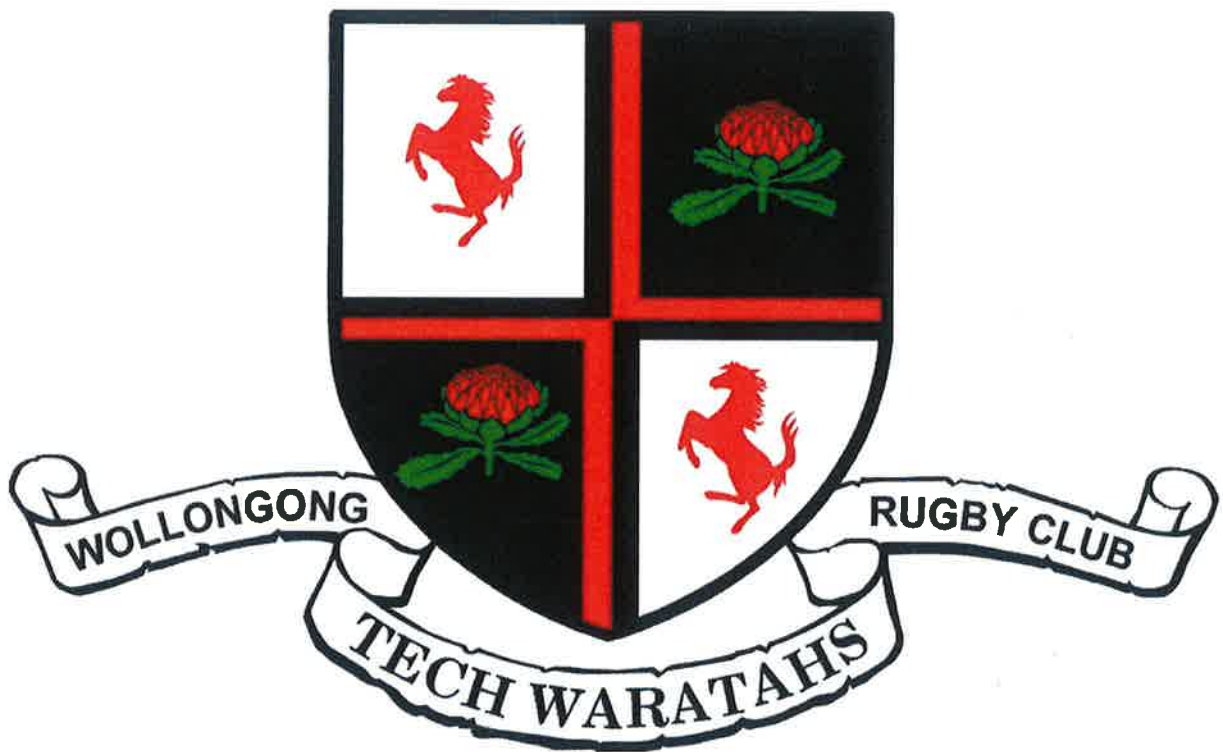


# YEAR BOOK



2016

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another rugby year has come and gone and, whatever else can be said about it, no one can say it hasn't been an eventful one for the Wollongong Tech Waratahs Rugby Club. The year commenced with an unexpectedly unsatisfactory sponsorship offer from our long time major sponsor, Wiseman Park Wollongong City Bowling Club. This ultimately, after much soul searching, led to the decision by the committee for the club sever its ties with Wiseman Park and transfer its "home base" to the Northgonghotel. This new relationship, whilst still in its "early days," promises much for the future, especially if our new weekly Northgong Friday night meat raffle is a success. Of course the club owes so much to WPWCBC for its fantastic support since 2001 that we were sorry to leave...all we can say to Wisos is, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Now let's be honest, as far as the Seniors go, this has not been a good year for the Wollongong Tech Waratahs Rugby Club on the playing field. And this despite the fact that we started the year fully expecting to improve on our 2015 efforts. I stated in my report last year that we needed players. Unfortunately it did not prove easy to find them! The committee tried everything it could think of but it would be fair to say we only had limited success in recruiting these precious commodities despite attempting to recruit some players from Fiji. Nevertheless, a big "thank you" to every player who pulled on his boots this year to turn out for the Tech Waratahs.

