

DIEHARD DIGEST

AVC
1908

FORTITUDE VALLEY RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB - May 2021 VOL 5 - ISSUE 6



Valleys Diehards Juniors have kicked off



Although our Under 15s and 16s have been playing for a few weeks now, the bulk of our junior teams from Under 6 through to Under 12 began their seasons proper on May 2nd in a big day of junior football at Emerson Park with most teams playing Wests Mitchelton.

After a weekend of away games for those younger teams, they will return to Emerson Park on May 16 for another full round of home games.

Don't forget that each team must be fully staffed to legally take part in competition

and the club would love it if a few adults from each team were able to stay around after their games to help out with odd tasks around the ground while we host so many games.

Staying around for 45 mins to an hour after your game helps enormously when the loads are shared.

There are tasks aplenty that can be undertaken. Why not sign up for the "match day sub-committee" via the link below?

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJilzgkLHy50EirT6VF9PhEs7Vdy>



Thanks to all our mums



Happy Belated Mothers' Day

No junior sports team or club can exist without the support of the mothering figures of their players. Valleys is no different. So from all of us, here, at Valleys, we say

THANK YOU!

to all of our "Mums".



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.

Touch Judge/s: A role that can be rotated, but volunteers need to complete an online course.

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.





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

Senior Matches this weekend, May 15

VALLEYS DIEHARDS

SATURDAY 15TH MAY

BRL U20's
VALLEYS VS NORMANBY
12 noon

BRL RESERVE GRADE
VALLEYS VS NORMANBY
1.30pm

3PM
VALLEYS DIEHARDS VS NORMANBY HOUNDS

4.45PM
VALLEYS DIEHARDS VS BRISBANE TIGERS

OPENS 2
VALLEYS VS WESTS ARANA
6.15pm

Stafford

adenbrook homes

SCOTCH & SODA

ELEVATE

LOCO

EMERSON PARK

THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN ROYAL BLUE

With matches for our Northside 2, Under 20s, BRL Reserve and A Grade and our BHP teams at Emerson Park this coming weekend (May 15), we are in a perfect position to see just what our sponsors do for our club. Their generosity helps us to put these teams on the field each and every week. We thank them greatly for their support.

Can you help out?

You certainly can.

We have a small, committed club committee and a few regular helpers who set up, act as duty officials during games and pack up after matches are complete. This coming weekend, they will back up for junior matches on the Sunday as well.

If you have some time to give to the club this weekend, either before or after your game, please send a message to the committee via

diehards@valleysrugbyleague.com

And let us know with what you can help and when you can help.

**Duty Officials
Required for this
Saturday, May 15.**

**Contact the club to
volunteer**

secretary@valleysrugbyleague.com

WOMEN'S UPDATE



Player Profile

Caitlyn Taleni: “Kaka” is living in Brisbane after growing up in South Auckland. Her older brother played for the Waikato Chiefs in Super Rugby and is now playing in Japan, but this product of family clubs Otahuhu Leopards and Manukau Magpies has a desire to play Rugby League for the Kiwi Ferns.

Caitlyn has come to Valleys from Wests Panthers where she debuted, but the lure of playing under Scott Prince brought her across town to the royal blue and she wants to be part of our history and surpass her limits set in 2019.

Valleys BHP Premiership team is approaching semi finals. After five wins and zero losses so far in the season they only have a couple of games to play against Easts this week at Emerson Park at 3:00pm and an end of season match against Burleigh Bears at CBUS Super Stadium on May 22 as a curtain raiser to the Titans v Bulldogs NRL clash.

After that it will be semi finals. Fingers crossed the Valleys BHP Premiership team continues their good form through these remaining rounds and into the semi finals.

Senior Men's Player Profile

Jared “Chez” Cherry was born and bred in Redcliffe. His dad and his uncles all played footy in Roma before coming over to Brisbane and making a name for themselves at the Redcliffe Dolphins.

Chez has played most of his life at Redcliffe before a season at Sunshine Coast Falcons. He linked up with coach Nathan at Beerwah and followed him to Valleys. Jared likes to box in his off season to keep fit but playing footy is his first love and playing for a club as steeped in history as the Diehards has him excited about 2021.

