

Keith Almanac

2016

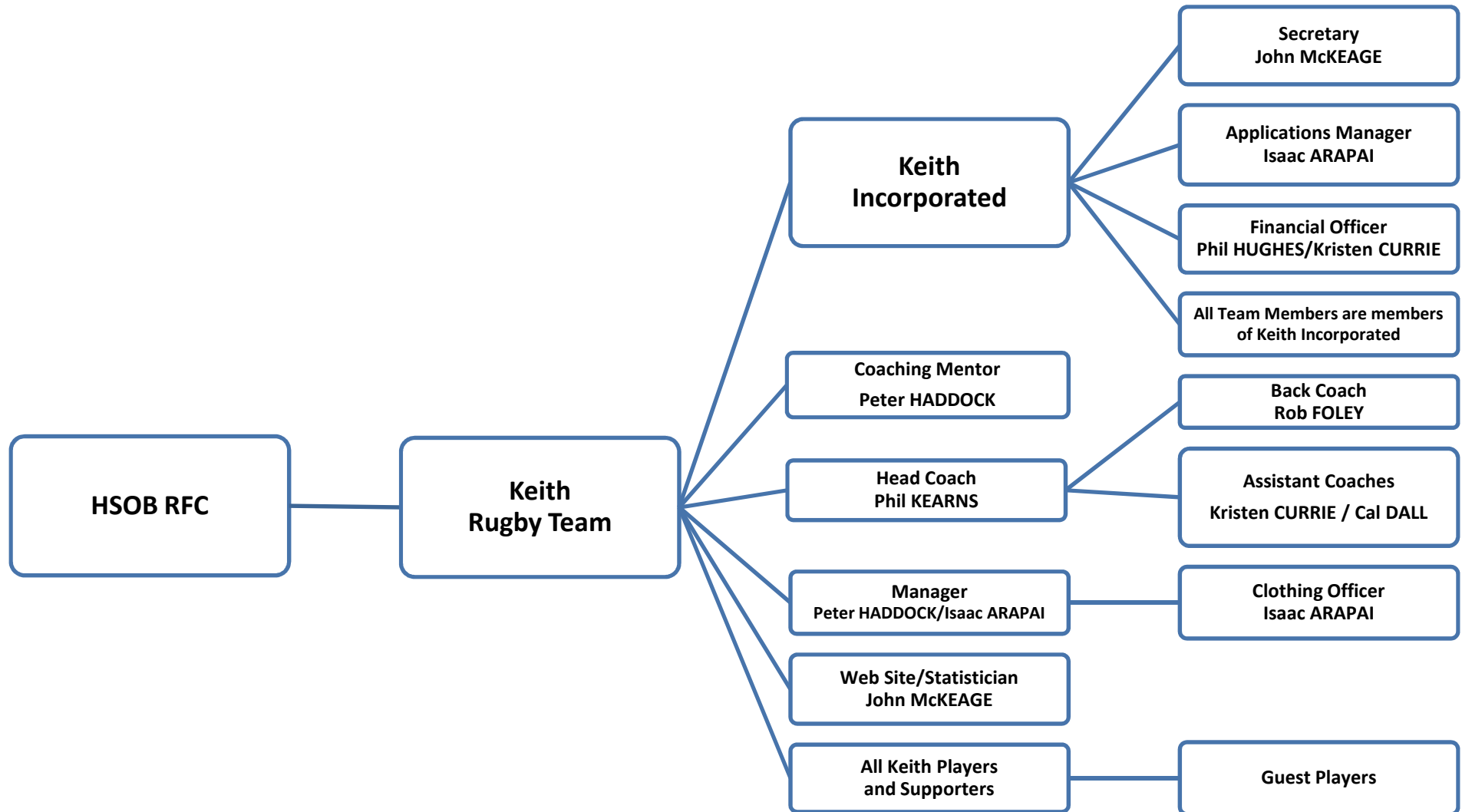
A review of the years' games with Player Information,
Scoring Positions, Match Reports and General Keith Statistics.

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2016 Team List

ARAPAI Isaac
BOLTON Nick
BOWMAN Callum
BREEN Damien
BREUKER Mike
BROWN Greg
BROWN Sam
CLARKE Thomas
COWAN Ian
CRICHTON Paul
CURRIE Kristen
DALL Calum
DALTON Sean
DONCLIFF Matt
FOLEY Rob
GIFFORD Simon
GRAVETT Colin
HALLINAN Bruce
HANDFORD Jared
HERRIOTT Stuart
HUGHES Phil

JOHNSTON Adam
JONES Steve
KEARNS Phil
KEELER Scott
KENNEDY Vincent
KOLO Sioeli
LANGI Emili
LAWSON Brendyn
LOCKWOOD Ian
LUXTON John
McLEOD Kyle
MOKE Darren
NABEKA Savenaga
O'CONNOR Alan
PERCY Nick
PICKEN Murray
POWER Richard
ROACH Louis
SEMIOLA Tito
SINCLAIR Ross
STEWART Chris

STRINGER Brad
TAUMAUNGA Otenili
TOUMOHUNI Ma'aivialoa
TOUTAIOLEPO Soane
TUPOU Tevita
VAN GROENEDAAL Mark
VOLDRICH Jan
WEBB Bevan
WILLIAMS Kevin

2016 Guest Players

BOLTON Tim
GEORGE-ALLEYNE Joseph
GRIEVE James
JOHNSON Josh
LEZANO Federico
RANKIN Stuart
SUMMERS Benji
TAYLOR Warwick

Team Management

Coach - Forwards
Phillip KEARNS

Coach - Backs
Rob FOLEY

Coaching Mentor
Peter HADDOCK

Coaching Assistants
Kristen CURRIE / Cal DALL

Manager
Peter HADDOCK / Isaac ARAPAI

Financial Controller
Kristen CURRIE / Phil HUGHES

Clothing Officer
Isaac ARAPAI

Statistician / Web Site Administrator
John McKEAGE

Keith Rugby Online

Keith Rugby Web Site keith.org.nz

Keith on FaceBook keithbook.info

Keith on Twitter keithtalk.info

Keith on YouTube keithtv.info

Keith on Instagram instakeith.info

Keith Touch keithtouch.com

Keith E-Mail rugby@keith.org.nz

2015 Sponsors

Air Rescue Services Trust - airrescueservices.co.nz

Bush Inn Hotel

PACE Project Management - pacepm.co.nz

ICS Manufacturing - icsman.co.nz

Southern Monograms - monograms.co.nz

Shocked Design Solutions - shocked.co.nz

Bealeys Speight's Ale House - bealeysalehouse.co.nz

Xtreme Joinery Ltd

2016 Sportsman of The Year Awards

Most Tries	John LUXTON (9)
Most Points by a Back	John LUXTON (45)
Most Points by a Forward	Sam BROWN (25) Sean DALTON (25)
Most Improved Back	Jared HANDFORD
Most Improved Forward	Damien BREEN
Most Keithly On/Off the Field	Bevan WEBB
New Boy of the Year	Sean DALTON
Hard Bastard of the Year	Adam JOHNSTON
Ladies Award for Player of the Year	John LUXTON
Longevity Award	Ian COWAN
Back of the Year	John LUXTON
Forward of the Year	Sam BROWN
James Graham Memorial Trophy	Sean DALTON
The Ashes	Kevin WILLIAMS & Jared HANDFORD
Keith of the Year	Isaac ARAPAI
HSOB Club Awards	
Most Valuable Player	Sean DALTON
Most Improved Player	Damien BREEN

Scores at a Glance

Date	versus	For	Against
02/4	Belfast	31	19
09/4	Linwood	24	19
16/4	Sumner	25	23
30/4	Christchurch	18	29
07/5	Sydenham	25	27
21/5	Shirley	17	7
28/5	Christchurch	24	12
11/6	Burnside	71	12
18/6	Sydenham	5	50
25/6	Linwood	38	19
02/7	Sumner	7	10
09/7	Belfast	5	52
16/7	Sydenham	7	21
23/7	Sumner	10	29
30/7	Belfast	5	48

For 312 Against 377

Margin -65

Scoring Statistics

Highest Score	71-12	v Burnside 11 th June
Lowest Score	5-52	v Belfast 9 th July *
Average Score	21-25	(22-19 Average from 2015)
Mean Score	18-21	(18-18 Mean from 2015)
Highest Margin	59	v Burnside 11 th June
Lowest Margin	-47	v Belfast 9 th July
Average Margin	-4.3	(2 Average from 2015)
Mean Margin	-2	(-2 Average from 2015)
Average Winning Margin	17	(23 Average from 2015)
Average Losing Margin	-23	(-11 Average from 2015)

* Two other matches also had similar scores
 5-50 v Sydenham 18th June
 5-48 v Belfast 30th July

Averages are rounded up or down to nearest whole number

Games Statistics

Scheduled	15
Played	15
Won	7
Lost	8
Drawn	0

Number of Tries	50
Number Players who Scored Tries	20
Average number Tries per Game	3.33

Number Conversions	25
Number Players who kicked Conversions	5
Average number Conversions per Game	1.66

Number Penalties / Dropped Goals	4
Number Players who kicked Penalties	2
Average number Penalties per Game	0.26

Total Number of Games Played (Career) for All Players (Excludes Guest Players)	3796
Average Total Number of Games Played (Career) for All Players (Excludes Guest Players)	76

Total Number of Points Scored (Career) for All Players (Excludes Guest Players)	4615
Average Total Number of Points Scored (Career) for All Players (Excludes Guest Players)	92

Number of Games

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>	<u>STARTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DALTON Sean	1	14	15
HALLINAN Bruce	2	13	15
LUXTON John	2	13	15
WEBB Bevan	2	13	15
BROWN Sam	0	13	13
CURRIE Kristen	0	13	13

Total Players Used

59 (including 9 Guest Players) (74 in 2015)

Average Players used per Game 25.5 (24 in 2015)

Most Players Used in a Single Game

30 v Burnside D4 11th June 2016

Players Age

Youngest Keith - Jan VOLDŘICH (21)

Oldest Keith - Simon GIFFORD (54)

Average age of Keiths in 2016 - 35 years, 6 months.

Points Breakdown

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tries</u>	<u>Conv</u>	<u>Pen</u>	<u>Points</u>
LUXTON J	9			45
CLARKE T	1	13	3	40
BROWN S	5			25
DALTON S	5			25
POWER R	3	4		23
PICKEN M	4			20
DALL C		6	1	15
HANDFORD J	3			15
JOHNSTON A	3			15
SINCLAIR R	3			15
GRAVETT C	2			10
KENNEDY V	2			10
WEBB B	2			10
BREEN D	1			5
CURRIE K	1			5
FOLEY R	1			5
GRIEVE J	1			5
KEELER S	1			5
MOKE D	1			5
SEMILOA T	1			5
SUMMERS B	1			5
O'CONNOR A		1		2
PERCY N		1		2
TOTAL	50	25	4	312

Most Valuable Player

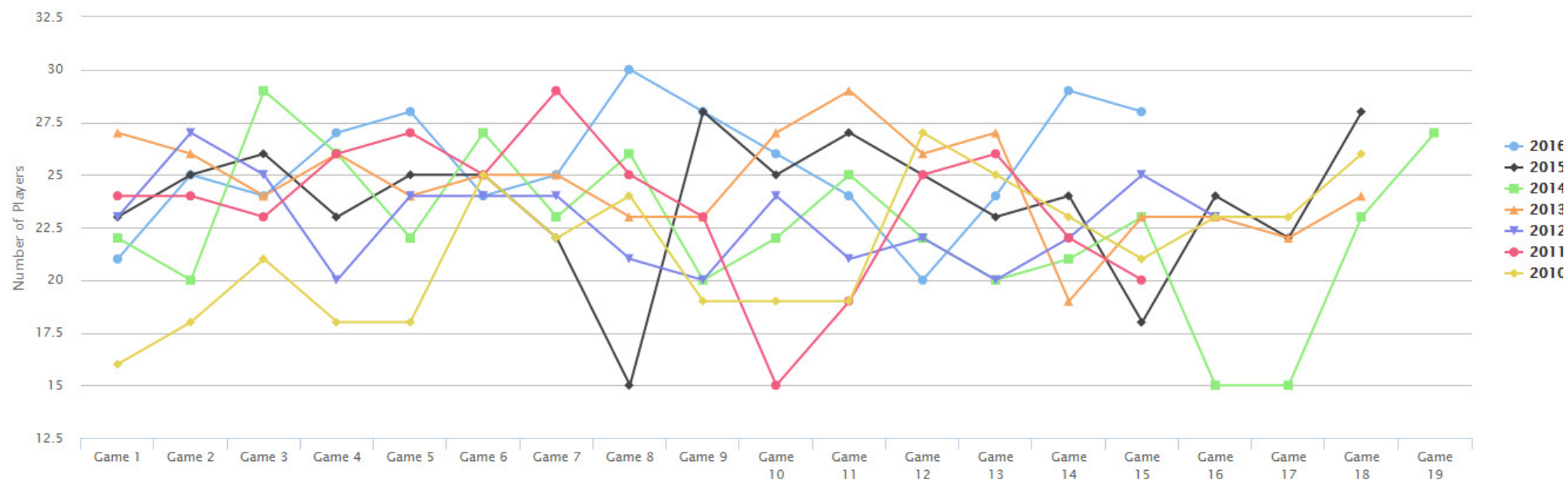
30 Jul Brad STRINGER & Colin GRAVETT
 23 Jul Ma'aivialoa TOUMOHUNI
 16 Jul Stuart HERRIOTT
 09 Jul Sam BROWN
 02 Jul Alan O'CONNOR
 25 Jun Damien BREEN
 18 Jun Thomas CLARKE
 11 Jun Bevan WEBB
 28 May Darren MOKE
 21 May Jared HANDFORD
 07 May Adam JOHNSTON
 30 Apr Vincent KENNEDY & Simon GIFFORD
 16 Apr Kevin WILLIAMS
 09 Apr Sean DALTON
 02 Apr Murray PICKEN

Sargentina Trophy

The Sargentina Trophy was retained by Christchurch on the 30th April 18-29, but then won by HSOB on the 28th May 24-12 who remain holders for the start of the 2017 season.

