



# Confraternity of Brothers Clubs Inc. COMMUNIQUE



Confraternity Conference Darwin. Northern Territory

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008

A record number of delegates from Brothers Clubs from all over Queensland recently met for their twice-yearly conference hosted by Darwin Brothers. The Confraternity of Brothers Clubs is a closely-knit organization of forty junior and senior Rugby League Football Clubs located in all of the States major cities and towns from Mt Isa in the West to Cairns in the North to Beenleigh in the South as well as Darwin in the Northern Territory. There are eight clubs in the Brisbane, Logan, and Ipswich area. There are seven Brothers licensed leagues clubs who are also members of the Confraternity

Over 100 conference delegates were brought up to date on a varied range of topics and will be well armed when they return to their clubs to implement a range of improvements and to share the knowledge gained at these conferences. The program was interesting and varied and appraised delegates of the state of the game not only in Queensland but also the innovative NT Institute of Sport program and rugby league in the Territory.



On Friday afternoon Cliff Biggs from Aristocrat Gaming spoke on the future of gaming machines, which was very informative particularly with the licensed clubs, as was the session by Clubs Queensland delivered by board member Mark Hennelly.

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Confraternity Auditor Barry Dineen brought delegates up to date on new tax matters and the implications for clubs.

Gary Launt, the Operations Manager for the Northern Territory RL outlined the NT's entry into the National Under 18 and Under 16's Competition next year. Coupled with the Chairman of the NTRL Mick Palmers presentation on his vision for the game in the NT, delegates were impressed with the state of the game in the NT.

Lively debate was had during the open forum - "State of the Game", from a Clubs Perspective chaired by Bob Mulley from Cairns Brothers.

Marketing your Club without a budget by Neil Watson (Darwin Brothers) was very useful, particularly for the smaller clubs and showed how simple technology can be used to present your club in the best light to the community and demonstrate what you are doing for Club Sponsors.

Following a very lively and entertaining conference opening by the Federal Member Mr. Damien Hale MP on Saturday, attendees were treated to a very interesting presentation on tracking sports performance, using technology, by Michael Riwari, - Head Coach, NT Institute of Sport, this was followed by a session on game analysis for Rugby League by Anthony Hazledine – Director, - Got Talent Sports Consultancy.

The next Presentation was from Peter Beniuk, Executive Manager, and Commercial. Of the St George Illawarra Dragons. Peter spoke on taking the relationship between the Dragons and the Confraternity to another level, which will involve the Member Clubs, help to boost the Membership of the Dragons Red V Club. This will not be a big thing as all the Dragons have asked is that our Clubs promote the Membership through their Newsletters/ Club Bulletin. The Dragons will provide all the necessary Paperwork and promotion material necessary. There will be special Draws for Red V Members that join via Brothers Clubs.

This was followed by Injury Prevention, the big picture by Graeme Lamb. This session was very useful to delegates and stressed the importance of early management of injuries to minimise the recovery time.

Graham McNaney from ARL Development brought delegates up to date with the new League 11s. An exciting new game designed to bring the social aspect back in the game and give opportunities to play the game to players who no longer want to be part of the rigor of playing the more competitive grades.

The Football Club Round up identified a very successful year for Brothers clubs with all clubs showing an increase in players and mostly successful seasons on the field. Brisbane Brothers Juniors won the Brothers Schofield award and went away \$1000.00 richer thanks to the generosity of Cairns, Innisfail, Rockhampton and Ipswich Brothers Leagues Clubs who donated the prize money. The Confraternity thanks these Leagues Clubs for their generous support of this Award that takes its name from the founder of the Confraternity, Rev. Br. Schofield.

A paper on "Grants" prepared by Matt Fitzpatrick, from Momentum, outlined what this Company could do to assist clubs obtain grants for the upgrade of facilities, etc. A number of clubs who have used Momentum spoke of their favourable experiences.

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Kris Muir from the Confraternity/Dragons Development program provided an update on the Brothers Development program. The major outcome of this agreement is that each year the Confraternity U/18 Development team, selected from trials between the four Brothers U/18 Development Squads, travel to Sydney to trial against the St George Illawarra Dragons Development Squad and from there hopefully to the Dragons NRL squad.

Our Sponsors also brought delegates up to date with their latest products and ways that they could work with Clubs to maximize the benefits of the Sponsorship arrangements. All Sponsors have renewed their Sponsorship and Clubs are urged to support them as much as possible.

In closing the conference, Br Ted Magee, the Confraternity Patron, updated delegates of the work by the Brothers in Wadeye (NT) and East Timor with a very enlightening slide show.

The social program commenced on Thursday night with a Parliamentary Welcome by the NT Minister for Sport, the Hon Karl Hampton at Parliament House. Delegates had ample opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the Airport Hotel (the conference venue) and other Darwin attractions. Sunday afternoon was spent at the Darwin Sailing Club where delegates and their partners witnessed a glorious Darwin sunset. On Monday a group toured the famous Litchfield National Park.

The next Conference will be held in Bundaberg on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March. For information on the Bundaberg Conference contact Geoff Rackeman at Bundaberg Brothers. You are advised to book early.

For More Information about the Brothers Confraternity, please contact the Chairman Brian Roberts on (07 3208 1168 / mob 0418 380 059)

Brian Roberts

**Chairman**

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