SENIOR UPDATE

Our senior Men's BRL A Grade, Reserve Grade and Under 20s and our Northside 2 team all play at Emerson Park on May 15. The following week the Northside 2 team will play at Brighton, while the BRL A grade reserves and Under 20s will all play at Wynnum-Manly.

Our Open Men's team has shared wins and losses and will be looking to get back into the winning seat this weekend. Our BRL A Grade side will also be looking to get back into the winners' circle against Normanby this weekend.



HERITAGE CORNER

We're going to do something a little different this month. There are a number of Valleys' Premiership sides we can recognise, but this month we are going to recognise a couple of players.

On Saturday, May 8th 1909, in the very first game of Rugby League played by Valleys in the Brisbane competition, they were beaten by South Brisbane by 12-2. On the wing in that game was Norm McGregor. He was *"the best of the three quarters, and is very fast. He made one brilliant dash, and was only brought down close to the line."*

A week later, *"McGregor also played well, and showed plenty of dash and scored an excellent try."*

"McGregor was brilliant, extremely so. He would beat his opponents repeatedly and one one occasion, he ran right through the Toombuls."

But on 29th May, 1909, just three weeks later, Valleys had another McGregor in their team. This time it was Dugald (Dug) who had travelled South from the cane fields of Bundaberg. On the occasion of his debut match, *"he put up a magnificent game. His form was reminiscent of former Wallaby captain and fullback, Bob McCown."*

After just one game, Dug was selected at fullback with Norm on the wing in the probables team to play a possible combination as a selection trial for the Qld team that would play against New Zealand.

Both McGregors played well enough to be selected for Qld. Valleys 5/8 Harry Dickens and forward, Ern Cartmill were also selected in that team to play New Zealand and before the match went ahead, Bill Abrahams was also included as the halfback of that 1909 Qld team.

Dug McGregor, *"in his first big match had a large handful and was quite as good as one would have expected."*

Despite a loss to NZ when playing for Qld, Dug McGregor was selected to play for Australia, as the youngest Kangaroo selected at 19 years and 5 days. He impressed in their 12-5 win. At one point he ran from 25 to 25 dodging beautifully before

passing to a support player. It was also noted at the concluding stages that he was tackling brilliantly.

As that first year of Brisbane's Rugby League club competition continued, both Dug and Norm McGregor played brilliant football. In the semi final against Toombul, Dug, *"played without a blemish"*, while Norm *"was a star three-quarter."*

Later in the year Dug continued his selection in the Qld and Australian teams for matches against the NZ Maori.

Then, on Saturday, 4th September at the Brisbane Cricket Ground, Valleys were to play South Brisbane in the Grand Final. With Souths on top early and leading 4-0 after a couple of successful penalty goals, Valleys fullback, Dug McGregor, was the first to crack the Souths defensive line and after a superb run, scored the first try of the game. Valleys went on to win that first Premiership by 22-4.

In 1910 McGregor continued his stellar form for Valleys and played for Qld and Australia. In 1911, he was lured to North Brisbane with a number of other high profile representative players in an effort by North Brisbane to secure a Premiership. It was to no avail as Valleys, playing as Valley/Toombul, won the 1911 Premiership.

During 1911, it was widely reported that Dug McGregor had been the form fullback in the country and his selection for the Kangaroo Tour to England was assured. In fact, no Qld players were selected to tour England in 1911.

This may have soured McGregor's feelings for the game as he did not play in 1912 or beyond and his scintillating attack and brilliant defence was no longer seen on the fields of Brisbane's Rugby League competition. Instead, McGregor went South to Sydney, where he played the next three seasons for Glebe's Dirty Reds, also representing NSW in 1912.

All up, in just 6 years of football, Dug McGregor played 2 games for Brisbane, 13 games for Qld, 5 for NSW and 4 matches for Australia. There are numerous mentions of Dugald McGregor in the newspapers of the day and he was certainly a champion, who excelled, gracing the fields of Brisbane's top Rugby League competition for that short period of time. A champion Diehard!