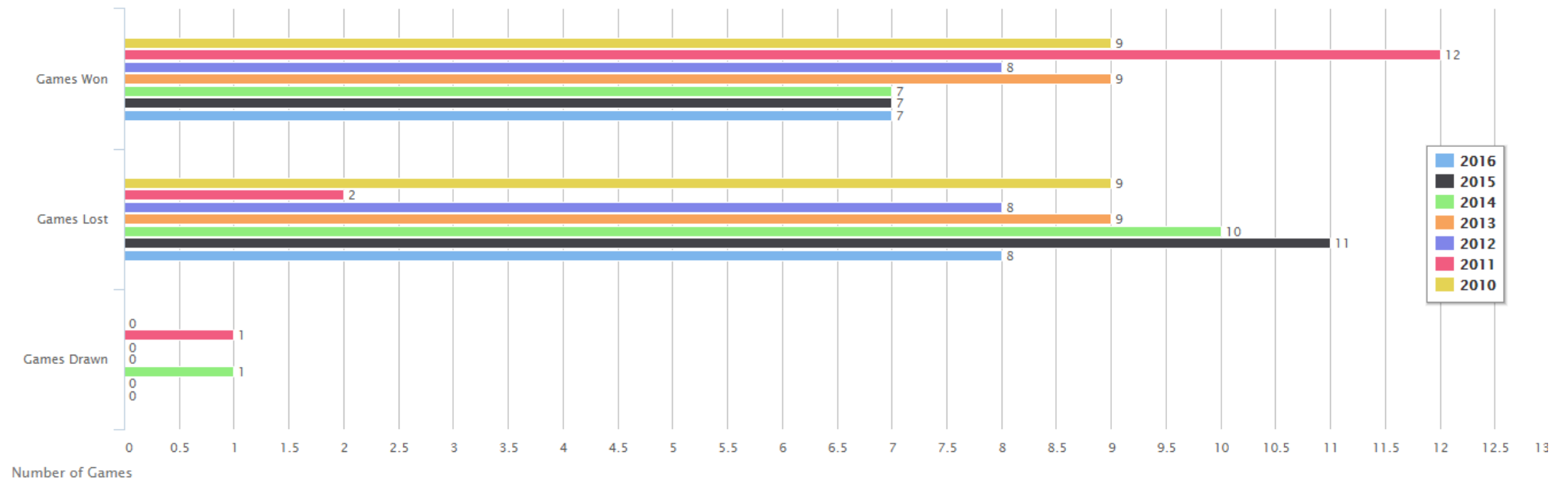
Players per Game 2010 - 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 - 2016
Correct as at 30th July 2016



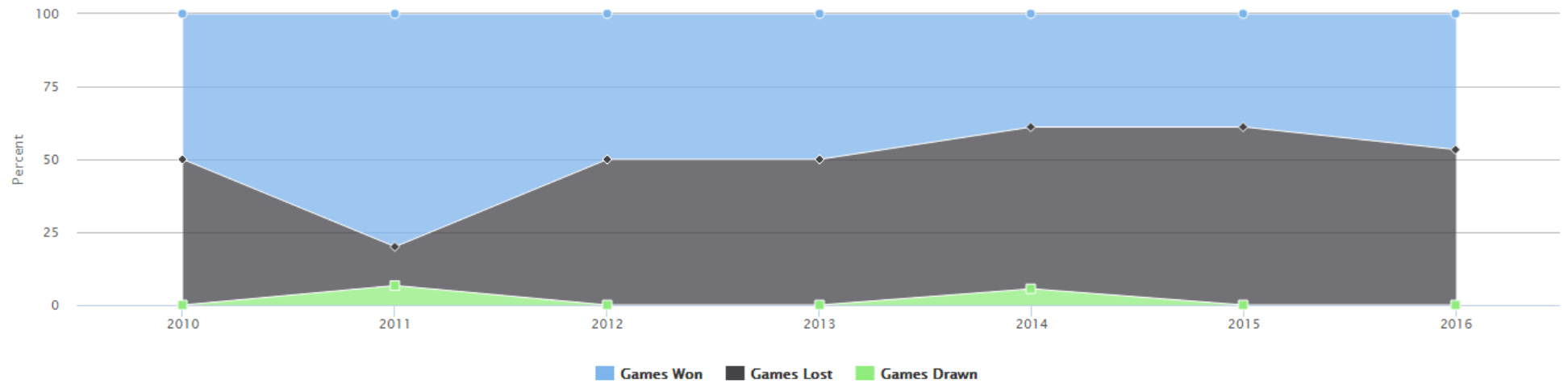
Keith Games Won – Lost – Drawn 2010 – 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016



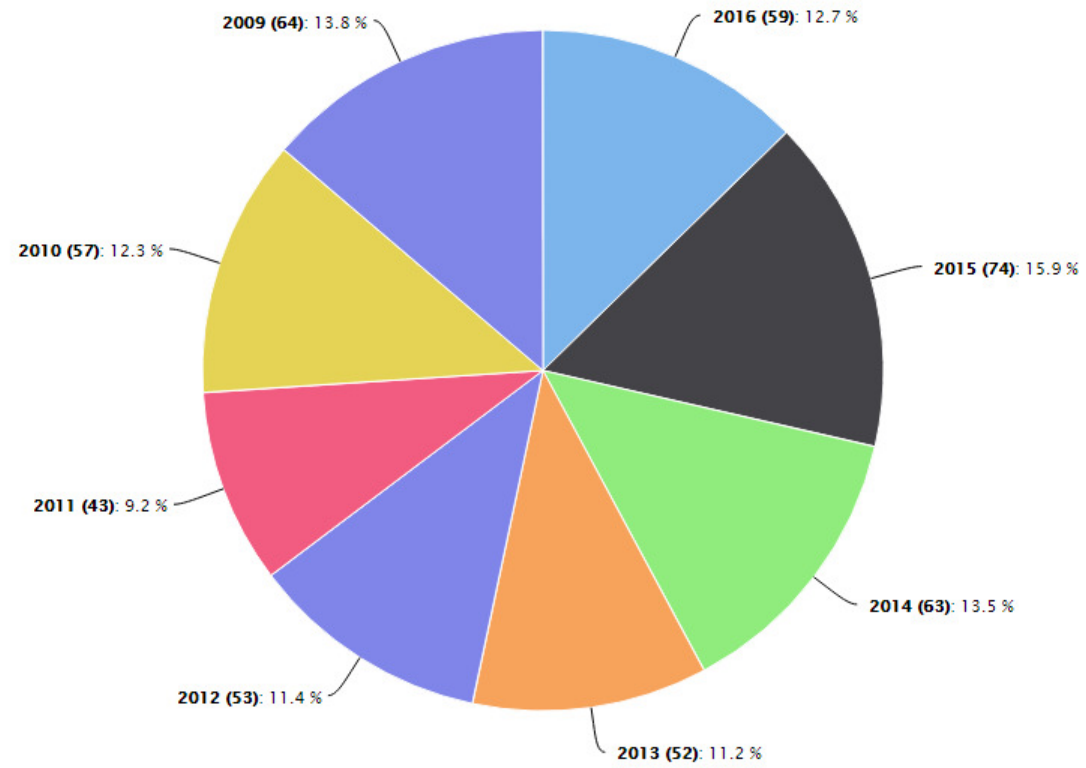
Keith Games Won - Lost - Drawn 2010 - 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 - 2016



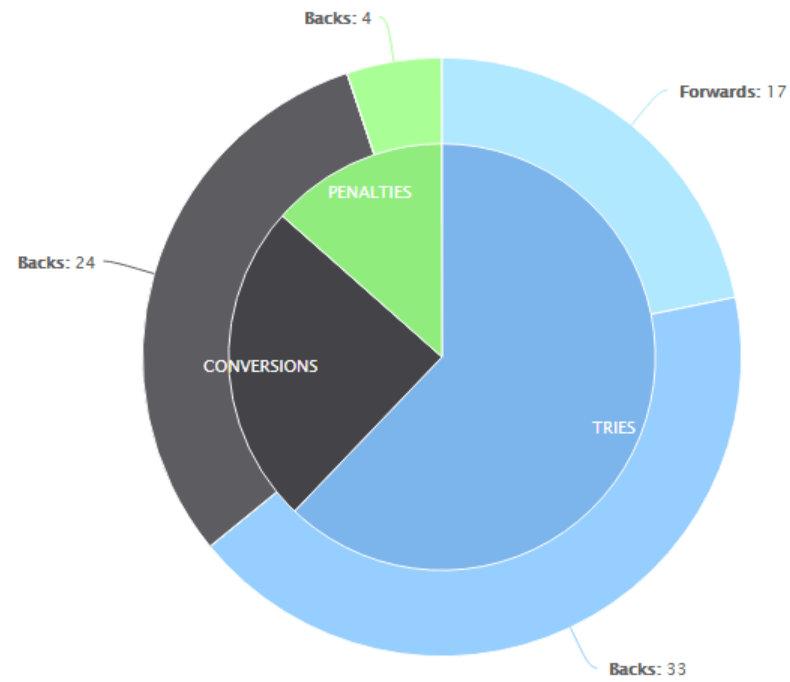
Players per Season 2009 – 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016



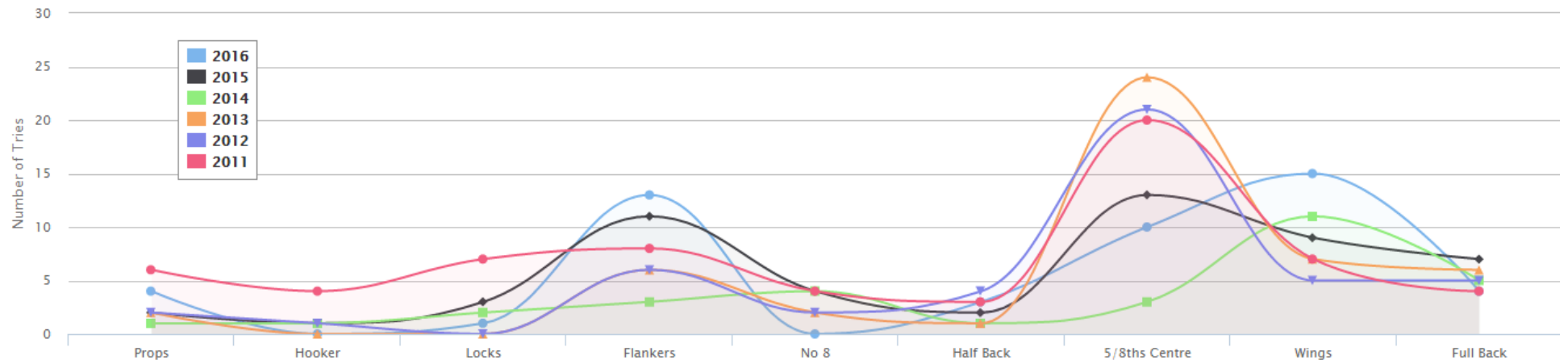
Scoring Breakdown by Player Type 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 - 2016