It would also be fair to say that the club was devastated by serious injuries this year, starting with club legend and IDRU player of the year in 2013, Timmy O. It is simply impossible to replace a player like Tim over night! Then there was Jason Slade, Jake Davey, Luke Mathieson, Johnny Jackson, Mick Bruton...the list seems to go on and on. And there were plenty of other less serious injuries forcing players to miss games. Of course Tech Waratahs aren't the first club to suffer injuries but there's no doubt that they have an even more calamitous effect in a club that is already struggling for players.

Before the season started we dropped out of Third Grade, where we struggled so badly for player numbers last year, thinking this would help our First and Second Grades but this did not prove to be the case. By seasons end we were unable to field a Second Grade team and barely able to get a First Grade side on the field! This was no reflection on our core group of players who kept battling away week after week and playing two games when necessary but it did mean that even newcomers to rugby were forced to play first grade when they should have really been coming up through the grades. And it meant that club legend Stu Pearson, who came back from retirement last year to help out in third grade, became the first grade front row bench!

The club's on field performances in no way reflected the off field efforts by everyone. The coaches, Benny Shortus, Tim Olsen and Freddy Purcell left no stone unturned in their efforts to win and to keep the players having fun. Thank you gentlemen. (Timmy O also coached the Illawarrior Colts. Well done Tim.) The team managers, Rick Boyle in first grade and Jake Davey (with a little help from his friends) in second grade, did everything humanly possible (and then some) to get teams on the field even when it proved to be a losing battle. Thank you! BaiMed physios worked hard to keep our boys out there or get them back out there. Thank you Josh and friends.

Once again, unfortunately, we had some issues with and appearances before the IDRU Judiciary. I could certainly live without these! All I can say is that I've become quite good friends with Brian Leo and Brian Baird!!

Then there was the seniors committee. Our meetings were always well attended and productive and thank you to each and every committee member for all your help...I think everyone needs to remember that these volunteers all have "lives" outside Tech Waratahs...believe it or not!

Craig, as treasurer, is the Rock on which the club sits...just like he was a rock in the forward pack for the team of the decade. Zlaty is the energy, ideas and enthusiasm we desperately need...just like he was on the field in the good old days. Not only did these two get the TechTahTalk up and running, now they've done the TechTahTribe. I think this proved to be a lot of fun for Tribe members and a great initiative for the club and one that should continue to develop into the future.

Rick Boyle is just Rick Boyle and Tony Cheetham is just Tony Cheetham, enough said! Rob Kelly and Tommy Bevan just do whatever is necessary to help keep the club running as does Rowly Howland.

Steve Tresidder, as rugby manager, was always around helping and attending IDRU meetings and I think he even trimmed the moustache once! Steve is moving on to be the IDRU Rugby Chairman replacing Ex Waratah, Tech and TechWaratah, Peter Leiner in this role. Congratulations Steve, we wish you all the best with this huge and hopefully rewarding challenge.

This year we had more player representation on the committee and I think this made for better meetings, better feedback and better ideas. So thank you to club captain, Jake Davey, first grade captain, Dave McConnell and second grade captain, Andrew Murphy.

This year we were lucky to have our Ladies subcommittee, LaVon Davey and Bree Tangahui, organise Ladies Day. This was a great success and it really helps the boys to have the girls help out here. Thank you ladies. Other special events were Sponsors Day organised by our Sponsorship subcommittee, Zlaty and Craigo and Old Boys Day organised by Wayno. Thanks to everyone who helped with these successful and important events.

Then there were the McVicars who once again looked after Saunders oval, spending countless hours mowing and watering then countless more hours marking out the field for each seniors home game...and then there was the juniors gala day! Anyone who thinks there's nothing much to all this grounds keeping should come down and have a go sometime!

As usual the club was ably served by senior club registrar, Wayne Ireland, who seems to cope with the ever more complex ARU demands associated with player registration with remarkable equanimity. I especially admire the ease with which the Mailman performs his registrar duties because I know I could never do it!

Last but certainly not least on the committee was secretary, James Letham. The demands on a club secretary these days are amazing...meetings and minutes, letters, judiciary matters, sifting through dozens of emails every day, keeping track of what's happening amongst all the chaos, coordinating charity and fund raising events, organising club playing gear and merchandise...as well as training, playing and refereeing. Whew!

