIERSHIP
3 pm

BRL RESERVE GRADE
4.30 pm

BRL A-GRADE
6 pm

EMERSON PARK

THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN ROYAL BLUE

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Duty Officials Required for this Saturday.

Contact the club to volunteer

secretary@valleysrugbyleague.com

WOMEN'S UPDATE



Player Profile

Kody House: Kodes is a rep player who has come to Valleys to finish her career wearing the same jersey that her dad wore in the 1980s. Having played a little Rugby Union and Gridiron, Kody House moved to Rugby League and after being selected in the Qld Development squad in 2014. She was part of the Qld squad from 2015-18. She was selected in the Jillaroos squad in 2014 and debuted for the Jillaroos at the Auckland 9s in 2017. After playing for the Broncos in 2018, Kody is keen to have a crack and get back into the rep game in 2021.

On April 10, Valleys BHP Premiership team travelled to Cairns for the first BHP Premiership fixture of 2021 against the North Qld Gold Stars winning 18-14.

It will be exciting to be able to see the BHPP team play their first home game as part of their premiership campaign. They will be at home against West Brisbane Panthers on April 17. That will be a big weekend for all the Diehard senior teams.

SENIOR UPDATE

Our senior Men's BRL A Grade, Reserve Grade and Under 20s all began their Premiership tilts on Saturday, April 10 at Balmoral against Bulimba with Reserves and Under 20s both winning. The Open Men's Northside team also began their season this weekend against Samford but finished with a loss. All of our senior men's teams will be playing at home the following week. Northside Open team will play on Friday night against Normanby while the BRL teams will take on Wests Brisbane Panthers on Saturday, 17th April.

Senior Men's Player Profile

Michael McGrath has been signed to play BRL. He has recently been playing at Norths where he was a member of their 2020 Qld Cup squad. But Michael is, in effect, a Valleys product.

He played junior footy here, at Valleys, and his family has a steeped connection to the club. Michael's grandfather is Michael McCabe. Most Valleys fans will know the McCabe name and Michael is excited by the opportunity to delve into the Valleys tradition again and hopefully play A grade for the whole season.



HERITAGE CORNER

In our Heritage Corner each month Diehard Digest will share a short story or two about some of our illustrious players from the past. **Here's one from 50 years ago.**

After securing the Minor Premiership in 1971, Valleys had to play Souths in the Major Semi Final. In a game that was hotly contested, neither team could gain dominance in the forwards and the scores remained tight with Souths up 3-2 as the game neared halftime.

Valleys hooker, Hugh O'Doherty, found a break in the otherwise solid South's defence and he took on South's fullback, Tony Scott, beat him and scored between the posts. Norm Clarke converted and Valleys went to the break 7-3 in front.

Moments later, Souths second rower, Greg Veivers limped from the field with a leg injury and just after half time, he was joined by Souths' Fijian import, Isoa Volavola who had scored Souths early try.

This gave Valleys' forwards an opportunity to get on top and they took it to maintain a winning edge and after both teams traded a converted try in the second half, Valleys ran out 12-8 winners and booked themselves a spot in the 1971 Grand Final.

Easts won their way through to the Grand Final after beating Souths in the Preliminary Final. After just three minutes of the hugely anticipated 1971 Grand Final, Easts hooker John Lang ran down the blindside, made a 30m break and kicked infield for Jeff Denman to open the scoring.

Moments later, Gerry Fitzpatrick put on a piece of deceptive running and put Darryl Abraham away for a try in the corner.



Mick Retchless scoring the winning try of the 1971 Grand Final. Scanlan and Retchless then went to work to set up Mike Norris on the opposite side of the field and Boris Crassini stood in a tackle to pop a short pass to Alan Currie and after a couple of successful goals the teams went into half time at 10-all.

Valleys coach, Henry Holloway, believed Valleys' forwards would eventually get on top and his halves would be a little stronger. In the end, the Valleys' forwards tackled everything that Easts threw at them and Valleys' halves, Marty Scanlan and Ross Threlfo set up a break and Retchless scored from dummy half. Valleys poured on the pressure and won 18-10.