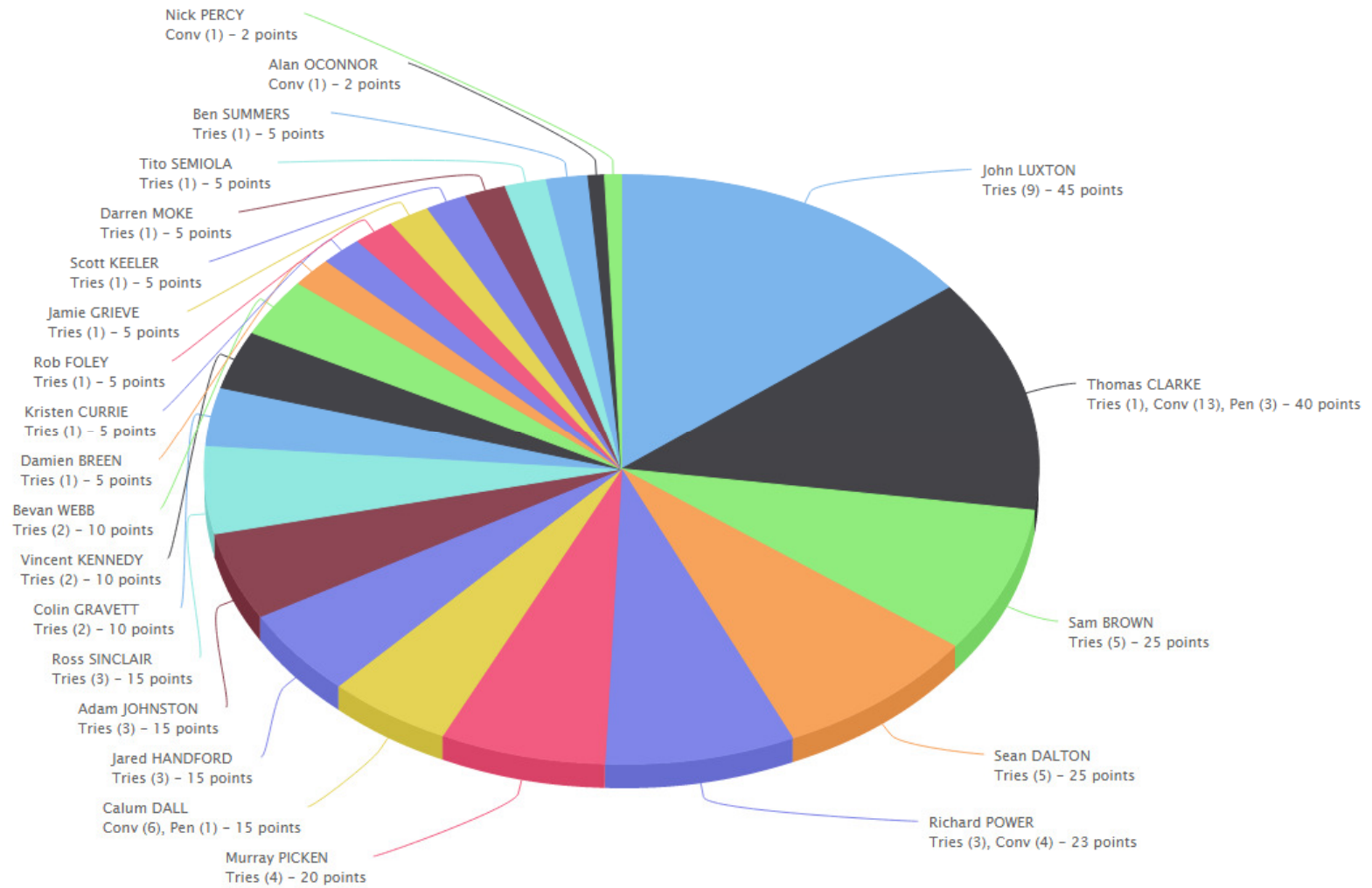
Number of Tries by Position

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016
Correct as at 30 July 2016



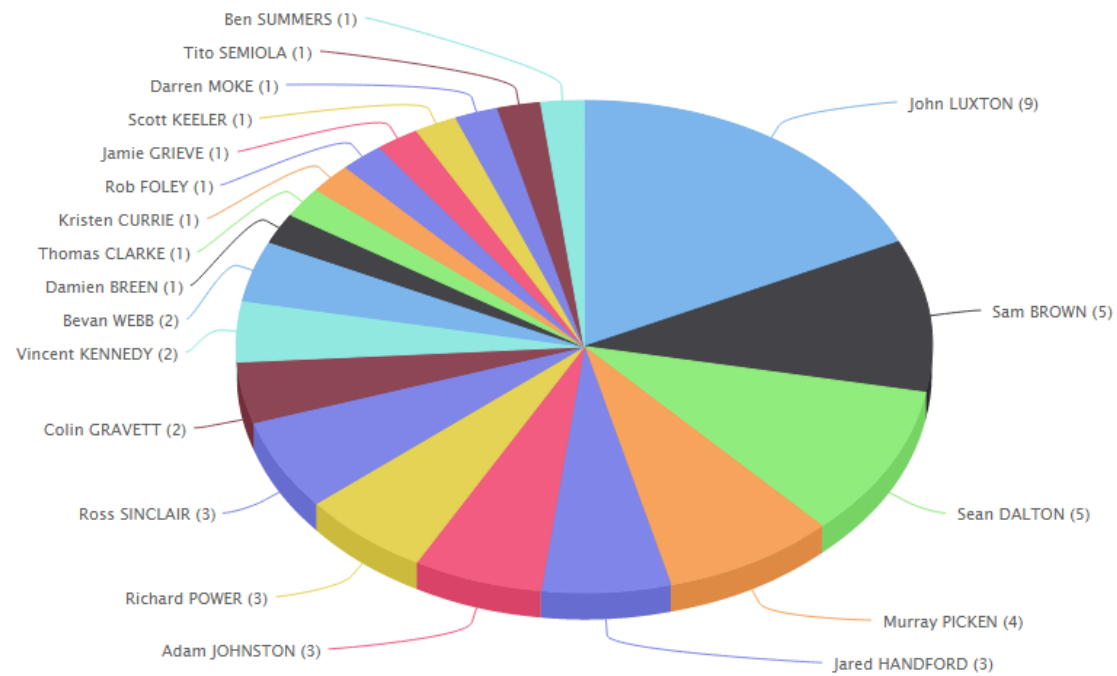
COMBINED POINTS SCORE 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016
Correct as at 30th July 2016



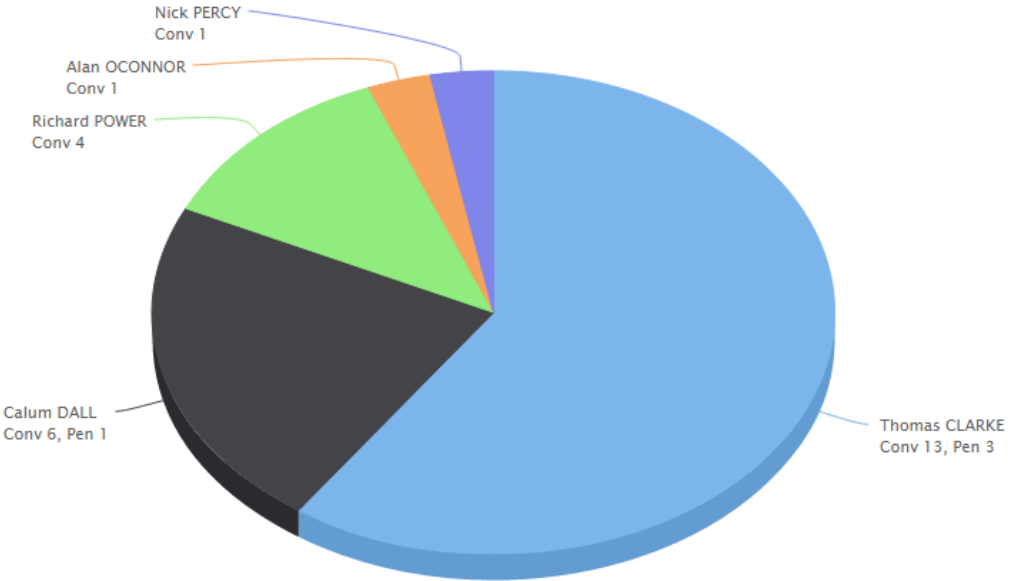
NUMBER OF KEITH TRIES 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016
Correct as at 30th July 2016



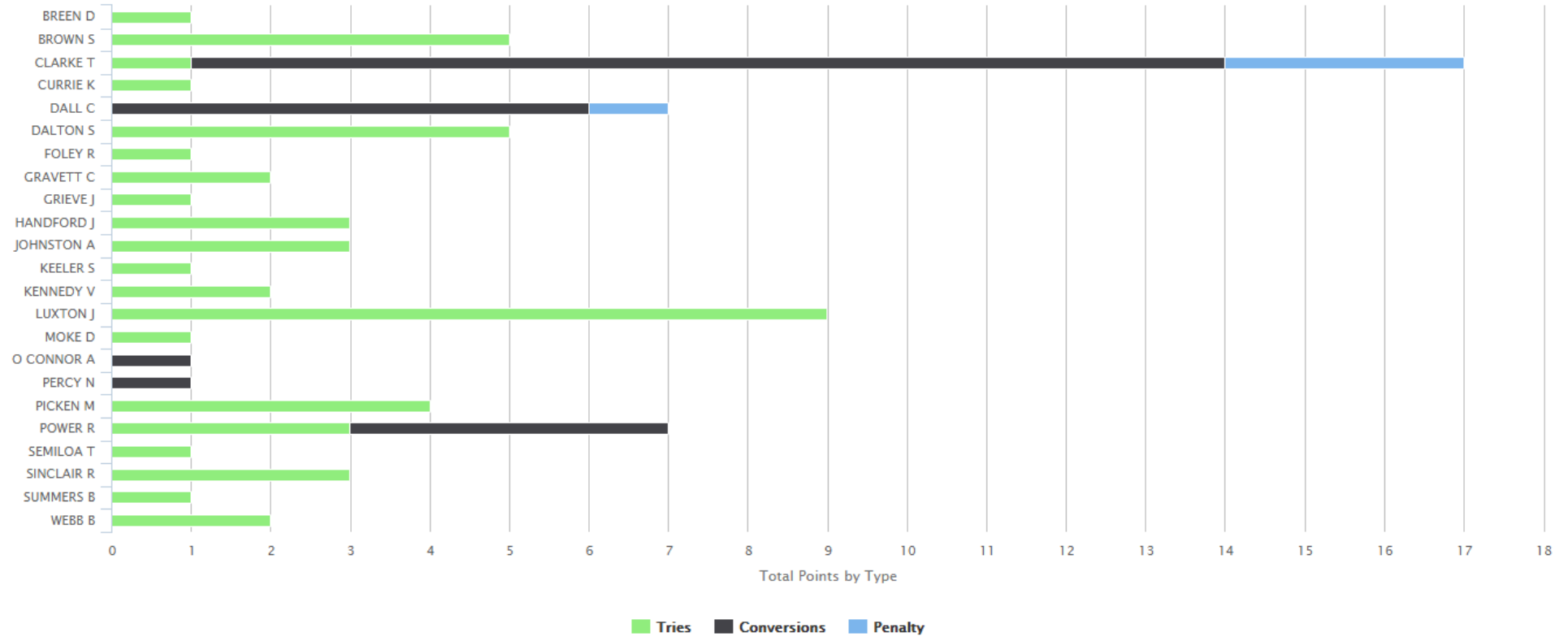
NUMBER OF KEITH CONVERSIONS/PENALTIES 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016
Correct as at 30th July 2016