What else did the club achieve off the field? In November we presented Aita Meafou with a cheque for the funds raised last year to help him and his family. On the Anzac Day weekend, with the cooperation of Shoalhaven Rugby Club, first grade played in special "Soldier On" jumpers which were then auctioned at the Northgong with the proceeds going to the charity. In April we also conducted our first Wollongong Bunnings BBQ club fund raising which went well and hopefully will become a regular fund raiser for the club.

And thank you to The Black Sheep, whoever you are (say no to salad) and anyone else I may have forgotten!

In summary, the Senior club needs more PLAYERS, more COMMITTEE members and more HELPERS.

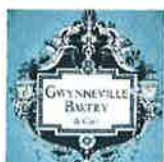
And then there's the Junior club! Full of energy, activity and excitement. Tony G almost singlehandedly held the juniors together for a few years but now Dan Read and his juniors committee have really got things buzzing. Thank you and well done to all concerned including the team coaches and managers. The juniors are a success on and off the field!

Go the Tech Waratahs,  
Graham

northgonghotel



JohnstonLegal.



PRINTMEDIA



## 2016 Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the committee and our entire rugby club, I would like to start by thanking our valued Sponsors for their support this season:

Major Club Sponsor:



Thank you Tory

Club Venue Sponsor:

northgonghotel

Thank you Tobias & Staff

Partner Sponsors:

Nathan at **TLE Electrical & Data Supplies**

**IMB Bank**

Scott & Josh at **BaiMed Physiotherapy**

Mark at **Johnston Legal**

Affiliate Sponsors:

Tyson at **Zeidler Automotive**

Jim & Sammy at **Gwynneville Bakery**

Adam at **Keiraville Butchery**

Marc at **Friends Pizza**

Greg at **Karas Smash Repairs**

Daniel at **K & D Tully Electrical Contractors**

Alex at **Alexandar Michaels Menswear**

Mark at **Crown West Cellars**

Sasha & Ray at **Institute of Lean Services**

George at **In Season Fruit & Veg**

Craig at **aConcept4**

Tony at **First National Real Estate Wollongong**

Johnny at **Print Media**

Your support is greatly appreciated, and we are very grateful to have such a generous group of sponsors associated with our club. We will continue to invest in developing the club for next season, and we hope you will all stick with us, and share in the successes that will surely come.

### Friday Night Meat Raffles:

Commencing **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016**, and continuing **EVERY FRIDAY** after that, our club will be holding a 15 tray meat raffle at the Nothgong Hotel (5:30pm – 7:00pm). Please come along, and also invite as many people as possible – stay for dinner! All proceeds go to our club and will strongly contribute to a viable future.

Thank you to **Northgong Hotel** and **Keiraville Butchery** who are greatly supporting us with this activity.

Yours Sincerely

Craig Franklin

**Club Treasurer**

## CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT 2016

I'll start off by saying how proud I was to be elected Club Captain again for the 2016 season, even bought myself a flash jacket from the best tailor in downtown Sukhumvit [Bangkok].

It is a huge honour to be elected as the player's representative on the committee.

The coaching staff have put in a huge effort this season and should be congratulated.

Telstra will be returning a huge profit this year thanks to Benny's tireless efforts on the phone chasing blokes up, along with countless late night calls between Benny and me talking complete and utter dribble, mixed in with Tactics.

Thanks goes to Timmy O for running our boys around and leading from the sideline with as much enthusiasm and passion as ever.

To Joshie Lambert, for keeping the boys fit at training and on game days. You put in a tireless effort this season, but even you couldn't keep Chris Hendry on the field.

'Cheeto' came in towards the end of the season and took the boys under his wing, teaching the young lads in second grade rugby tactics from his personal repertoire.

Whilst the results didn't go our way, there were a lot of positives to take out of the season. The playing group is a very close knit bunch and this showed on more than a few messy bus trips along with a very loose season's end weekend [Best Silly Sunday I have ever attended].

We saw a lot of young blokes step up this year, with guys like Sauce [Owen Brace], Pat Heffernan, David Beecher, Blake Owen and David Wood all getting time in the first 15.

