

Rugby *in my day*



A COFFEE BREAK BOOK

by
JOHN

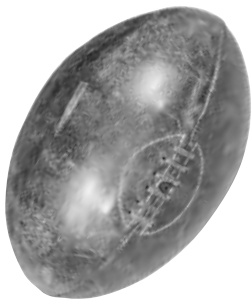
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When I was a schoolboy, I played rugby on Wednesdays and Saturday mornings. I always enjoyed going out to Athletic Park on Saturday afternoon with my Dad to watch the senior club rugby matches. They were always exciting. I still remember some of the players: the Dougan Brothers from Pet-One (Petone Club); Tindall from Athletic Club; Jarden from Varsity Club; Morrison from Onslow Club. When I got older I used to play for Eastern Suburbs Rugby Club. I always followed the All Blacks when at home or On Tour overseas. In the Fifties I have even slept out all night at Athletic Park to queue to watch the All Blacks play. In those days for the All Blacks it was more of a forward game. They kept the game tight and scored with their forwards. We had great goal kickers like Bob Scott, Don Clarke - they put many points on the board with their goal kicking.

When the All Blacks went On Tour in another country, they would not only play tests on Saturday, but they would tour around and play some of the provinces around the country in mid-week matches, mainly on Wednesdays. This gave a great thrill for these small provinces - it was a chance to play the All Blacks. When another country like South Africa would come to New Zealand, they would do the same. My Dad and I were great mates, and we always went to the tests at Athletic Park to watch the All Blacks play. We had it all sussed out: "There was this tree you see ..." "Wait a minute, that's another story."

We came up with a good idea. We paid to go on the bank and walked around to the steps leading up to the seats, past a platform and a rail. One day we could see prospects which other people hadn't noticed. So we took a couple of cushions with us



and sat on the platform, and put our feet under the rail and dangled our legs over the front. At the same time sitting in comfort on the cushions, we were elevated right in the middle of the field. As long as it did not rain, we had the best seats in the park.

One thing that always makes me laugh: at Athletic Park people paid good money to go in to the Test match, and then at half-time they would throw open the gates for everybody to come in. Anybody knows that the second half of the match is what the game is all about, to see who wins. They know that there is always room for one more in the crowd.

Rugby and other sports have been enjoyed down through the ages. One thing that amazes me is the level of participation players put into the different sports, and how their bodies can run at top speed, and achieve amazing things. Then at the same time



take a lot of knocks and tumbles and still come out on top, especially Rugby, which brings me to the next point.

The most precious gift in life is LIFE. We have found it's not how much you have in life, but how thankful we are for what we have got. If somebody sends us a gift we usually get a card with it, to say who it is from, so we get on the phone and thank them. If you get a gift from someone and there is no card with it, you will always wonder who sent it, and spend the rest of your life trying to find out. When we were given the gift of our lives, we did not get a card with it, so we are left wondering where it came



from, and spend the rest of our life trying to find out. Also, we did not get instructions how to use it, and look after our lives.

Down through the ages, we have not looked after our bodies in many ways. We are not only looking for the giver of life, but also want to say sorry for misusing it. So as we sum up, we realise we have a brain. We know we did not drop off the back of a truck. At this stage I would like you to open your eyes wide, and take a good look at your life, and see how it is made with precision. Every part is perfectly made to work in with the other. Your gift is no less than a miracle. Let's face it, life seems to be like a dream. Looking back fifty years seems like yesterday; are we dreaming? If you are not sure right now, pinch yourself, **AND SEE THAT YOU ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE.**

Life seems to go so fast, it's like being on a roller coaster heading for somewhere but we don't know where. We look out of the window of the roller coaster at the big wide world, out there where the sun never sets. Don't be exclusive in your own little world. Next step, say "Hi!" to your neighbour, you might think he doesn't need you, but you need him. After you have said Hi! I guarantee you will have a friend for life - plus. People around us on the roller coaster were saying "I wonder when we will come

to the end of the track”. As the days went on, and we flew past more and more stations, people began to feel uneasy, wondering what the final outcome will be. Some felt they would like to get off the roller coaster, but that was impossible because they were going so fast.

Every day, I meet more and more people from all walks of life. One day I was going through the roller coaster and met the Queen of England. Oh! Yes there were many famous people on the roller coaster. The President of the USA, the richest people in the world, olympic medallists, and famous All Blacks. Some people believe that the owner of the roller-coaster was the ONE that had given us the gift of these precious lives and that He had given us Hope and Forgiveness, through HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. But some were still in the state of dreaming their lives away. One day I met a man on the roller



coaster that said “He was a Believer of the true GOD of the Bible”. But after a few days he had been caught blowing up some of the roller coaster and the passengers.

The Bible says “You will know the true believers by their fruits” which is found in Galatians, Chapter 5, Verses 22 & 23. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law”. If the believer does not show these fruits in his life, he is a counterfeit. The people that are starving and have no money are on the roller coaster too. They were told by believers to “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”. Lots of them did because it was easier for them to believe than the famous and the rich who thought they had so much to give up.

The gift of life is from the true and only GOD, which we read about from the Bible. For those who believe, it is the book of instruction on how to look after this precious gift of life. The Bible says “there are only two powers in the world, God’s power which is the greater and the Devil’s power”. We are in the middle, with no power. God created us in His Image. So we are always in God and His Power as long as we confess any wrong doings that comes between us and God, through his son

JESUS CHRIST who died for our sins. God created everything in the World. The Devil has no power to create anything, so he spends all his time trying to destroy what GOD has created. PLAY SAFE. KEEP CLOSE TO GOD AT ALL TIMES. DON'T STRAY, BUT PRAY, and the Devil can't harm you. GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE POWER TO BECOME THE CHILDREN OF GOD - YOU CAN DO IT.

*KEEP CHEERING FOR OUR ALL BLACKS -
WE KNOW THAT THEY HAVE THEIR MOMENTS -
BUT WE KNOW THEY CAN DO IT.*

GOD BLESS.





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Getting the best out of life? You can do what I have done, and even better!

Life is for living, so trust in the Lord and
Go, Go, Go!

Phil. Ch.4, v13:

***I can do all things through Christ
that can strengthen me.***

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