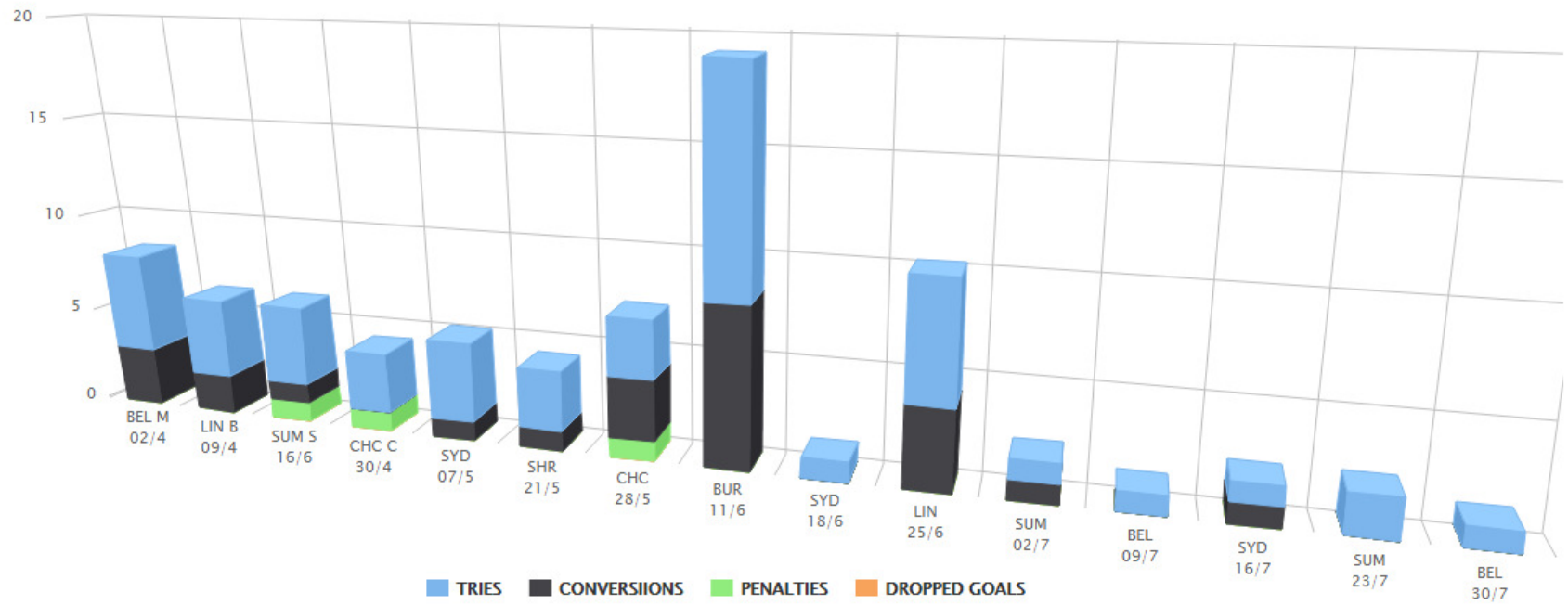


Number and Scoring Types per Player 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016
Correct as at 30th July 2016

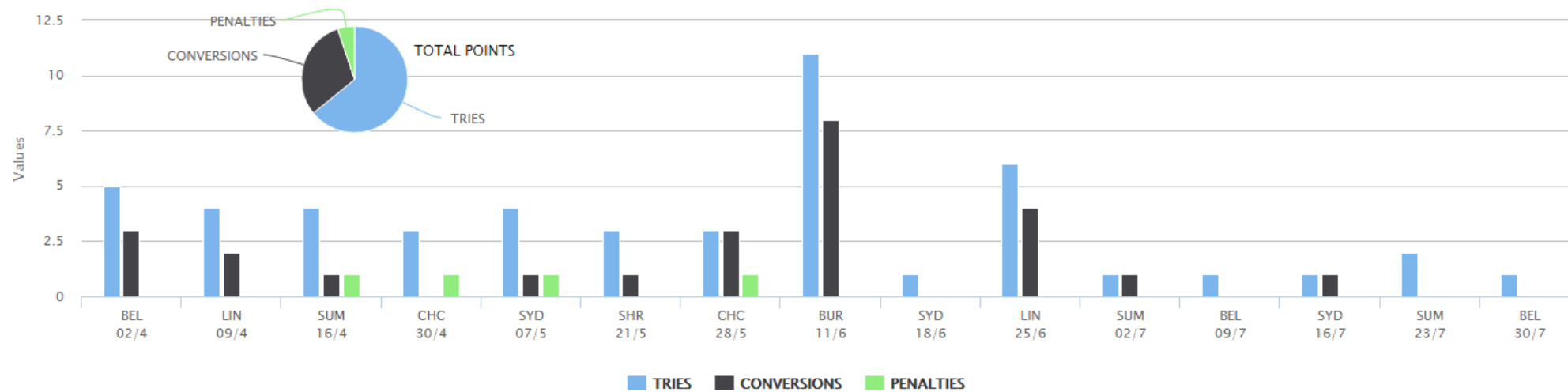


Points Breakdown per Game – 2016



Number Tries – Conversions – Penalties per Game 2016

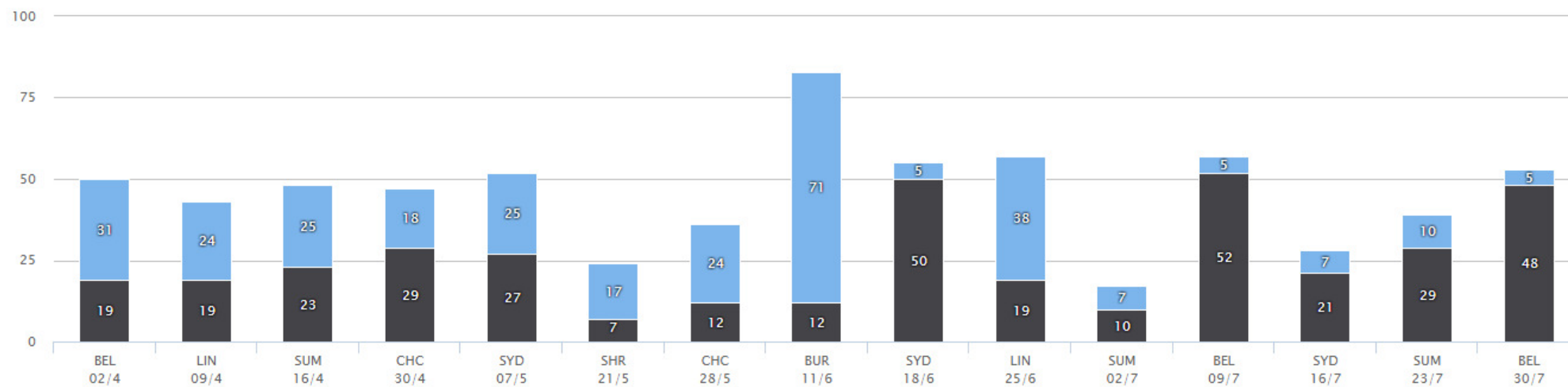
Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016



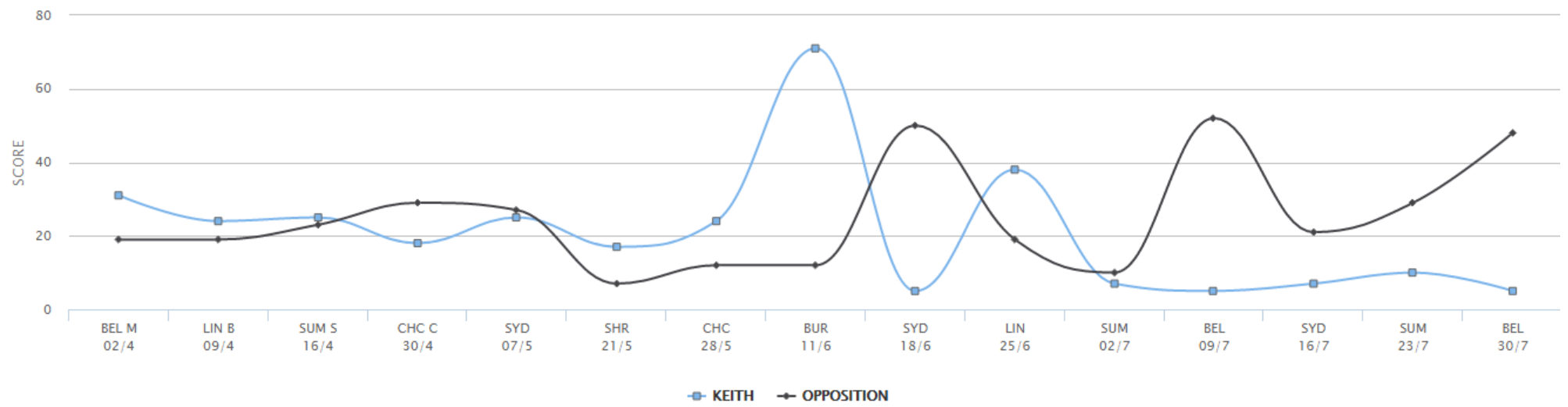
Final Scores 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016

Keith Score Opposition Score

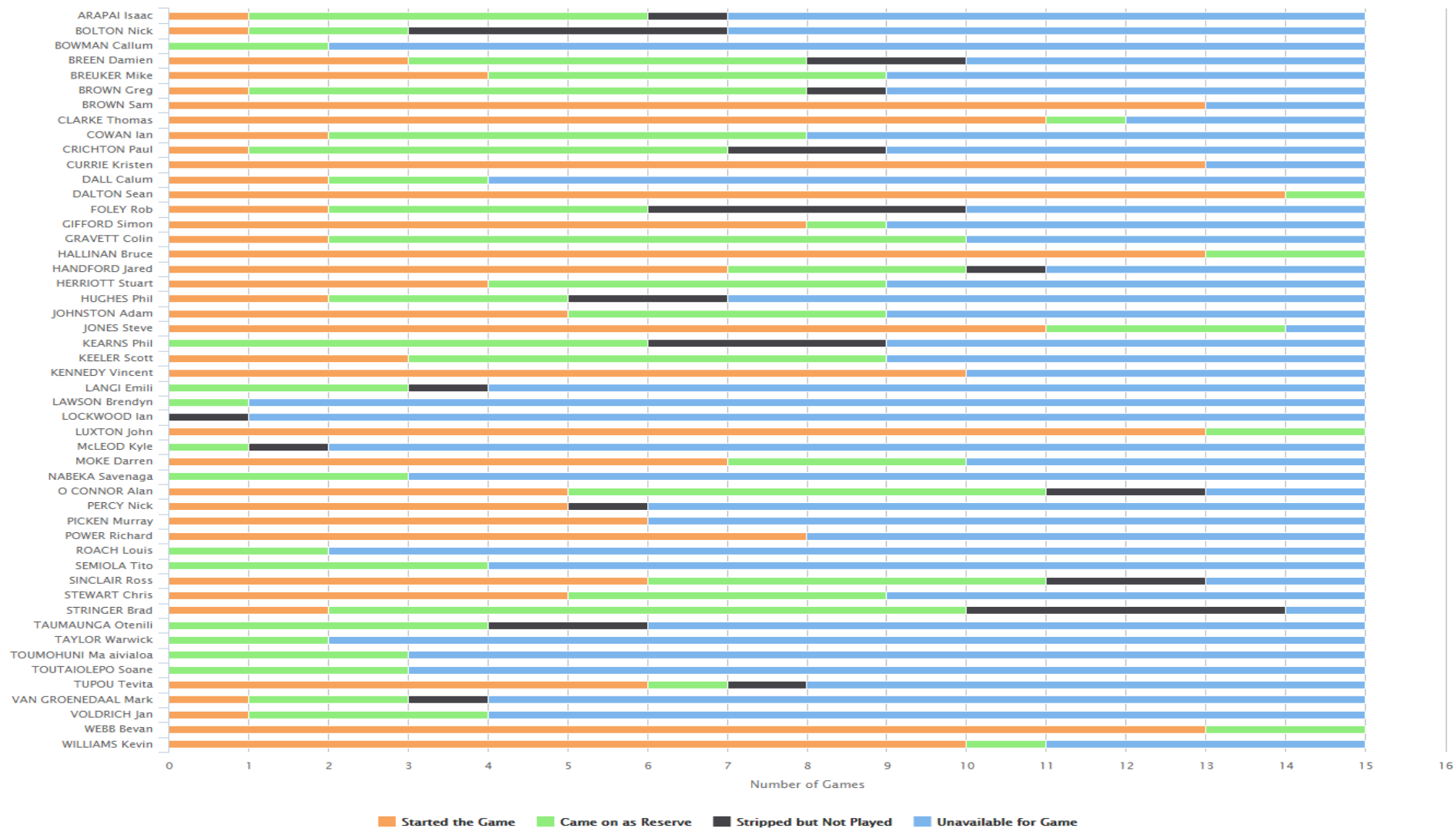


Weekly Scoring Differential - 2016



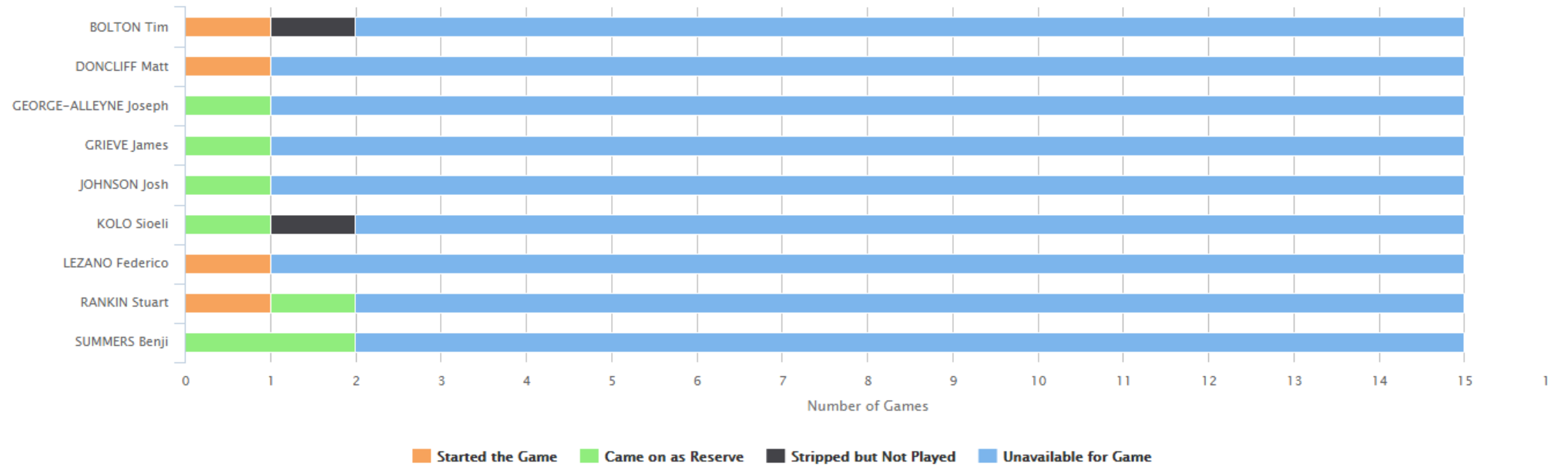
Games Played / Not Played 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016