Without a doubt, the highlight from the sideline was watching our senior playing group never give up. You had Stuey 'Evergreen' Pearson taping his ears up [along with the majority of his body] and he never stopped running, Joshie Davey, returning from serious injury and consistently playing harder than ever, 'Pirate' Pat Logan always trying to create some magic, the 'Welsh Wizard' Bryn Edwards, tackling everything insight whilst being an enormous pest to the opposition and the whole gang led by our courageous captain 'Dapto Dave McConnell, whom spent the whole season cutting done blokes like a woodsman chopping trees.

Watching from the sideline, these guys toughing it out all year made me really proud to be part of our great club, so my sincere thanks to those boys.

Looking forward to 2017, we need to have a much bigger commitment to training; it's the only way we can get the club back on top of the competition where we belong.

We all need to network better; we all have mates that would be keen.

Yours in Rugby

BLOCKER.

## CLUB MANAGERS REPORT 2016

2016 is a leap year starting on Friday of the Gregorian calendar, the 2016th year of the Common Era and *Anno Domini* designations, the 16th year of the 3rd millennium, the 16th year of the 21st century, and the 7th year of the 2010s decade, it was however, not the year for the Tech Waratahs, one that will go down in the history books for all the wrong reasons.

I am incredibly proud of our first grade coaches Benny Shortus and Timmy Olsen, putting a team together and on the field week after week, goes to show the determination and commitment to this great club.

To Freddie and Jake, things went a little pear shaped at the back end of the season, but that is not reflective of the time and effort that was put in each week.

To all the boys who pulled on the red, white and black jersey this year, your commitment and courage has not gone unnoticed and you have done this club proud.

To all the players who got awards, well done and well deserved.

To all the wives, girlfriends, boyfriends and family, thank you for lending us your boys to come play with this great club every week.

Our amazing committee and life members that stuck by the boys throughout the season, thank you, you are true clubmen.

Huge congratulations to James Letham and Dave McConnell on playing their 200<sup>th</sup> game with the club this year. This is a really big achievement and you boys should be proud.

Congratulations also to Owen Brace and Chris Wallace for playing their 100<sup>th</sup> games, an outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations are also in order for Angus Ashbrook, Leviticus Burgess, Tevita Cavora, Matt Craig, Jordan Falanitama, Saiyasi Ikanidrodoro, Uati Isaako, Craig Johnson, Petero Kanawabu, Peceli Lacanivalu, Lee Lamatta, Dylan Madin, Tyson McEvoy, Romulo Naivola, Blake Owen, Manoa Rasolea, Iliavu Rauwa, Elima Salabuka, Muhamed Sawan Charlie Seninawanana, Sebastian Wilson, Dave Wood and Isidore Wulf on making their 1<sup>st</sup> Grade debut, great work boys.

2017 is just around the corner, and it will finally be our year. So bring some mates to training, work hard and the time will change, putting us back up where we belong.

Yours in Rugby,  
Steven Tresidder

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Managers Report 2016

Well it goes without saying that we as a group had a really disappointing season as a team which was a reflection of the club overall for season 2016.

I have said many times before that it's a lot easier to recruit players, coaches, committee members and supporters when the club has competitive teams, none more so than 1<sup>st</sup> Grade that has the respect of the opposition. We may not win but respect is given because of the effort and dedication of those attending training and turning up each week to play to their level of ability, skills and experience.

To this end I have to congratulate and thank those players who played two games each Saturday for most of the season and represented the club to the best of their abilities each and every game. It is not my intention to name each of the players but it will be reflected, I'm sure in the number of games played throughout the season next to their respective names.

The positives out of the season is the number of players who played at the higher level and showed plenty of heart and weekly improvements in their skill levels building on their knowledge of what it takes to be a first grade player.

There are score sheets that indicate big losing results but it doesn't show how much determination and effort was actually involved by a number of players who really tried to do their personal best what more can we ask than that.

The coaches, Benny Shortus and Tim Olsen had a very difficult season in many ways just to get a team on the field each week, they were always positive in supporting their players as best they could by encouraging them come to training and being part of the rebuilding of the playing group we all know is required.

As your manager I can only say at the end of a number of games it was fantastic to see players that put in their all to represent their team and our club. On behalf of your committee, fellow players and supporters we sincerely hope you are back next season to build on your season 2016.

Rick Boyle

## SECOND GRADE REPORT 2016

I started the year off as a player, but a season ending injury sustained in the second round saw me morph [some say rather badly] into the second grade manager. From second grade manager, I somehow progressed and ended up being some kind of coach alongside Benny, Timmy and Cheeto. Does that make me Minibus II?

