

## OGGFC/OGFC history: an interim note

1. As recorded in earlier Year Histories, the first few seasons of the OGGFC were highly successful. A significant reason for this was the number of top-class players who enthusiastically dropped down from A Section to help the Club in its endeavours, reporting along the way that it was the most enjoyable part of their football careers.

The result was three consecutive grand-finals, including two consecutive Premierships, and a creditable fifth in their first year in B Section. However most of those players were getting towards the end of their careers, and approaching the end of the 1950s, retirement loomed for many.

A changing of the guard was met with few replacement players of ability in the next few years, and a deterioration of the relationship with GGS. One player of this period has stated that “we now got no support or interest from the school, and the recruiting and results of the late 1950s and early 1960s reflected this”. Whatever the cause, the period 1959 through to 1963, produced the first Dark Ages for the Club as it sank back to from whence it had come, beginning the 1964 season in E Section, where they had started 10 years previously.

(The relationship with GGS has waxed and waned over the years: with the school allowing us the use of their main oval about five times in the past six years for practice matches, we can say that it is currently on a very good footing.)

2. Some time in 1960 the new Secretary, **Tony Mollard**, went back through old record/minute books and typed up much of the old information which was in many cases in the form of pencil or fading biro, although some pages were incomprehensible and others were missing.

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### Old Geelong Football Club

**Year: 1960**

### The move to Como Park

B Section. Finished 10<sup>th</sup> (last)

The Club won only one game for the season – the first – and that was only by dint of their opponents, State Savings Bank, having played an unregistered player in the opening round.

President: **Evan Macgregor**

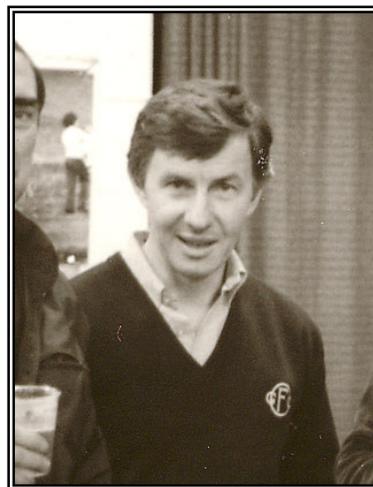
Secretary: **Tony Mollard**

Treasurer: **Deryk Stephens** (Right, 1983. He was to be *applauded* for his fine work for the season at the *second* AGM for the year 1960 which was held in December. See later notes.)

Vice-Presidents: **Noel Rundle, W. Morrison**

(Or **Noel Rundle, David Lee**: there are differing records.)

Committee: **Nugget Stephens, Bill Black, John Stephen, Mike Pointer, Reece Burgess** (Elections had been required, nominations having exceeded vacancies.)



Captain Firsts: **John Stephen** Coach Firsts: **John Stephen**

Delegate to VAFA: not listed. Probably **Tony Mollard**.

At a **Committee Meeting on 20 January**

It was decided that the Annual General Meeting was to be held at the P.S. Club on 29 February (*it thankfully being a Leap Year*).

**The matter of a ground** received considerable coverage:

# **Evan Macgregor** had written to the MCC (*it is not stated if he was after the main oval*) and had received a negative response.

# **Noel Rundle** advised that the Old Melburnians were considering entering a second team, in the curtain-raiser comp. They would be using Cordner Oval every second week, so we might be able to use it the other week. "Otherwise try for the Ransford or Ryder Ovals at Royal Park. Rundle keen on attracting Trinity College footballers to the club therefore a ground near University." (*A thoroughly astute observation I would have thought. – Ed.*)

# **Bill Mollard** to check St. Kevins. And someone (illegible) to check with the VAFA.

# **E. McG** to investigate OM's, the Royal Park ovals, and, third, Burnley again as a fall-back.

# Ground Sub-Committee to meet Thursday 4 February.

It was reported that there was a credit balance of 117 pounds which included a donation received from a **Mrs. Lemmon** for fifty pounds.

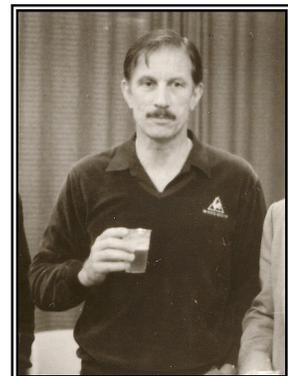
**The (First) Annual Meeting**

was actually held on the evening of 1 March, with 35 people in attendance (these days we struggle for a quorum of 15; 1960 was presumably before the days of *Desperate Housewives* on the box).

# It was reported that on 29 January, Richmond City Council had granted the Club the use of Burnley Oval again. "However we may be able to use **Como Park** for playing purposes. If this is not available we use Burnley this year and definitely a Royal Park oval next year." It was expected that a decision on Como Park would be provided around 5 March from the Prahran Council.