Games Played / Not Played 2016

Source: Keith Almanac 1995 – 2016



Keith vs Belfast M 2nd April 2016 Ground: Bob Deans 3

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Federico LEZANO
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Simon GIFFORD
Colin GRAVETT
Sam BROWN
Mike BREUKER

Reserves

Darren MOKE
Callum BOWMAN
Sean DALTON
Bevan WEBB
Tito SEMIOLA
Savenaga NABEKA

Backs

John LUXTON
Thomas CLARKE
Adam JOHNSTON
Murray PICKEN
Brad STRINGER
Vincent KENNEDY
Rob FOLEY

Score: 31-19

Tries: Murray PICKEN (3), Rob FOLEY, Tito SEMIOLA
Conv: Thomas CLARKE (3)

Player of the Day: John McKEAGE
Most Valuable Player: Murray PICKEN

NULLUM MAGNUM INGENIUM SINE MIXTURA DEMENTIAE FUIT

Contrary to popular belief, I am in fact, not dead. Also contrary to popular belief, Muncher did a good job being coach, captain, manager and host. Or maybe it was simply because his father in law was watching. Who can say.

With an awful lot of Keiths not at rugby because their female bosses decided they'd rather be out in the cold and damp or North Hagley Park drinking beer, we started with a surprisingly strong and committed team of 19 (Piez was neither strong nor committed so I didn't count him in that number) which was bolstered by our Fijian friends arriving very late and Goober also arriving very late. No matter, they did their 20 minutes at the end.

But it was good to see some old faces return, fully stocked up of Keithliness. Big Daz, Goober (as mentioned earlier) Tito (also as mentioned earlier), Col and AJ. Good men doing good things on the field.

We had several New Boys today, Tom, Vinny, Sean and Savenaga with violaters of Article 1.4.2.1 & 1.4.2.2 of the Charter, Murray & Daz also coming back into the fold. Good to see your beers on the table.

We started the match with a doubtful referee situation but he eventually turned up just in time for a late start. He was fair and balanced and did a not too un-ok job. For a guy who thinks a punch to the face is the same as a moving body colliding with a stationary hand (from last year's Christchurch game).

Scrum we had the Munchers beat quite well, tackling we had them beat quite well, kicking with the wind we had them on equal par but with mid-fielders bursting through and scattering green and gold players to the wind, we had them downright smashed 'em bro. Poacher and Muzz we repeatedly going after the gaps even if there wasn't one there, followed in kind by AJ. Was a lovely sight to behold.

Bravo seemed to know what he was doing at half-back without getting any tips at all from Webby so that's a good thing to know and to have tucked away for future reference.

Ross decided to rest his still healing busted arm, and it was probably a good idea to keep his body fresh for our next outing. One never knows when old age will creep up on us and say sorry, you can't play this week.

Can we say we didn't miss Breen and Dirk at all today?

Keith vs Linwood B

9th April 2016

Ground: Linfield 1

Team List

Forwards

Darren MOKE
Bruce HALLINAN
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Simon GIFFORD
Sam BROWN
Sean DALTON
Mike BREUKER

Backs

Nick PERCY
Thomas CLARKE
Murray PICKEN
Vincent KENNEDY
John LUXTON
Ross SINCLAIR
Richard POWER

Reserves

Mark van GROENEDAAAL
Isaac ARAPAI
Damien BREEN
Phil HUGHES
Colin GRAVETT
Jared HANDFORD
Paul CRICHTON
Bevan WEBB
Brad STRINGER
Tito SEMIOLA

Score: 24-19

Tries: Richard POWER (2), John LUXTON, Vincent KENNEDY

Conv: Thomas CLARKE (2)

Player of the Day: Murray PICKEN

Most Valuable Player: Sean DALTON

WIE SAGT MAN KEITH RUGBY AUF DEUTSCH?

Our good friends from Linwood couldn't quite hear us in our praise for the condition of the Number 1 field at Linfield, but that's only because they stacked the team with half the NZ Deaf squad. Handy little players, and their skills only improved with the mediocrity of the referee.

Good to see the return to Keith after last weekend boozing up instead of playing of Dick, Dirk, Breen, Mark, Toad and Trouty. Although really, only one of them was of a great deal of use. Dirk didn't even bring enough hamburgers for everyone, but Breen managed to bring a cuddly dog, so that was nice.

We started with a hiss and a roar with Dick dotting down under the posts, but we then took our heads out of the game and Linwood scored straight back at us. The Dick scored again then Bravo. Our minds started to wander once more and Linwood popped two more under the posts to even us up at 19 apiece. Vinny then ended the half with a quick and sneaky try putting us in front. Just.

Trouty put the boot in and told us we were giving away tries like they were his daughters virginity (I may be paraphrasing here) and that we had this game in the bag and up by 30 points if we simply kept our heads and played to the strengths we abundantly have. Naturally no one listened and just kept on doing their own thing and getting penalised and making the ref forget the rules and Currie (and Hughes) getting all explosive. Which ended up for the first time in a very long time having a scoreless second half. Was quite the nerve wracking experience I can tell you.

Luckily, time eventually ran out on us and we had a few free beers and some deep fried chilli things at Linwood before I went home and other wandered into some seedy joint where beer flows and women surround Toad like he's still freshly divorced.

Keith, as a full and cohesive team, still need to pull finger and listen if these two wins in a row are to mean anything.

Keith vs Sumner

16th April 2016

Ground: McCormacks Bay Reserve

Team List

Forwards

Scott KEELER
Bruce HALLINAN
Phil HUGHES
Simon GIFFORD
Mike BREUKER
Sam BROWN
Sean DALTON
Kevin WILLIAMS

Reserves

Steve JONES
Ian LOCKWOOD
Greg BROWN
Callum BOWMAN
Calum DALL
Adam JOHNSTON
Brad STRINGER
Alan O'CONNOR
John LUXTON

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Murray PICKEN
Vincent KENNEDY
Ross SINCLAIR
Jared HANDFORD
Richard POWER

Score: 25-23

Tries: Bevan WEBB, Scott KEELER, Thomas CLARKE, Adam JOHNSTON
Conv: Thomas CLARKE
Pen: Thomas CLARKE

Player of the Day: Vincent KENNEDY
Most Valuable Player: Kevin WILLIAMS

HE ITI HOKI TE MOKOROA NĀNA I KAKATI TE KAHIKATEA

I love a good trip to the seaside. If we lose, we get a good view of the Pacific and a lovely tang in the air wafting across from South New Brighton and if we win we get to say we beat the Sharks in their own pen. Which we did. Only by the fortunes of fate.

A couple of nice surprises today in the team. Scotty has returned full time after some guest appearances in the last few years, Alan, whom you may know as George, has said he's here for the season after watching Dick play for three years, Psycho and Goober have sort of semi-committed to playing a full(ish)season but the real surprise was the return of Unit, who gave us his best 15 minutes at the end much to the consternation of his missus and the standby orthopaedic surgeon. Oh, and Kev is back from Vietnam.

Sharks/Keiths matches are traditionally a hard one to call as to which way they will go, and today was another we're up, we're down it's too fucking close to call oh my god i'm gonna have a fucking heart attack (again) kind of game. Webby started his season off fully rearing to go after a two week period of him getting used to the new playing strip (oh wait, we haven't got any yet). Whatever the real reason, he's playing on all cylinders now and scored a rather nice try. Check the video if you don't believe me. Scotty dotted (fell) down over the line which Tom got his only conversion for the day after. He also managed to get the first penalty of the season as well, so things may get tricky in the points ladder later on if he keeps kicking okish. As expected though, Sumner came back hard as at half's end, were only behind by 2 points.

Changes at half time bought some new speed into the players but we stagnated in the points dept for a while, letting the Sharks get ahead of us for most of the 2nd half. Tom and A.J. got into the game fully with tries and some hair pulling, but the main talking point for the next court session will be how Spook was more interested in the view out to sea than if the conversion went over or not (which it did) but because he didn't raise his flag, the referee didn't award it. Up by only 2 and 10 minutes on the clock and a rough and determined Shark attack had us all on the side sideline (even Uli) asking a non existent deity for help. Luckily, defence, defence defence and the ref's whistle kept us ahead.

Three in a row. Who would have thought.

Keith vs Christchurch C

30th April 2016

Ground: Christchurch Park 1

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Darren MOKE
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Simon GIFFORD
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Kevin WILLIAMS

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Murray PICKEN
Vincent KENNEDY
John LUXTON
Ross SINCLAIR
Richard POWER

Reserves

Damien BREEN
Phil HUGHES
Ian COWAN
Isaac ARAPAI
Scott KEELER
Chris STEWART
Savenage NABEKA
Mike BREUKER
Adam JOHNSTON
Tito SEMIOLA
Joseph GEORGE-
ALLEYNE
Soane TOUTAIOLEPO

Score: **18-29**

Tries: Murray PICKEN, Kristen CURRIE, Adam JOHNSTON
Pen: Thomas CLARKE

Player of the Day: Brad STRINGER
Most Valuable Player: Simon GIFFORD & Vincent KENNEDY

JE TE JURE! JE N'AI RIEN FAIT! N'IMPORTE QUOI

All Hail the Victors! Because Christchurch won it, and we lost it; fair and square. But hey, let's be honest, we didn't give it away, we fought the good fight with all our might, but they fought better. Luckily, we get another crack at them for the Trophy later on in the season.

Sam asked me after the game what it looked like from the sideline, and I told him it looked awful. In places. But upon reflection, I may have been somewhat harsh. The forwards certainly lost their set game plan from the kickoff (literally) allowing Christchurch to score within 30 seconds of the whistle blowing. That's never a good start, and sometimes such a shock to the system helps rev things up. Alas, revs never got above my Grandmother's record of 1733rpm in her old Austin A30. Yes, some forwards as we expect, played to the standard we've come to expect such as Sammy, Kev etc. Others also played to the standard we expect and therefore need to work on improving. Which is what I'd say if I was Trouty.

Backs didn't progress much better than the forwards, except as a response to what Christchurch did. Never an independent attack of our own. Vinny, who was MVP, played well, but made some handling errors, Dick seemed not quiet as involved as usual, possibly due to hardly ever getting the ball, Bravo kept on getting shot down before he could make any moves and Muzz seemed to be the only one to progress forward from his position in the backs.

I would very much not take this all the wrong way if I were you, gentle reader, as the boys were bitch slapped from the first seconds of the game and were in a state of shock and dare I say it, panic from then on. Individual players stepped up and tried to rally the team, but I think as a collective, we just went "Woah! What the fuck just happened" and couldn't get out of the mindset.

However, there is a new game next week against the Bus Drivers and a new result to write about. Don't let a simple stumble define our whole season to come as we still have 12 more games to go.

