

Chairman's Letter from Ballymore

June 16, 2009

Although the QR Reds season has come to a close, rugby fans continue to be spoilt for choice every Saturday with a feast of winter rugby upon us.

Premier Rugby is just beginning to heat up as a host of Reds rejoin their local clubs for the second half of what is shaping to be the most hotly contested season in years.

I saw first hand the quality of competition we can continue to expect after attending David Clark's testimonial lunch at GPS on Saturday. In a tough encounter worthy of the occasion, The Gallopers proved the race for the Hospital Cup is wide open by knocking off premiership leaders Brothers.

The day, however, was all about David Clark. As a kid, I remember watching him play at Normanby for the Reds, but it was the next 50 years where he became intimately involved in the development of rugby, both here and abroad, that he is most fondly renowned. Well done and congratulations David!

Winter's feast of rugby doesn't stop with Premier Rugby as various representative games and carnivals are played in conjunction with the schoolboy and club seasons over the coming months.

To top it off, we have the Wallabies in action and showing great promise for a wonderful season. It's great to see Berrick Barnes and James Horwill in great form and leading the way for Australia.

Speaking of the Reds, our contracting season is drawing to a close and for the first time in a long time, we have

retained the vast majority of our roster.

I am confident the current group can build on this year and I know the players are determined to prove the 'nay sayers' wrong.

In 2010, Queensland Rugby will be looking to attract new members to the prestigious '48/10 Club' following our end of season lunch and review a fortnight ago.

The Club has developed a real esprit de corps over the past three years and we're looking to expand the fun in the future. More details will be provided later in the year.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who threw their support behind the Ballymore Redevelopment as I'm told our letters of support to the council were five to one in our favour!

Our Development Application now goes before the council in the not too distant future, so please continue your support by calling or writing to your local councillor. As with your initial letter, do it now lest you forget!

You might also like to call your Federal member about Ballymore as we have never received a Federal Infrastructure Grant and Australia has won two Rugby World Cups!

Whilst I don't begrudge recent grants for Carrara (\$115m) and the Football World Cup (\$46m), our self-sustaining project will benefit the community and create upwards of 300 jobs.

Till next time,

Peter Lewis, Chairman