It was a hard year out on the field in second grade, but a few things I did enjoy this year was witnessing the development of our younger and newer players. For example, Dylan Madin who is always keen to help with whatever anyone needs; Bailey Mathieson throwing around his weight and Muhamad Sawan playing with loads of aggression.

What really made me proud was getting to see what our club was made on with blokes volunteering to back up for their mates and play two games.

I would sincerely like to thank the following people for their invaluable assistance throughout the year:

- Graham letham, Steven Tresidder, Rob Kelly and Jimmy letham for helping me with my managerial responsibilities every week. Without you guys, the boys would never of had jerseys to wear and/or have signed on.
- Barry McVicar for telling me if they kicked a conversion, because I wasn't paying always paying attention.
- Wayneo for fixing all my spelling mistakes and errors on the team sheet week in week out.

To all the players that played for second grade in 2016, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all; no one could ever doubt the effort and/or commitment you put in whilst out on the paddock.

Yours in Rugby,

Jake "BLOCKER" Davey



## The black sheep's report

Greetings my fellow tech-taharians . Firstly I would just like to express my gratitude to the editors of this fine publication for allowing me the indulgence of filing my own report, a privilege usually reserved for those with a formal capacity within the club. Although they may regret it!!

Righto to get things started I thought I would steal a line from Ricky Gervais when he quoted that great philosopher Dolly Parton "if you want the rainbow , first you must put up with the rain" and you all thought she was just a big pair of tits!! Well we put up with some solid rain in 2016 but fear not for the rainbow is coming, they always do!

It's like finally finding your lost dog; to experience that feeling first you must lose your dog. Well our hooch is hiding somewhere but we shall find him and when we do we will chain the fucker up good and proper. The point is yeah it was a tough year but certainly not one to forget. Years like this are not only character building but as the Midnight oil might say these should not be forgotten years!

Times like this calls for character and you lads have shown plenty just by turning up each week and playing for each other and the club. Reward yourselves with a solid session tonight cause you bloody well deserve it. Over the years our grand club has been home to many characters (we've had a few character building years). I have always held the belief that these characters contribute greatly in times of need just by simply lightening the mood- practical jokes and a laugh with your mates helps bond one and all and create a tight knit unit.

The king of all the practical jokers in my opinion was Simon Marland, Sime once had 2 tech tahs packing up their belongings in the belief they were getting evicted from their unit, he had sent a letter complete with the real estate agents letterhead stating that they had 2 weeks to vacate the premises. The 2 lads in question had already started boxing up their belongings before Sime fessed up

Simon once stumbled on a pile of shattered glass from a car window and immediately saw opportunity, he went home and got a dust pan and brush ,

collected the glass, then he hid dingbats car and put the shattered glass right where dings car was parked. Bat notices the evidence on the ground and immediately reports his car stolen, while it was hiding in Simes garage!

I guess the message is boys, remember to make it FUN and let the true characters come out.

Again I will steal another quote, this time from sports writer and rugby tragic Peter Fenton "it is'nt just the winning , nor the scoring , nor the cheers, it's the friendship and comraderie that last you through the years" just ask an oldboy and they will tell you how true this is, so head up and neck up!

Congrats to all the award winners and milestone achievements, just remember to keep your speeches short, nobody cares what you've got to say, they are all filthy you beat them to the award!

Remember to look after your better halves in the off season, girlfriends /wives/partners/sisters(if that's how you roll) boyfriends(no judging here). And if your going to the beach, remember the potato goes down the FRONT of your budgies boys!

Well I will sign off now, I'm off to Canons Butcher to get some quality meats and B-B-Q like its Buckle, and I'll get some bangas too and see if we can't coax this bloody lost dog out of its hideout.