Keith vs Sydenham

7th May 2016

Ground: Bob Deans 3

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Darren MOKE
Phil HUGHES
Kristen CURRIE
Simon GIFFORD
Adam JOHNSTON
Sean DALTON
Kevin WILLIAMS

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Calum DALL
Murray PICKEN
Ross SINCLAIR
John LUXTON
Vincent KENNEDY
Richard POWER

Reserves

Ian COWAN
Steve JONES
Mike BREUKER
Savenaga NABEKA
Greg BROWN
Chris STEWART
Scott KEELER
Thomas CLARKE
Paul CRICHTON
Brendyn LAWSON
Rob FOLEY
Benjy SUMMERS
Warwick TAYLOR

Score: **25-27**

Tries: Richard POWER, Sean DALTON, John LUXTON, Benjy SUMMERS

Conv: Calum DALL

Pen: Thomas CLARKE

Player of the Day: Phil HUGHES

Most Valuable Player: Adam JOHNSTON

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Keith Galore on the Sideline! Not a usual Saturday wish, but an actual event. Was damn good to see Coves everywhere supporting the lads in this must win if we want to win the Classics Cup game. Sonny Phil, of course was rearing to go in his 150th Keith appearance. Bravo, not so visibly keen for his 150th, but I'm betting he was secretly frothing on the inside. It's always brilliant when Keiths reach important milestones in their career. Not that free beer is an incentive or anything.

Sydenham, at top of the table, are quite our nemesis, losing to them exactly 3 times more than we have beaten them (since 1995 anyway) but today's game was another example of why Classics grade is so important. No one's getting their arse kicked on the points board and everyone has an equally good time on and off the field. Sausages included.

Let's start with the Skitteries. Jesus wept they were brilliant. Cal stepped up and slotted into Tom's spot when Tom decided having a wank at work was importanter than rugby time. Unfortunately, Cal didn't slot as many kicks as Tom usually does, so three tries went unconverted, but hey ho, he kicks better than I can. Ross left the field early to have a ciggy, and Muzz stayed on, golden locks flowing in the breeze like shimmering samite fresh out of the water. Toad, Lars and Poacher put in a couple of minutes each and you know, did their thing. Loaner Benjy dotted down rather nicely after having several goes in both halves, at running fast but not quite fast enough. Dick got more ball than last week and used it well to creep (literally) back up in the total points scoring list.

Second half changes in the forwards gave us a boost in speed and strength when we needed it, but while no one on the side of the scrum fucked up, Sam's presence was missed. Unit came back for a second game and steadied the scrum a bit, but there's a little bit of remembering to do what was learnt at training still to happen in the set move department. All in all though, a very credible forward effort indeed. Except for Spook. We all know what he did, so let's not dwell on it any longer than is necessary to point out that a rule book about running back into your own man when we're just about to score the match winning try with time up on the clock and getting penalised so we lose might be a good Christmas present for the lad. Just sayin'.

Guest appearance by Waza shocked the known world. Luckily for Boner, his body was spared any damage as he ran out of time to get his 2 minutes of fame. Beaksy was also rumoured to be bringing his boots, but was just a rumour alas.

There were good numbers back at the sheds to get sausages and drink beer with the Sydenham boys which was nice to see, but a few notable absences later on at Lockin. #fuckupsteve But as we all know, what happens on tourhausen stays on tourhausen.

No game next week, so rest your weary bones, think on your sins but still get to training on Thursday.

Keith vs Shirley D4
21st May 2016
Ground: Burwood 3

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALINAN
Mark van GROENEDAAL
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Chris STEWART
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Kevin WILLIAMS

Reserves

Damien BREEN
Phil KEARNS
Stuart HERRIOTT
Mike BREUKER
Alan O'CONNOR
Brad STRINGER
Paul CRICHTON
Tevita TUPOU
Soane TOUTAIOLEPO

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Rob FOLEY
Vincent KENNEDY
John LUXTON
Jared HANDFORD
Richard POWER

Score: **17-7**

Tries: John LUXTON (2), Vincent KENNEDY
Conv: Richard POWER

Player of the Day:

Most Valuable Player: Jared HANDFORD

NIE MÓJ CYRK, NIE MOJE MALPY

Woman on the radio said the rain would stop. Liar. Nevertheless, Keith fronted up with a team worthy of the name to battle Shirley Not The Wankers on their Club Day on Home Soil. Always good to beat them on those occasions if possible, and possible it was. Notwithstanding all the no shows from skitteries for reasons as weak as my pull out game. But that meant, Poacher and Toad and Chief took to the field. Even if one of them couldn't catch a ball if you threw it at him.

From the very first moment when Kev caught the kick off ball and stormed ahead, we were always three gears ahead of a uninventive and slow Shirley team. They seemed for the most part, two steps behind every move we made, every breath we took. And I was watching them.

Even Mr Jones looked good. Mr Stewart had a few problems in the cold and wet securing the lineout ball, but whatever errors made there were made up for in all other areas of his play. That one's a keeper, if we can.

Sean, Sam, Kevvy. There's not much too say except they keep on doing exactly what they're supposed to do every time, all the time. They're a pleasure to watch. Muncher was constantly in the refs ear and I'm not sure how much that contributed or altered the penalty count but one voice speaking is a trend we need to get used to. It seems to work.

One would have thought Tom would be used to playing footy in the wet, but it appears he much prefers playing in the dry as his kicking for touch didn't always happen and his kicking for goal also went awry. Dick put his big boy pants on and took over converting tries to make up any shortfall so that was good.

As mentioned earlier, Poacher started the game and didn't break down hardly ever once. Maybe the old man still has it in him? But, let's not talk about Toad.

Always impressed with Johnny Luxton on the wing, but young Jared had a blinder of 60 minutes on the paddock. A well deserved MVP. Cool and collected under pressure and able to pressurise the opposition when needed. Another winger who stepped up his confidence game was Brad, who it seems, responds well to clear simple guidance and gives us clear simple straightforward play in return. Hopefully his efforts will not go unrewarded in future games.

With about 20 minutes to go, the rain became too heavy for me to take any further photographs or videos, so I didn't.

Keith vs Christchurch C

28th May 2016

Ground: Bob Deans 3

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Darren MOKE
Ian COWAN
Kristen CURRIE
Chris STEWART
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Kevin WILLIAMS

Reserves

Mark van GROENEDAAL
Simon GIFFORD
Mike BREUKER
Phil KEARNS
Emili LANGI
Damian BREEN
Rob FOLEY
John LUXTON
Soane TOUTAIOLEPO
Benji SUMMERS

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Calum DALL
Tevita TUPOU
Vincent KENNEDY
Alan O'CONNOR
Jared HANDFORD
Richard POWER

Score: 24-12

Tries: Jared HANDFORD, Darren MOKE, John LUXTON

Conv: Calum DALL (3)

Pen: Calum DALL

Player of the Day:

Most Valuable Player: Darren MOKE

HOLD THE DOOR HOLD THE DOORHOLDTHEDOORHOLDDOORHODOR HODOR

Wet underfoot, but otherwise, excellent conditions to play Sargentina Trophy rugby. Quite a few players decided for nebulous reasons that they couldn't play today, and a few who were under an injury cloud fronted up, so I know who's on my short list for Keith of the Year. But for once, coaching staff were calm and un-panicked which along with the general upbeat mood of the rest of the guys, gave a positive air of confidence in the Keith Pavillion contrary to the actual air in the Pavillion which is full of dirt, dead skin, beer and general mold spores.

Muncher gave a pre-match speech about something, but I for one wasn't listening. Apparently his wife's a gynecologist or something. Trouty didn't say much. Chief didn't say much. Poacher didn't say much. Only because we knew what we had to do and simply got our heads into the right space without being mummy and daddied into it. I prefer it that way to be honest.

Christchurch, in their pre-game run around, looked like they were having player/position issues or general lack of inventive skills issues. Probably both, and due to us playing each other so often, they were quite noticable; so we pounced on those and gave the team some good options on how to handle their weaknesses. Jesus, we're sounding like a real fucking team now boys.

Georgie had his first starting go and looked exactly like he always looks. A sad puppy who's just noticed the sack, the brick and the large bucket of water. But he had a non shabby 40 minutes. Certainly non shabbier than a lot of wingers we've had in the past (and present). Breen, yet another Irish gob, started to get a bit stropo about not starting. I think the ginger hair dye is effecting him. Speaking of gingers, the change from soccer to rugby for young Jared has worked out well. He's been ever so close to the try line several times but managed in style to cross over today after some marvelous periods of play. Plus, he's got a hot missus, so we'll keep him.

Vinny had difficulty pushing his way through the Christchurch back line but kept at it, probing further everytime until the last time when he did something medical to his leg of which Sean's hot missus came to the rescue and poked and prodded and jiggered it about till he was able to stand again. Dick had some good spurts but never quite followed through to the finish (which is what Ginny always says). Tevi also never quite made it through to the try line but Daz and Bavo took their opportunites when presented to them and dotted down with style. Daz winning his MVP in the process. Uli gave yet another fine 60 minutes and pieman gave 20, of which half was spent in the bin for doing something blah blah penalty try blah blah. Who knows these things.

Often, I write about stand out players but today, it really was a 100% team effort. And all because we were in the right head space from the very start. People scoff, but rugby is the top 6 inches.

I know I promised a swearing session, but fuck it, those cunts simply aren't worth it.

Keith vs Burnside D4
11th June 2016
Ground: Burnside Park 7

Team List

Forwards

Damien BREEN
Darren MOKE
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Simon GIFFORD
Sam BROWN
Sean DALTON
Mike BREUKER

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Adam JOHNSTON
Paul CRICHTON
Ross SINCLAIR
John LUXTON
Nick PERCY

Reserves

Phil HUGHES
Kevin WILLIAMS
Bruce HALLINAN
Stuart HERRIOTT
Chris STEWART
Greg BROWN
Stewart RANKIN
Colin GRAVETT
Emili LANGI
Brad STRINGER
Rob FOLEY
Jared HANDFORD
Calum DALL
Tevita TUPOU
Alan O'CONNOR

Score: **71-12**

Tries: Sam BROWN (2), Sean DALTON (2), Colin GRAVETT (2), Ross SINCLAIR, Adam JOHNSTON, Jared HANDFORD, John LUXTON, Bevan WEBB
Conv: Thomas CLARKE (6), Calum DALL (2)

Player of the Day: Bevan WEBB
Most Valuable Player: Bevan WEBB

HABEN SIE DAS IN EINER KLEINEN GRÖßE? DER HERR ÜBERNIMMT DIE RECHNUNG.

May I just say first up, this relatively young Burnside Team are a credit to rugby, their club and to themselves. Getting your arse kicked every week can be an awful thing, but these guys keep smiling, keep playing, keep taking every opportunity to pounce on a mistake by the opposition, and when it's all over, they have a beer and chat about rugby, life and shit. I was impressed.

During the week, I had this nagging thought in the back of my head that based on Burnside's current form, we'd simply switch off and treat the game as a forgone conclusion. And we know how that attitude can backfire. Even international teams can get into the wrong head space. I am however, extremely glad to report that Keith had a game plan, had focus and had the right desire to win by scoring tries not by waltzing past the opposition, but by working the ball, working the mauls and working the play. Which is how it's supposed to be done. I was impressed.

Looking at the score sheet should tell you all you need to know about who was in the right places at the right time, but others who not always get their name on that scoring sheet, did their part and made others look good. When you've got an average age of over 35½, we weren't short of experience (10 centuries on the field), but it was the newer rugby recruits who still impact on the team. Brad and Alan on the wings put it some excellent runs with Jared following through with a try. Tom wanted a 100% kicking record, but missed 1, then got 1 but had it disallowed so he ended up with 6 out of 9. And Cal got 2 out 2 to show how it's done. Not that he was skiting or anything.

A warm welcome back to Keith Rugby to Stewart Rankin for his second Keith game. His first being over 20 years ago. Once a Keith, always a Keith. Perc popped his boots back on again and we hope to see more during the season, but notably absent was my son, Dick and Piez. I'm sure they were all at a fitness and skills camp preparing for next week.

There was too much good shit happening on the field to be fair to everyone in this report, so I'll finish up by saying what a fantastic job everyone did and it was simply the best game of footy this year. And not because of the score, but the manner in which we reached the final score.

Well done everybody.

Keith vs Sydenham

18th June 2016

Ground: Hansen Park 1

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Darren MOKE
Steve JONES
Stuart HERRIOTT
Simon GIFFORD
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Matt DONCLIFFE

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Murray PICKEN
Tevita TUPOU
John LUXTON
Jared HANDFORD
Richard POWER

Reserves

Damien BREEN
Ian COWAN
Emili LANGI
Louis ROACH
Scott KEELER
Colin GRAVETT
Greg BROWN
Alan O'CONNOR
Tito SEMIOLA
Brad STRINGER
Otenili TAUMAUNGA
Adam JOHNSTON
Ross SINCLAIR

Score: 5-50

Tries: Sean DALTON

Player of the Day: Paul CRICHTON
Most Valuable Player: Thomas CLARKE

UNE BOÎTE PLEINE DE BIÈRE FAIT PASSER LA PILULE

Crikey. What a change up. The Saracens have always been a tough team to beat and again they showed us up in several aspects of our game. Mostly the mental aspect of our game. While we weren't laissez-faire about our approach, we were at time lack-lustre about what we had to do. Lots of work to be done at training on Thursday if we want to keep our top(ish) place on the table.

