

COURSE REPORT - SYDNEY MARCH 2008

By Rob Lucas - Course Instructor

What a course, a beautiful city and friendly people.

20 brave people took the first step in their recovery by walking through the door of the Y Hotel on the evening of the 5th of March 2008. You could see the fear and anxiety in their faces as you approached them and introduced yourself.

The first day videos, like always is the most traumatic event of the evening. With all that over Geoff Johnston the RD made everyone at ease by giving them a brief explanation of the course.

On Thursday the group was separated into new students and returning graduates. The returning grads had to prove to the course instructor, Robert Lucas that they were capable of sitting on the inside line. They were drilled in the check list and the laws.

In the mean time the new students were being instructed in the basics of the course by Geoff Johnston and Scott Harper.

Everyone was together again by 11am, stronger grads on the inside line and the not so strong grads on the outside line. It did not take long after that for all the grads to get strong and use good technique.

It was good to see grads taking the position on the outside line so everyone be they grads or students always had someone sitting opposite them.

By 1pm students were saying their names with confidence.

Friday started with more drilling of the check list and laws. All 20 students signed up as members of the programme. Friday afternoon grads took the new students out to show them how to make contacts.

Reporting back by the new grads went smoothly with all grads making 100 contacts or more.

We had some split sessions in the evening, these are always attended well.

Saturday the students were a bit apprehensive about the up and coming speeches at Darling Harbour, but after a dose of the Harrison workshops and just letting go, all that apprehension was gone.

The council had given us an allotted place for the public speaking at Darling Harbour and were even kind enough to provide us with chairs which were arranged in a semi circle, so creating a lot of curiosity from the public.

What a beautiful back drop with all the boats and water behind us and the bars and cafes in front of us with loads of people listening. We could do no wrong and it was proved with the eagerness of the students getting up and delivering great speeches. The returning grads had a turn after the students. As always we had to give them a time limit. Sometimes I think we have created talking monsters.

The grads reported back on the students. Everything was positive with stories of what the students had achieved including things they never thought they would ever do in a life time. They were all on cloud nine.

We had some more split sessions.

Sunday, more drilling, reading out load and of course the final speeches. Lots of the relatives and friends attend these to hear their loved ones speaking in front of a large crowd.

This was a great course and like every course, friendships were made and 20 more people joined the ever expanding McGuire family.

Thanks to Scott Harper, Phil Jefferies, Ian Stevens and Scott Monson who all did a wonderful job instructing and coaching, a special thanks to Geoff Johnston. Without him the programme would not be the same.

Regards
Robert Lucas