

# Hornsby roars into grand final

THE Hornsby Lions are through to the grand final of the Manly A grade rugby league competition after defeating minor premiers Belrose 19-14 last weekend.

This is the first time a team outside of the northern beaches has made a grand final in the history of the competition.

The grand final will be held at Brookvale Oval on August 24, where

Hornsby will take on the winner of Belrose and Beacon Hill.

Former NRL player Cliff Lyons said he was excited about returning to Brookvale, where he played many first grade matches for Manly.

In front of a large crowd at Forestville Oval last Sunday, Belrose took control of the game scoring two tries in the first half.

Hornsby, unable to break through

the Eagles defence, were down 8-0 at half time.

The second half saw the Lions lift their game, following a stirring talk from coach Danny Talbot.

They took control of the match and gained a strong field position thanks to some tactical kicking from Lyons.

Winger James Langaloo scored out wide, a try which was successfully converted by Adam Rutherford.

Belrose then struck back with a try, extending their lead to 14-6.

Hornsby dominated the scoreboard for the rest of the match, with tries to front rower Stuart Cook and a second to Langaloo.

Lyons also kicked a field goal, bringing the score to 19-14.

The final whistle saw jubilant scenes among the Hornsby players.

Players' player was Craig O'Dwyer.

"We knew what we had to do, it was just a matter of sticking to it," skipper Brad Collins said.

"We've been competing in this competition for four seasons and it is very rewarding to be given the chance to play in the grand final.

"I'm happy for the boys and proud of the effort they showed today."

Grand final day kicks off at Brookvale Oval next Sunday from 9am. First grade kick off at 3.15pm.