# "We are looking forward to plenty of new blood, especially from the school." (An extravagant level of unfounded optimism: there was next to none.)

# The Committee had discussed the position of coach and was able to announce that **Malcolm Macleod** had taken on the task as coach. "The only drawback is that he was born a rugby player." (*He had however been a member of the premierships teams of 1956 and 57. - Ed.*) However, Malcolm resigned some time in May, and his place was taken by the Captain, **John Stephen** (right).



**Mr. Bill Patterson** made a donation of 50 pounds. (*According to the Reserve Bank's pre-decimal inflation calculator, this would equate to about \$1,300 today.*)

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This is the first time that reference to Como Park is to be found in the any of the Club's papers. The ground had been used for some years by the Prahran Baseball Club until 2.30pm, and on alternate Saturdays after 2.30pm by the Prahran Soccer Club and occasionally the Prahran Lacrosse Club. With a sprinkling of archery thrown in for good measure.

We are not aware of it ever having been used for Australian Rules Football. It appears that **Noel Rundle** had suggested that the Club should approach the City of Prahran about the possibility of using Como Park. There has also been a suggestion that **Maurice Nathan**, later the President of the Victorian Football League, had also been instrumental in alerting the Club that it might be worth while their approaching the City of Prahran about using the ground on alternate Saturdays after 2.30pm.



The new Club Secretary, **Tony Mollard** (facing camera, second from left, Eltham Barbeque 1968 or 69) instigated contact with the Council (and **Garth Manton** buttered-up the groundsman), and after approval was given, the players were reported to have been "ecstatic".

(Though it was soon apparent that the new ground was about twice the size of the old St. Kevin's Oval of 1955-1958, and a lot bigger than the Burnley one of 1959. A fact which seems to have benefitted opposition teams more than the home side in 1960.)

Como Park boasted two training (one-bulbed) lights - of fairly low intensity - fixed on a single low pole on the river side of the ground. It illuminated an area of about 40 x 30 metres, and was to be the only training light for at least 20 years. Given the numbers at training by the middle of the season, that was probably adequate for 1960.

*(Almost impossible to see unless you zoom in about ten times, but by 1987 there were three light towers, two on the river side, and one a little to the south - left - of the rooms. These days there are five poles: seven would be a good number.)*



### **Social and Other**

- \* **Rats of Tobruk Hall** function again – "Entry fee: males one pound, girls 5 shillings"
- \* **Dinner Dance** – "Castlereagh", Kew, 9 July

\* Proposal that **Annual Subs** be increased from 10 shillings to one pound would be put at next AGM.

\* It appears there was another **trip to Tasmania**, this time during the long weekend in June.

\* It was decided unanimously to charge a two-pound **deposit on jumpers** from the start of next season. *(A problem which still bugs the Club some 52 years later, it seems, given the number of emails the President of 2012 has sent out over the past few months asking last year's players to return their jumpers. Though we understand they are all now back except for one.)*

\* A **cricket match** was to be held at Red Hill on Sunday 27 November. Catering would be meat for 100 people, 2 x 9 gallon kegs, one niner, six cases soft drink, 150 chops, 40 pounds of sausages, and 40 pounds of streak.

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**Trophies for the year** were awarded to

Turnbull Trophy for Best & Fairest: **John Stephen**

EH Montgomery Trophy for Runner-Up to Best and Fairest: **Brian Keddie**

DC Moore Trophy for Best First Year Player: **Jerry Rasmussen**

D.M. Bennett Trophy for Most Consistent: **Bill Black**

Most Improved: Not awarded.

It was decided at a committee meeting to bring forward the holding of **Annual Meetings** from February or March (as in the past) to December. As a result this meant that **two AGMs** were held in 1960, the second being on 12 December.

The Treasurer **Deryk Stevens** was commended on the Balance Sheet. (Indeed, and doubtless insulting all Treasurers who had gone before, it was stated that it was “the first time it had been presented in such a clear form.”)

**Mr Bill Patterson** and **K. (Bill) Mollard** were elected to Life Membership in recognition of their outstanding service to the Club.

There are no minutes for April, July, September, or October. (Perhaps there were no meetings.)

And perhaps strangely there is no mention of the new ground and how that was going in Committee Meeting minutes for May, June, August, November or AGM Minutes held in December.

Financials indicate ground rental had gone from 15 pounds, 3 shillings in 1959 to 30 pounds, 15 shillings and three pence: this may well indicate a change of venue from 1959 to 1960.

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As always, these Year publications are a work in progress. If any readers familiar with that period have anything to add or correct, please contact Peter Lemon on [peter@peregrineadventures.com](mailto:peter@peregrineadventures.com)

