

# Shield helps Edwards, Gilmour names live on

By JOSH LEESON - Feb. 4, 2015, 10 p.m.



**FAMILY CONNECTION:** Sam Gilmour and Todd Hearne with the Edwards-Gilmour Shield at Townson Oval on Wednesday. Picture: Max Mason-Hubers

BY his own admission, Michael Edwards was never much of a cricketer.

The family's cricketing stocks very much rested with his late father, Tony, who once scored 81 for Northern NSW against Viv Richards' West Indies and captained Merewether first grade.

But Michael hopes one day his 16-month-old son Liam will don a Merewether cap and play for the shield bearing his grandfather's name.

Merewether and Waratah-Mayfield will compete for the Edwards-Gilmour Shield for the first time on Saturday across all four grades based on club championship points.

The trophy has been designed to honour Tony Edwards and Waratah legend and Australian Test all-rounder Gary "Gus" Gilmour, who both died last June.

It is expected the shield will carry the same prestige as the Gordon Goffet Shield, which is contested between Merewether and Cardiff-Boolaroo.

The two men's widows, Helen Gilmour and Judy Edwards, will present the shield to the winning club.

Michael Edwards and Gilmour's son Sam were behind the initiative, to honour their fathers who made a big impact on Newcastle district cricket.

"I have a 16-month-old son who has a few photos with dad ... he will never get to know him and cricket was such a large part of dad's life," Edwards said.

"For me it was about my son being able to grow up one day and go down to Townson Oval, where I've played a lot of rugby and dad played cricket, and be able to say, 'There's a trophy named after my grandfather'."

The match will also be deeply personal for Sam Gilmour.

Gary Gilmour and his son Clint, who died last March from brain cancer, both won premierships at Waratah, while Sam captained their first grade side before joining Merewether in 2010-11.

"I'm thinking of him every time I play, but it will bring a little more special meaning to it," Sam said of the shield. "Dad started at 13 or 14 at Waratah and the club still means a lot to myself and my family."

Sam said his father never expressed an opinion about his controversial move from Waratah to Merewether.

But he admitted there would be mixed feelings about playing for Merewether in first grade at Townson Oval when the Gilmour part of the trophy represents the Waratah side.

"I spoke to mum about and she said it would be a little bit different as well," Gilmour said. "It's always different playing against them due to the family ties going through Waratah and it will make much more special as well."