

Old Geelong Football Club - Historical Year Notes

Year: 1961

(1961 seems to have less in the way of historical material surviving than any other season so far, so these notes are correspondingly brief.)

C Section: Finished sixth. Won seven and lost 11 games, after losing the first three.

“Round 4: Due to the brilliance of full forward **John Chittick** who kicked 6 goals, OGGs won a hard-fought game against - *illegible* ????”

*(“We Were Wrong” - Again: This is probably a good time to mention that in an earlier Year History, 1956 Additional Notes, we stated that **John Chittick** had represented Australia in the Athletics - Hurdles - at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and the 1960 Olympics in Tokyo. It has been pointed out by one - but only one - Astute Reader that the latter Games were actually held in Rome.)*

President: **Noel Rundle**

Secretary, & Delegate to VAFA: **Tony Mollard**
(Assistant **Bill Black**)

*“We Were NOT Wrong”: We put this photo, taken in 1968, in the Year History for 1960 when **Tony Mollard** was also Secretary, saying that he was the bloke second from the left. Only to receive an email from a past player advising that it couldn't possibly be Tony Mollard because the bloke was “too young and far too sloppily dressed”. And that it was probably past player **Michael Rigg**. We then checked with Tony Mollard who confirmed that it is, and was, most definitely him - Tony - in the picture.)*



Treasurer: **Deryk Stephens** Vice-Presidents: **Nugget Stephens, David Lee**

Committee: **Blair Catanach, John Stephen, Jerry Rasmussen, Nugget Stephens, Neil Kennison, Harry Rundle, Rob Happell**

Captain Firsts: **John Stephen** Coach Firsts: **Noel Rundle**



From a few surviving notes:

* **Mr. Robert Happell** - photo Como, 1980 - was appointed custodian of the O.G.G.F.C Premiership flags of 1956 and 1957. *(So where the bloody hell are they now, Bert?)*

* The **Eltham Barbeque** would be held early in the season, with catering to include 100 steaks, 100 chops

and 300 sausages - and a mind-numbing 3 x 18 gallon kegs of beer, one x 9 gallon keg, and six dozen bottles.

* Perhaps in an attempt to regain some balance, a **Pie Night** for players was to be held on Thursday 20 April. "Five dozen pies, plus soft drink. AND NO BEER."

* The **Black Tie** event at Castlereagh mid-season was an "outstanding success".

* Thirty-nine players played during the season (the lowest number to play for the Club ever in any one particular season), with **Tony Poolman** and **Brian Sprague** the only ones to play in every game.

(Fast forward.) **Trophies for the year** were awarded as follows:

Turnbull Trophy for Best & Fairest: **Jeremy Rasmussen**

Rasmussen had also become the first player from the Club to be selected for **VAF A representation**, in an interstate game held during the season. The match was to be an away game in South Australia, and the following note appears: "The cost (of his airfare) of 12 pounds to be paid by the Club. This to be financed through raffles which would be held every home game at Como Park."

(Perhaps they only managed to raise half - because Rasmussen has been living in Adelaide for many years. - Ed.)

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

DC Moore Trophy for Best First Year Player: **Tony Poolman**

D.M. Bennett Coach's Trophy: **Noel Rundle**

Most Consistent: **Deryk Stephens**

Most Improved: "after considerable discussion" - **Not Awarded.**



And we will finish with two more photos which were definitely not taken in 1961 but which may have some slight relevance to these 1961 notes.

1) You'll probably have to enlarge the view, but here is another shot of **Tony**

Mollard, on the balcony at Como in 1979 (outside one of the earlier incarnations of the changing rooms/pavilion), perhaps looking a tad older and most definitely less sloppily dressed than 11 years previously. He's to the far right at the back, wearing jacket and tie.

2) Also at Como, 1980, from left to right are then-Committeemen **Jock Bing**, **Bert Happell** - yes, back on the Committee many years later - and **Trevor King**.

Jock helped the O.G.G.F.C. launch the soon-to-be-famous group **The Seekers** in 1962, the Year History of which is currently in the course of preparation. (And which will be much longer than 1961.)

Bert could be sitting of the Premiership flag of 1956, or 1957; it is a bit hard to tell.



And *Trevor* will also get a mention in the 1962 History. But a major thank you to him now, in 2012, for the terrific job he does for the Club as **Timekeeper for the Firsts** virtually every week. (Even if he can't tell the difference between Tony Mollard and Michael Rigg.)

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