Congratulations where congratulations are due, Sean for a storming barging get out of my fucking way try; Webby for being the only one on the field talking (with help from Jones and Arapai from the sideline); Trouty and Chief for doing their damndest to inspire us; Uli for not looking a day over 35; Colin for faking an injury in the hope of getting a sympathy root from the missus and of course, Tom who missed out on his 100% kicking last week but managed to get it this week (100% not over the bar or even anywhere close despite him practicing for an hour before the game).

I know we're all feeling let down in the result department, but there were some good points to be taken from the game. Such as there was enough beer for everyone in the shed afterwards; Alan has a friend to replace Dick when he leaves; someone bought the island boys a watch and a map which we need to also give to Unit and Bruce and we got Keiths returning after a while in the wilderness. Murray came back, Dick came back, Matt came back and I knew I recognised that name, Louis came back for his second Keith game in 5 years. Bravo to them.

It's difficult to quantify if we're doing poorly or doing well when you factor in the score. For example, last week we had a great scoreline and a winning attitude towards the on-field play and this week we had a poor scoreline and a not so great mental attitude. Oh wait, it is easy to quantify. Our head simply wasn't in the game and for those that had a good head space, it got beaten out of them. We have all been around a rugby field long enough to know how to play the game and we've all been around our Classics competitors long enough to know how they play the game so the only thing left to improve on is our mental game and some out basic catch pass kick run not fall over handling skills which to be fair, were not up to par from some people. No arms tackling we have down pat, but catching and running at the same time needs some work.

I'm not downcast about the game (despite the score) but I'm not up-beat about it either. Still more rugby to come in which we can show our true selves and get mohawks.

Keith vs Linwood

25th June 2016

Ground: Bob Deans 2

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Damien BREEN
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Chris STEWART
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Kevin WILLIAMS

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Nick PERCY
Thomas CLARKE
Adam JOHNSTON
John LUXTON
Jared HANDFORD
Richard POWER

Reserves

Alan O'CONNOR
Ross SINCLAIR
Paul CRICHTON
Rob FOLEY
Brad STRINGER
Scott KEELER
Stuart HERRIOTT
Colin GRAVETT
Phil KEARNS
Otenili TAUMAUNGA
Sioeli KOLO

Score: 38-19

Tries: Ross SINCLAIR (2), Damien BREEN, Sam BROWN, Sean DALTON, John LUXTON
Conv: Richard POWER (3), Nick PERCY

Player of the Day: Richard POWER
Most Valuable Player: Damien BREEN

RINNE FEAR CIALLMHAR SIN AON UAIR AMHAIN RUD AR BITH. AGUS NI RAIBH RUD AR BITH. AGUS ANSIN FUAIR SE RUGBAI AGUS BHI SE SASTA.

We knew it was going to be a good game, hard fought as games against the Bollocks always are. But we didn't expect the level of animosity or the injuries to be quite that severe. Something was clearly in their drinking water this week. But we survived and came out victors. A fitting end to Dick's time here in New Zealand.

I'm not going to wax lyrical about Dick. That's not my style *cough cough bullshit*, as we've all seen him play some exceptionally good football interspersed with some extremely poor drinking skills. The boy's a lightweight, in both body and sobriety. But nevertheless, it was a pleasure to have him in our team and in our lives for four years. Thank you Dick. And good luck to you and Ginny on your travels.

Photo's will show that several Keiths scored. Tries and Conversions. Except when Breen scored. I was both shocked and surprised that he could lumber his walrusesque shape across the line, and all I managed to snap of the momentous occasion was a blurry shot of the grass. Sorry, not sorry. But he's in the books as a try score so that's all that matters really.

Other try scorers was Sean, Sam and Bravo who I'm thinking I may simply pre-write their names on the scoring sheet and just fill in the number at the end of the match. It's becoming monotonous, but in a very good way. Ross also dotted down for a brace but soon after he was on the sideline seeing the back of a Red Card after being on the end of some vicious kicking of which being the Scotsman he is gave a good retaliatory smack with the knee back. It's ok though, Kristen (girls name) is his lawyer at the judiciary.

Currie surprised many by leaping to catch the kick offs but not so high as to worry anyone about the fall back to earth. Being able to jump higher than the height of a small box is useful, but no need to show off. Alan tried. And got better at running and holding on to people as they flew by which he and I are very pleased about. Breen, before leaving the field, tried extra hard to impress the future missus and did so with skill and style winning himself the MVP. He really is getting better at this rugby malarky.

Blah blah blah insert bit about Sam, Sean and Kev being excellent here. Also insert bit about Dick's kicking.

Poacher, Breen Aj and others were forced to retire from the game early due to some additional unnecessary rough play from Linwood. AJ's looking particularly bloody. Which gives us pause to remember that with six games left in the season, we still need to take care of our fragile bodies. So rest up this week, get a good training in on Thursday and be rearing to go on Saturday.

Keith vs Sumner 2nd July 2016 Ground: Bob Deans 3

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Scott KEELER
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Simon GIFFORD
Sean DALTON
Chris STEWART
Kevin WILLIAMS

Reserves

Warwick TAYLOR
Paul CRICHTON
Mike BREUKER
Otenili TAUMAUNGA
Ian COWAN
Greg BROWN
Stuart HERRIOTT
Darren MOKE
Colin GRAVETT

Backs

John LUXTON
Bevan WEBB
Tim BOLTON
Tevita TUPOU
Nick BOLTON
Brad STRINGER
Alan O'CONNOR

Score: 7-10

Tries: John LUXTON
Conv: Alan O'CONNOR

Player of the Day: Kevin WILLIAMS

Most Valuable Player: Alan O'CONNOR

NO TENGO NI IDEA EN ABSOLUTO SI ESTO TRADUJO PRECISION

Dick gone. Muzz gone. Rob out. AJ out. Jared missing. Ross out. Cal out (and going). Our back line was seriously depleted at the start of the game. We had players out of position and shaking in their usually 30 minute boots. The call went out to Former Keith Great Warwick TAYLOR who came over with one of his mid fielders and filled some holes we had. Also thankfully Mittens turned up after not getting game time the last couple of weeks, so well done that man.

Forwards, as usual, we had covered in spades. So many forwards in fact Breen never even got on the field (except to carry the water bottles) when Kristen (girls name) stubbed his toe.

Due to the Dick's favourite lady ref being on island time, we started a bit late but her usual lack of rule knowledge made up for any lingering frustration we had at not having someone slightly competent on the other end of the whistle. I now know why she has pulled out of so many of our matches. She plays for the Sydenham womens team so has scheduling conflicts. Which is cool. Rugby is the winner on the day *cough bullshit*.

Pressure is our friend. Brad seemed to relish it. Which was great to see. Bravo thrives on it and scored well from it. Alan simply leapt into pressure fuelled mode and proved he's better than Lucey. And Mittens looked quite odd in an oversized scrum cap, but looked impressive running and tackling and shit. Spook and Kev are quite the interchangeable Number 8 and Chris took Sam's spot on the side quite nicely. This whole comfort-zone thing has been getting in our way and my view is we need to kick it out the door. Mix things up a bit and see what you guys can do. What I saw today showed us all I think that no one is a one note player except for Jones who screaming from the sideline is one whole octave above any other note heard by anyone, even dogs. But none of this has anything to do with me. It's up to Chief, Poacher and Trouty.

Sumner seemed a bit keener on getting stuck in than we did and ultimately it showed on the results board. Maybe their recent losses inspired them more than our recent wins inspired us. Who can say. I can say however, Kristen (girls name) went off with a dubious injury. Uli milked for all it was worth a potential injury (kick to the head) but stayed on fighting for the win to the end. Two different styles based on one of them works at a comfy desk in the city and the other works in a factory with big machines in the countryside. Beginning to waffle a bit now to fill in space.

Thanks to Tim and Wazza for the help. Thanks to Sumner for the Tui and for not complaining too much about the changing sheds.

Keith vs Belfast M 9th July 2016 Ground: Sheldon Park 2

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Damien BREEN
Steve JONES
Stuart HERRIOTT
Kristen CURRIE
Sam BROWN
Sean DALTON
Kevin WILLIAMS

Reserves

Nick BOLTON
Ross SINCLAIR
Colin GRAVETT
Isaac ARAPAI
Jan VOLDRICH

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Nick PERCY
Thomas CLARKE
Tevita TUPOU
John LUXTON
Alan O'CONNOR
Stuart RANKIN

Score: 5-52

Tries: Sam BROWN

Player of the Day: Tom CLARKE, Damien BREEN

Most Valuable Player: Sam BROWN

ICH BIN EIN KEITHER

I think we went wrong when we were too busy worrying about going to Belfast instead of worrying about actually playing against Belfast. Which means, our on the field playing abilities (which are very good) were overshadowed by our internal mental abilities (which are apparently rubbish). We had a sound game plan. A sound knowledge of their style of play. A sound respect for the referee; yet, we had a sound in our heads telling us to ignore all that. Not a winning rugby method.

However, I managed to piss off several people in a single afternoon, so it wasn't a total fools errand to go out to Sheldon Park after all.

Injuries and immigration made our numbers weak in areas where we had previously been strong and that's not an excuse, just an explanation, but we had the numbers in the end to field a good side. Georgie is improving by leaps and bounds and seeing his rugby confidence grow is akin to watching Dirk 15 years ago. Good for a laugh, but upon reflection, a voice saying "bugger me, he's not too bad". Webby as always gives his voice and hands to the team and drives the forwards forward and does something to the backs. Who knows what skitteries get up to out there. Tevita is proving handy and Bravo is one of those seasoned players you just can't imagine not being in the team. That being said, nothing seemed to go right out in the back line. Defense or attack. Something was just not there today.

The forwards, who are the powerhouse and driving force in the team (no bias) were much the same as the skittery backs. Except a forward scored our only try (and a back missed the conversion). Daz decided he wouldn't be fit enough to play, so Breen went in to the front row, but never quite got settled. Unfortunately, he suffered a neck injury which at first glance by the twelve orthopaedic doctors in the team seemed fine. I'm sure Celia will be the man in the family and send him to the real doctors soon to get it checked.

Piez turned up to play and was needed. Col turned up sort of wanting to play and was needed and Jan turned up and was fizzing at the bit to play but wasn't really needed but got on in the last ten anyway. Something about that equation doesn't sit right. Oh, and Mittens was there again. Yay Mittens. Thomas Richard Patrick Murray Ross (pick your surname, pick your christian name) turned up and was needed too, but not officially. Cryptic, but understandable if you were there.

So we will find out next week which section we will be in. Top four or bottom four. Quite frankly, I'm not sure which one I prefer. Top four = chance to be champions but means tough hard games against teams who have spanked us. Bottom four = relatively easy games for essentially 5th place.

Keith vs Sydenham S

16th July 2016

Ground: Bob Deans 3

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Scott KEELER
Steve JONES
Kristen CURRIE
Stuart HERRIOTT
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Colin GRAVETT

Reserves

Greg BROWN
Isaac ARAPAI
Phil KEARNS
Otenili TAUMAUNGA
Kyle McLEOD
Ross SINCLAIR
Jan VOLDRICH
Maaivialoa TOUMOHUNI
Josh JOHNSON

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Tevita TUPOU
Vincent KENNEDY
John LUXTON
Jared HANDFORD
Alan O'CONNOR

Score: **7-21**

Tries: Sam BROWN
Conv: Thomas CLARKE

Player of the Day: Phil KEARNS

Most Valuable Player: Stuart HERRIOTT

SLUNCE JE MÝCH OČÍCH A JÁ NEVIM, CO MÁM DĚLAT

Vinny's back. And he showed his skills. It's great to watch a man cut up the opposition with ease on an individual basis, but it's even nicer to watch a whole backline do it. Unhappily, that hasn't happened now for a few weeks because of reasons. If it wasn't for Webby and a dodgy immigration service, our backline would be nearly non-existent. All we need now is all those soft pricks who are allegedly injured or on holiday in Scotland and Argentina and Australia to get back here before the season ends.

