

Their fourth coach in as many seasons, a much greater awareness of the need for more social activities and a determination to avenge the previous season's failures - these were the significant points in the Sub-District .

After six years without its own constitution the Club finally formulated and accepted its own constitution at the Annual General Meeting convened prior to the season. This situation had been brought about when the Club's bank had advised them that its assets had reached such a level as required it by Law to register a copy of the Club's constitution with the Bank itself. Prior to this directive the Club had operated loosely within the terms of the Merrylands Junior Rugby Union Club constitution.

The committee elected at that same Annual General Meeting also undertook to make the Club more attractive to prospective members by organising and ensuring that social activities were more frequent and of greater diversity with the Club's first cabaret being staged, its first annual car trial being arranged, beach outings and picnics organised and an increase in the number of barbecues being made.

The Club also purchased and had printed its own distinctive Club tee shirts and also made a more concerted effort to secure a home ground by continued negotiations with Holroyd Council.

Dave Minett was appointed coach of the side while Col Voss, returning to the Club for the first time since 1969, captained the team which had been graded in the Walker Cup for the season.

New players to join the team that season included John Sainsbury, Mick McCabe, John Marsden, Chris Hughes, Kevin Stanley, Warren Stanley, John Pearson, Bill Bowie and Geoff Brennan.

After winning two of their three trial matches, the team began rather indifferently in the competition and after six matches had won only one game and drawn another to be well down in the competition table. The turning point came in the seventh match with a 38-0 victory over Waverly with nine tries being scored in the process and this was

followed one week later by a 7-3 win over the previously undefeated competition leaders Armenians.

Merrylands was to record only one other loss from that point until the semi-finals with a 13-3 second round defeat at the hands of Wanderers who had also won the first round clash 7-0, yet this same side curiously failed to make the semi-finals.

Merrylands finished the competition rounds with ten wins, one draw and five losses to total 21 points and come in second place behind Oatley on the South Harbour.

WALKER CUP - 1974

<u>SOUTH HARBOUR</u>		<u>NORTH HARBOUR</u>	
Oatley	29	Armenians	28
Merrylands	21	Narrabeen	22
Seven Hills	18	Forest	17
Wanderers	16	S.W.Y.C.	13
Scots Old Boys	11	Waverly	7
C.B.C. Bank	10	Bye	

In the semi-finals Merrylands opposed Seven Hills and after defeating them 15-10 and 15-9 in their previous meetings won a tight match 10-3 with John Pearson and Ian Warby scoring tries. The following week Merrylands met Oatley in the final and were to bow out of Premiership contention with a 6-0 loss, Oatley scoring a try late in the game to secure the win.

The team that represented Merrylands that day was :-

M. WHITTAKER, C. HUGHES, B. GOFF, J. CHAPMAN,  
I. PERSIC, D. TAYLOR, I. WARBY, W. STANLEY,  
C. FALZON, J. PEARSON, J. MURPHY, C. VOSS,  
J. McCABE, M. McCABE, B. BOWIE.

Some weeks later the Club undertook its end of season trip to Coffs Harbour and the season ended with the Annual Presentation night at Parramatta Bowling Club at which best and fairest trophies were awarded to Ian Warby, John Chapman and Charlie Falzon, while all players received a specially embroidered Club tie. In its second year the

Rodney Osborne Memorial Trophy was awarded to Doug Taylor.

A special trophy was also presented to John Murphy who, after seven seasons, became the first player in the Club's history to appear in one hundred matches for the Club.

Throughout the season the Club scored 139 points while conceding 71 with John Chapman finishing the season as top try scorer with nine which also made him top point scorer with 36 points while Chris Hughes totalled 23 points from goals.

Merrylands were one of seventy eight clubs entering one hundred and seventy eight team in fifteen cups - Kentwell, Whiddon, Burke, Judd, Barraclough, Stockdale, Blunt, Richardson, McLean, Grose, Walker, Clark, Jeffrey, Noice and Farrant.

MERRYLANDS R.U.F.C. - 1974

Back Row : R. Sutton, C. Falzon, J. McCabe, J. Chapman, B. Goff,  
W. Bowie, P. Hiddlestone, J. Murphy, D. Minett (Coach),  
C. Voss, J. Marsden.

Front Row : C. Hughes, G. Brennan, J. Sainsbury, M. Whittaker,  
D. Taylor, I. Persic, I. Warby, O. McKay, K. Clayton,  
C. Campbell.

