



Speech by

## Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 28 October 2010

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### BROTHERS JUNIORS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.41 pm): I rise to celebrate 75 years of the Brothers Juniors Rugby League Football Club, which is based in my electorate at Gibson Park, Stafford. The proud traditions of the Brethren started in 1935 and while the senior club wound up a number of years ago, the blue and white butcher striped jersey has been carried on by Brisbane Brothers Juniors. The year 2010 has been a wonderful year of successes on and off the field. Brothers' 530 registered players formed 26 junior teams and two senior teams—all supported by a legion of loyal supporters including coaches, managers, trainers, family and other assorted volunteering Brothers' faithful. Eight sides contested grand finals and three won premierships.

It is my very great honour to be the patron of Brothers Juniors and I was very pleased to join this family club at a number of great events where this 75th anniversary year was celebrated. In June, I was joined by my colleague the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport, himself a Brothers stalwart—

**Mr Reeves:** Love the club.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport. At the club's 75th anniversary dinner we heard from great names of the club over the decades, including a recorded interview with 93-year-old Neil Murdoch, who played in the butcher stripes against Norths in the 1940 A-grade grand final. Sadly, Mr Murdoch has since passed on, but it was a pleasure to support the presentation of a special anniversary Brothers jersey No. 4, recognising Neil's position as a centre in the 1940 side, to the Murdoch family at his funeral.

Past President Scott Munro's presentation on the club's history was most poignant, given the Munro family's involvement with the club over many decades. Alongside his fellow life member father, Don, Scott has served the club tirelessly. I know how proud he is of his sons Daniel and Ben, the seniors and juniors club captains respectively.

In October, I was joined at the annual trophy day by the President of the Senate, Senator John Hogg, whose father, Frank, was very firmly associated with Brothers Juniors in particular and development of junior rugby league in this state.

**Mr Reeves** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport. Senator Hogg has been particularly involved in the development of junior rugby league in this state.

The trophy day, as with the anniversary dinner, was ably presided over by President Roger Whyte, who was buoyed by the enthusiasm of the more than 800 attendees to celebrate the season with all the players and their supporters. This has been a tremendous year for the Brethren, but it would not have been possible without the loyal army of volunteers supporting the 28 teams, running the canteen and preparing the grounds at Gibson Park or, indeed, the many generous sponsors of the club. It would not be possible to mention all these volunteers, but I will highlight Roger Whyte's hardworking committee: the efforts of long-time and tireless secretary, Graham Brennan—better known as Bruno—and vice-president cum canteen manager Mario Licastro and other committee members and general helpers around the club, including Peter Gill, John Pezzimenti, Charles Larosa, Debbie Hiscock, Paul McSween, Damian Smith, Andrew Hedger, John Geaney, Patricia Licastro, Jeff Leitch, Michael Lynch, Craig Grauf, Davida Boyd and many more besides. Up the Brethren!