Jared also came back from fucking about in the mud with his girlfriend. And he added to our efforts today. Apparently getting dirty in muddy water's a thing now. I'm clearly showing my age. Young Georgie has been shunted into the starting lineup for a few weeks now and by jolly jingo he's doing well. He's missing Dick, of course, but he's tackling and running and falling over quite nicely. It's lovely to watch. Returning to Keith after a few years away was Kyle who hasn't aged a day and our very own Czech porn star Jan gave his second game a bloody good go.

But the highlight of the backline was when Webby went off. And was replaced by Josh. Son of Dan. Former Keith and Former Club Captain. The family is strong with this one. Hopefully when he's grown out of playing in the colts he can think about a real career in rugby with us.

Sam's father was watching, so that meant he had lots of emotions about shit making him play harder, run harder, tackle harder and score a try harder. It also meant he had a clash of heads harder than medical advice recommends but after a couple of minutes wondering where he was, he got back into the game. Dirty always plays better when his son is at the game. He doesn't actually watch, he just plays with his toys and scares the rest of us from ever wanting to procreate. Kristen (girls name) played gangily and got dropped to the deck. That's been happening a lot lately with him, which either means he's clumsier than he used to be, or he's getting stuck in more. It's hard to tell.

Steve had a spot of bother throwing the ball in and jumpers had a spot of bother holding on to the ball once they'd intercepted it mid-flight and I suspect no one is happy about having extra lineout practice next Thursday.

Overall, it was a funny old game, but played in very good spirits and with some excellent running play. But also with some not so good runs of play. A typical Keith underperformance.

Two more games, and a final, to play. Let's not baulk at the very end after that wee speed wobble earlier on in the season.

Keith vs Sumner 23rd July 2016 Ground: St Leonard's Square

Team List

Forwards

Bruce HALLINAN
Darren MOKE
Steve JONES
Chris STEWART
Kristen CURRIE
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Kevin WILLIAMS

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Thomas CLARKE
Tevita TUPOU
Vincent KENNEDY
John LUXTON
Jan VOLDRICH
Nick PERCY

Reserves

Isaac ARAPAI
Colin GRAVETT
Stuart HERRIOTT
Louis ROACH
Ian COWAN
Scott KEELER
Greg BROWN
Phil KEARNS
Jared HANDFORD
Alan O'CONNOR
Ross SINCLAIR
Brad STRINGER
Adam JOHNSTON
Ma'Aivialoa TOUMOHUNI

Score: **10-29**

Tries: Jared HANDFORD, John LUXTON

Player of the Day: Stuart HERRIOTT

Most Valuable Player: Ma'Aivialoa TOUMOHUNI

GOOGLE TRANSLATE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND "YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF GOOD C**TS"

There is such a thing as being over-prepared for a game, and we tried to do that. Talking all week about the game and the "must win" aspect if we were to have a chance of advancing into the final (after beating Belfast, of course), training hard at the gym on Thursday and getting to Sumner 1/4 of an hour earlier than usual. Unfortunately, we ended up being under prepared by a factor of a shit-ton. Someone didn't pick up the jerseys from the club. Someone didn't pick up the water bottles from where ever they were last left at which meant the calmness of Theresa and the panic of Chief drove back into town to get them. Crisis avoided. Only 12 minutes late starting the game.

While the Sharks were getting some TV coverage about something blah blah, we focused on our game plan, although Bravo managed to get his hair and make-up done in case they needed a quick interview stand-in.

We've all heard me say that rugby is the top 6 inches of a player, and I'm right. Mental preperation is key. And we simply didn't keep our mental plan once we hit the field. As soon as Sumner scored we went off the boil. Four times. And that's not what we're supposed to do. But it wasn't all doom and gloom. Bruce (50 games) played well in his extra large jersey while others in more skinnier apparel kept up the speed and agility. Jan in his first starting game had a bit of trouble finding his positional game, and that will come with time, Ross put in a blinder and Louis provided some needed stability towards the end of the match. Unit seems happy to play in 20 minute bursts but at his age, it's ok. Uli announced his retirement after next weeks game (his 275th) so a new reserve hooker will be needed. If Jonesys knees hold out that is, otherwise we'll need two more for next year.

Sean had his socks taped up too tight thereby cutting off the circulation to his feet which in a player as active as he is, isn't a good thing. Muncher had his scrum cap on too tight. But that's only to match Olivia's grip on his balls. The Percy clan were there watch Nick play. And will no doubt watch him asleep on the couch later on in the night after complaining he's too sore but who will be secretly complaining to himself about his woeful kicking. Whereas Alan doesn't care if he misses goal.

AJ put in a bit of much needed mongrel when he came on, but too little too late methinks. The Sumner damage had been done by then.

Jared and Bravo showed why wingers are needed by scoring a try apiece which many would think was the highlight of the game.

The real highlight was 32 players turning up to play a good game of footy (even if only 29 got on the field). Let's get the same for next week in our last game of the 2016 season.

Keith vs Belfast M
30th July 2016
Ground: Sheldon Park 1

Team List

Forwards

Isaac ARAPAI
Greg BROWN
Ian COWAN
Kristen CURRIE
Stuart HERRIOTT
Sean DALTON
Sam BROWN
Kevin WILLIAMS

Backs

Bevan WEBB
Adam JOHNSTON
Ross SINCLAIR
Vincent KENNEDY
John LUXTON
Jared HANDFORD
Alan O'CONNOR

Reserves

Paul CRICHTON
Jan VOLDRICH
Brad STRINGER
Nick BOLTON
Ma'aivialoa TOUMOHUNI
Darren MOKE
Bruce HALLINAN
Scott KEELER
Colin GRAVETT
Phil KEARNS
Chris STEWART
Steve JONES
Jamie GRIEVE

Score: **5-48**

Tries: Jamie GRIEVE

Player of the Day: Ian COWAN

Most Valuable Player: Colin GRAVETT & Brad STRINGER

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE. WHERE I'LL BE ON A SATURDAY EVE. IF I DIE IN A BELFAST DITCH. BURY ME WITH A BELFAST BITCH. WRAP HER LEGS AROUND MY CHEST. TELL THOSE KEITHS I'VE GONE TO REST.

The plan was to have Belfast so in awe of us, that they'd be shitting enough so you could pretend you were swimming in a Rio river. But, this season, none of our plans have ever come to a successful fruition. Bugger. However, the real plan was to have some fun knowing this was our last game of 2016 and most of us achieved that. Even Uli had the Missus watching his 275th Keith game, until she decided to go to the pub at half time and not come back. But still.

Georgie decided to try and emulate a new trend of kicking the ball backwards, however, he is Irish, so not much came of it. Another trend that has failed to take off was the ability to catch the ball while in forward motion. Jan still has some skills to improve there. And then there's Kristen (girls name) Currie. Gangly, yet lumbering at the same time. He is one of the most difficult creatures to have roamed this earth to watch playing rugby. Nothing seems to be in step or in place, yet we still love him. Like Queen Mary and King George loved Prince John.

The game itself was basically Belfast scoring and us not scoring. Even when Jamie scored, we didn't really score, but never let a consolation prize take anything away from the fact, that you've won a prize. TMO video evidence notwithstanding. A lot of players came off the field quite before their scheduled time, such as Uli and Ross. Well, only those two. Uli because he's old and Ross because he needed a ciggy. Ross leaving caused the entire backline to alter positions, but when Uli left we just shoved another front rower in there. no harm done. We had nine to choose from after all.

Four New Boys started the match, with a further three finishing and without them, we'd had been screwed weeks ago. I've always been proud of our New Boys and how much they contribute to the team. Keith thanks you all very much. I'll be taking monetary contributions for the New Boy of the Year votes for the Awards soon. Of course, New Boys would be nothing without Coves, and we've got plenty. Nine centuries played today, with 6 more with over 50 games. Skill level is high. Endurance level is not so high, which is why New Boys and Sam exist.

So yes, a disappointing last few games (results wise) for us, but it is what it is. We Came. We Played. We Didn't Quite Get There. But if thirty nine seasons of Keith Rugby have shown, there's always always always next year.

Obvious thanks go to everyone who played, participated, supported and sponsored Keith, but specific thanks go to a particular few.

To Trouty who has given us advice and coaching. To Chief and Rob who again put up their hands for the lead coaching positions and to Muncher and Cal who support them. To Isaac and the others in management, a great deal of thanks, even if it wasn't mentioned earlier, or enough. To our ever present supporters. Bless you. Courtney and Courtney, Ngawai, Jacqui, Yvonne, Celia, Theresa, Wellsy, Katie, Kristen and everyone else who supports us online or at the pub. And Doug. Wouldn't be a Keith game with you mate.

A few more weeks and things will finally be officially over. Kokatahi looms, Sportsmen of the Year Awards to come and then before you know it, summer Touch starts, then Cricket and Softball. Then Show Week then Christmas parties start to happen, not that I ever get invited, then it's New Year and Waitangi and ANZAC Day and bugger me sideways it's rugby season all over again. See you pricks then.

Awards Criteria

Most Tries - The Keith (Forward or Back) who scores the most tries during the season for the Keiths. If that player is lent to another Club team and scores, those tries do not count in the total for this award, but they still count for the official Club stats. In the event of a tie, the Award is shared.

Most Points by a Back - The Keith Back who scores the most points (tries, conversions, penalties or dropped goals) during the season for the Keiths. If that player is lent to another Club team and scores, those points do not count in the total for this award, but they still count for the official Club stats. In the event of a tie, the Award is shared.

Most Points by a Forward - The Keith Forward who scores the most points (tries, conversions, penalties or dropped goals) during the season for the Keiths. If that player is lent to another Club team and scores, those points do not count in the total for this award, but they still count for the official Club stats. In the event of a tie, the Award is shared.

Most Improved Back - The Keith Back who has improved their play the most from their first game of the season to their last game of the season. Not to be confused with an improvement from a previous season.

Most Improved Forward - The Keith Forward who has improved their play the most from their first game of the season to their last game of the season. Not to be confused with an improvement from a previous season.

Most Keithly On/Off the Field - Is given to the Keith who by their efforts on the field of play and by their attitude and commitment to the team off the field, exemplify the ideals of what being a team member really means.

New Boy of the Year - Awarded to a New Boy (see Article 1.4.2 of the Keith Charter for definition of New Boy) who has shown on the field play and off the field commitment above and beyond what a new member of the team would usually perform to. This includes game time, training and after match events.

Warwick Taylor Hard Bastard of the Year - Donated by Warwick Taylor for the Keith who shows guts, commitment, endeavour, that bit of mongrel and an overall toughness on the field.

Ladies Award for Player of the Year - Chosen by the sideline Ladies as the Keith who in their view shows ability and is that one step above other players on the field.

Back of the Year - Is awarded to the Keith Back whose efforts during the season have been consistently of a high standard and who has stepped up to the plate and was prepared to give 100% every time, all the time.

Forward of the Year - Is awarded to the Keith Forward whose efforts during the season have been consistently of a high standard and who has stepped up to the plate and was prepared to give 100% every time, all the time.

James Graham Memorial Trophy - Players' Player - Donated by Scott Graham in memory of his brother. This Award shall be voted on by Players only, on the occasion of the Awards ceremony for the Player they themselves think is the best all round Keith Player. The recipient is not required to be at the Awards ceremony and in the event of a tie, the Award shall be shared. There are no restrictions on the number of times a Keith may be awarded this prize.

Keith of the Year -

The premier Keith Award is voted on at an official Keith function (usually if possible the end of season trip) by Keiths, players and non players alike, they think has shown all round Keithly behaviour for the entire season and has proudly been a member of Keith for that season.

Restrictions and Regulations:

1. If you have previously been awarded Keith of the Year, you are ineligible for nomination and any votes cast in your favour are invalid.
2. To be eligible you must be present at the voting meeting/occasion.
3. No proxy votes permitted. To cast a vote you must be present at the voting meeting/occasion.
4. You may vote for yourself if eligible.

The Ashes -

The raison d'etre for the Keith end of season trip. Is a doubles knockout challenge pool tournament with the winning pair being known as the Ash Holders. Due to fluctuating numbers year by year, local ad hoc rules may be determined if agreed by all teams. The following rules can not be changed or altered.

1. The current holders are to be challenged by the remaining teams. If only one Ash holder is present, his team shall be deemed to be the holding team.
2. The order of challengers shall be determined by points from the throw of darts.
3. If no Ash holders present, then the above darts points shall determine the order of play.
4. The winner of the Ashes shall be the last team remaining.

The Ashes must be on display one hour prior to the tournament commencing.

The Keith Rugby Team is affiliated with the Christchurch High School Old Boys' RFC

Keith Incorporated is a registered Incorporated Society and was incorporated on the 29th March 2004 (Number 1499581)

Compiled by John McKeage
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