

Chairman's Letter from Ballymore

April 8, 2009

It's not over till it's over!

Half way through the Investec Super 14 tournament and we have suffered two significant losses in a row - one at the hands of a huge, in form Chiefs and the other we'd rather forget against the Western Force.

So the focus now is on how James Horwill and his team respond. What are they made of?

The OR Reds have shown us, against the Sharks, what they can do and I'm sure the Highlanders are in for a tough night at the office this Saturday.

Like most I have been deeply moved by the tragic death of Shawn Mackay in South Africa.

Shawn was no stranger to Queensland Rugby and was liked by everyone. The story of his rise to play professional rugby at the Brumbies at 27 on a rookie contract is an inspiration to every player out there with a dream

Our thoughts are with his family and partner at this awful time. And, of course, with all of his many friends and team-mates.

The highlight of the recent ARU AGM was the election of Dick McGruther to the Vice Presidency.

It's nice to have Dick back "inside the tent" after a few years' rest. I know John O'Neill and his board and Management team will appreciate Dick's input.

It's great also to have club rugby back in full swing.

I watched GPS v University on the weekend and was very impressed with the crowd (and with both teams' halfbacks).

Early club results show we are in for another cracker season – so be sure to get out on a Saturday afternoon and support your team.

That goes for fans of country rugby too. The Hutchinson Builders Queensland Country Championships is building towards a finale and, while we don't yet know who the participants will be, the Final will be held in North Queensland on Sunday, April 26.

Whilst the Reds won't get a rest over Easter, I hope you do!

Till next time.

Peter Lewis

Chairman