New Marrara base a must

Don’t dither, Dave … this concerns the future of Territory rugby league

I’ve always been a fan of Territory treasurer Dave Tollner, probably because he’s the last of what my generation like to call the “cowboy politicians”.

Not that I’ve ever been a blue-ribbon CLP voter, particularly when Labor chief ministers Clare Martin and that one-eyed St Kilda fan Paul Henderson are good friends of mine.

But Dave Tollner, for all his huff and puff and ability to upset journos with his forthright comments, has been one of my favourite pols – until now.

But the age of the complex became a problem as the years rolled by and when the game’s administrators abandoned the ground because of spiralling maintenance costs the wrecking ball seemed the only circular object that would be used there again.

Rejuvenating the old ground might sound good in parliament with $20 million in upgrade costs the carrot to encourage fans of rugby league back to the ground.

But $20 million is peanuts in the overall scheme of things when Richardson Park is on the menu. A new grandstand, increased and more powerful lighting, a new playing surface, five changerooms, administration block and a carpark equal to TIO Stadium will cost a hell of a lot more than $20 million.

And one more thing. Rugby union and soccer, those other rectangular sports, are quite happy at their own homes and aren’t in the mood for more discussions.

I’m just saying that one-eyed St Kilda fan Paul Henderson should bring Sports Minister Gary Higgins along for a chat please.

MORRIS ON MONDAY

GREY MORRIS

DEFENDING Top Gun champion Ted Roderick lived up to his name with some Hyperactive work in the Hidden Valley mud.

Roderick won the bracket for the second consecutive round when he gave his big block Chevy motor the full treatment in the run off against Shane Munt.

Roderick’s 49.93sec run in his first circuit of the final was II seconds quicker than Munt’s Flat Broke.

Munt, who was quickest in the heats with a scorching 48.45sec run in heat four, could not return the favour in his next attempt when mechanical gremlins again ruined his night.

A broken CV joint in his gearbox from a heat run meant running on three gears instead of four, a major disadvantage against the hamstorming Roderick.

Mark Tatttingham’s Dirty Harry had the circuit to itself in the Pro Mod when Simon Modra and Wade King were infected with the same gremlins. But there was no holding back for Tatttingham, who shot around the 630m track in 56.07sec to seal a memorable win.

Matt Hansen was another driver to leave the best until last. His 61.99sec in the run-off against Paulette Gaston won him the 4WD Modified class.

Greg Logan and Dirty Dophin were five seconds quicker than young gun Demi Tattingham and her car Ace of Spades in the 4WD Standard bracket.

Tatttingham was good enough to improve her time in the second run-off by five seconds, but Logan’s 61.99sec time in his last run sealed the result.

Brian Buckley’s much publicised return to racing got a big shot in the arm when he raced past the consistent Luke Gale in the 2WD Open final.

Identical 58.58sec runs in the final meant he made a positive out of the much used phrase “sportspersons don’t like – Buckley’s chance.”

Mark Joyce showed consistency is the recipe for winning when he steered Mud Biro to a convincing win in the 2WD Standard class.

CRICKET clubs throughout the Northern Territory are encouraged to apply for the 2016 CommBank Cricket Club Sponsorships.

With cricket in full swing in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek – it would be a perfect time for a club to gain a grant.

The CommBank Cricket Club Sponsorship program provides clubs with two years of funding worth $2000 each year, along with new playing, training and ground equipment.

Australian team captain Steve Smith is a CommBank ambassador.

“The Illawong-Menai Cricket Club is where I discovered my love of the game and started developing my cricketing skills.”

“But there are so many clubs out there willing to support players, relying solely on volunteers and donations.”

“The CommBank Cricket Club Sponsorship program gives local clubs the boost they need to create a fun, safe and supportive environment for Aussie cricket lovers.”

Cricket clubs across the Territory can apply for a two-year CommBank Cricket Club Sponsorship.

Female Australian Test cricketer Ellyse Perry is also a CommBank ambassador.

“Cricket gives young people the opportunity to challenge themselves, make friends and be physically active,” Perry said.

“This funding will make a world of difference to local clubs, so they can bring the community together over their love of the sport.”

To apply for a 2016 CommBank Cricket Club Sponsorship, club officials or administrators can visit commbank.com.au/cricket