Up the mighty tech-tahs for ever and ever

**BA<sub>R</sub>MEN**

TBS

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 2NDS	TOTAL 1STS	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES 2016	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Brian	Ah kew	0	5	0	5	5
Angus	Ashbrook	0	9	8	17	17
Colin	Atapai	0	4	0	4	4
David	Beecher	14	1	12	13	27
Mitchell	Bevan	133	0	1	1	134
Owen	Brace	94	6	16	22	116
Michael	Bruton	247	4	11	15	262
Wayne	Bruton	340	1	1	2	342
George	Buckthought	82	1	0	1	83
Leviticus	Burgess	0	3	3	6	6
Mark	Bye	238	1	0	1	239
Tevita	Cavora	0	0	1	1	1
Kai	Chishiro-Dennelly	60	4	12	16	76
Matt	Craig	0	1	15	16	16
Mitchell	Crotty	29	1	3	4	33
Jake	Davey	133	0	2	2	135
Joshua	Davey	145	2	9	11	156
Bryn	Edwards	49	3	18	21	70
Allan	Ezekiela	0	3	0	3	3
Mathew	Faoagali	0	1	0	1	1
Jordan	Falanitama	18	4	1	5	23
Sean	Filan	134	3	1	4	138
Tim	Filan	67	2	0	2	69
Damon	Garde	35	1	0	1	36
Cody	Grayson	136	3	1	4	140
Matthew	Hancox	0	1	0	1	1
Patrick	Heffernan	33	6	16	22	55
Christopher	Hendry	152	2	9	11	163
Saiyasi	Ikanidrodoro	0	1	1	1	1
Uati	Isaako	0	5	4	9	9
Karapati	Iumato	0	4	0	4	4
Johnny	Jackson	21	5	0	5	26
Paul	Jeremijenko	87	1	0	1	88
Craig	Johnson	0	6	1	7	7
Petero	Kanawabu	0	0	4	4	4
Jake	Katieli	18	9	1	10	28
Jonah	Katieli	28	11	0	11	39
Natene	Kavapalu	0	1	0	1	1
Peceli	Lacanicalu	0	0	6	6	6
Lee	Lamatta	0	2	1	3	3
Jordan	Lemalu	0	8	0	8	8
Justin	Lenane	63	3	3	6	69
James	Letham	194	6	15	21	215
Sam	Levita	0	1	0	1	1
Patrick	Logan	47	4	16	20	67

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	PREVIOUS SENIOR GAMES PLAYED	TOTAL 2NDS	TOTAL 1STS	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES 2016	TOTAL SENIOR GAMES PLAYED
Trevor	Longbottom	153	1	3	4	157
Dylan	Madin	6	10	3	13	19
Bailey	Mathieson	0	12	0	12	12
Luke	Mathieson	0	9	0	9	9
Mark	Mazzini	128	3	0	3	131
David	McConnell	182	1	17	18	200
Tyson	McEvoy	13	13	8	21	34
Stephen	Mitchell	45	1	4	5	50
Andrew	Murphy	148	13	7	20	168
Emmanuel	Nayagodamu	148	1	0	1	149
Romulo	Naivola	0	0	1	1	1
Blake	Owen	0	1	13	14	14
Sam	Patrinos	141	11	11	22	163
Stuart	Pearson	229	15	6	21	250
Maneta	Pepe	1	2	0	2	2
Fred	Purcell	62	3	4	7	69
Manoa	Rasolea	0	1	5	6	6
Iliavu	Rauwa	0	4	7	11	11
Elima	Salabuka	0	1	1	2	2
Ben	Sauvao	0	2	0	2	2
Jade	Sawan	0	1	0	1	1
Muhamed	Sawan	22	11	6	17	39
Charlie	Seninawanana	0	0	1	1	1
Benjamin	Shortus	142	5	3	8	150
Beau	Siaki'moto	0	3	0	3	3
Etimani	Taala	10	6	0	6	16
Jacob	Taala	7	2	1	3	10
Jamie	Taingahue	140	2	1	3	143
Tevita	Taufa	0	3	0	3	3
Gregory	Thomas	107	2	1	3	110
Harrison	Thorpe	48	5	3	8	56
Christopher	Tiatia	23	1	0	1	24
Ian	Tumanuvao	0	2	0	2	2
Rhyce	Tubaru	105	1	1	2	107
Sai	Vono	0	1	0	1	1
Nela	Vusoniceva	4	1	0	1	5
Christopher	Wallace	91	3	6	9	100
Peter	Winston	110	2	4	6	116
Sebastion	Wilson	8	1	2	3	11
Dave	Wood	0	7	16	23	23
Isidore	Wulf	0	1	7	8	8

Statistical details subject to available information

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