

**Old Geelong Football Club Year History: 1962** Geelong College: the first mention

We have previously commented on the almost complete lack of **photos** from the Club's first nine years (there is just **one** from **1955**, and just **one** from **1956**). So at the end of these notes we are going to reproduce a number which have been found from 1962, taken at the Eltham Barbeque early in the season. They are scanned from Kodak transparencies (slides) and we have no idea who took them – though we suspect he or she did not go on to make a living from photography. But at least they are there.

C Section: Finished 9<sup>th</sup>. Relegated

Won three games – including two of the first four – and lost 15, including five by less than two goals. (One version says we won four games; perhaps we should go with that.)

President: **Garth Manton**

(Garth had been connected with the Club since its start in 1954 - his name is mentioned in a number of the Year Histories already posted on the Club's Website: this photo to the right was taken later, in 1966.)

Secretary: **Tony Mollard** (Assistant: **Peter Patterson**)

Treasurer: **Deryk Stephens**

Vice-Presidents: **Keith Jackson, Nugget Stephens**

Committee: **Jerry Rasmussen, Rob Happell, John Stephen, Tony Poolman, Brian Keddie, Jamie Kinnear, Tony Blazey**

Captain Firsts: **John Stephen** Vice-Captain (elected by players): **Brian Keddie**

Coach Firsts: **Ian Dunkerley** (despite his not being available on Tuesday nights)

Social Secretary: **Neil Kennison**



The **Annual Meeting** on 28 February was attended by between 37 and 40 people, depending on which note you look at. And there were 10 apologies. The retiring President **Noel Rundle** commented on an apathetic attitude to winning in C Section, “particularly as shown in the last quarters” – but he also stressed the **value of Como Park** and how envious other clubs were of our great ground.

Noel, in moving the nomination of Mr. **G.O.V Manton** as his replacement, also said that while he felt Mr. Manton was **not a Number One player**, he was an **excellent choice for President**. (There is no note of there having been any argument, dispute or disagreement with either of those assertions.)

\* The Secretary advised that consideration was being given to trying to establish a Reserves team, or a shared Reserves team, in the following year. (The matter had been raised earlier at a Committee Meeting on 8 February, although at that meeting Treasurer **Deryk Stephens** had expressed grave doubts that such a team could be established.)

\* At the AGM “**Mr. C. MacMillan** supported the idea of a Reserves side but doubted that we could continue to field a full side during the year. **H. Rundle** and **J. Stephen** felt that we needed a minimum of 50 players.” *(Photo right: MacMillan working the very temporary scoreboard on the side of one of the portables on 23 July 2011: sadly OGS’ accuracy in kicking for goal has not improved that much in early 2012. Six goals and 16 behinds was hardly a great effort against Whitefriars in Round 4.)*



\* Members were advised that the **new clubhouse** was now finished and we would be moving straight into the clubrooms. At the same time the Secretary warned those training for the next few weeks to keep off the cricket pitch. The clubhouse would be used on alternate Saturdays by the soccer club.

*(We are interested in this reference to “the new clubhouse”; we have spoken to a few people who played in this era about what was there at Como in 1960 and 1961, and none of them can recall there being anything different from what was there for the next 30 years, or any major works being conducted. Clearly their memory is deficient, as the minutes of a Committee Meeting held on 2 May, 1962 refer to the forthcoming Opening Ceremony of the Pavilion. “**Bill Mollard** to be Guest Speaker (5 minutes). Also invite **Don Bennett**, **Bill Irvine**, **Herbert** (should read **Hubert**) **Black**, **Eve** (sic) **Macgregor**, **Noel Rundle**, **Bob Lemon** and **Des Moore**.”*

Again reverting to the AGM:

\* Members of the Club were advised that now that most members of the Committee were married, moves were afoot to form a **Ladies Social Sub-Committee** and that this should be in progress before the year was out.

\* **Blair Catanach** offered the use of his trampoline for training every night of the week.

\* Doctors **John Poolman** and **Fred Fenton** were both appointed as Club doctors. (Honorary)

\* **Mr. Pointer** gave his views on coaching the Club and quoted a German Champion Olympic Rowing Eight saying the players were 98% responsible for their fitness and performance and the coach 2%.

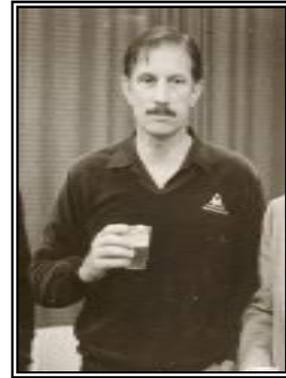


\* Permanent appointments had already been made for the season of Mr. **Alex Newman** (Goal Umpire) and **David Pisterman** (trainer) – “the following are still required – Boundary Umpire, Time-Keeper”. (Photo: David Pisterman at Como circa 1980.)

\* The incoming President Garth Manton in closing the Annual Meeting said how proud and happy he was to be appointed as President and that he would do his level best in every way possible...

**During the season:**

\* **John Stephen** became the first player to reach the **100-game** mark for the Club, playing his 100<sup>th</sup> sometime in July. “John Stephen’s 100th game will be on 7 July (providing no injuries).”



“Party to be given - to mark that achievement - and organised for 21<sup>st</sup> July at **Tim Cox**’s place: a sub-committee of **Neil Kennison, Jamie Kinnear** and **Nuggett Stephens** was set up.

\* Discussion continued on whether a Reserves side could be founded in the following season. The President was firmly in favour of this, as was the Secretary.

\* It was decided that a weekly newsletter is to be published for players, and a monthly Newsletter be sent to all members of the Club. **Peter Patterson** to produce. (*No copies have survived.*)

\* Debate occurred at a Committee Meeting of 17 July and it was decided (on a vote of 6-4) to recommend to the next AGM that the Club should **change its colours** (Geelong VFL, as worn from the start in 1954) to the light blue jumpers of Geelong Grammar School.

\* At the same meeting there was discussion about “advising **Geelong College** and **Geelong Amateurs** for Melbourne residents of proposed formation of a Reserve grade side”.

\* Then at the Committee Meeting of 5 December:

The Secretary was instructed to write to The Geelong College and Geelong Amateurs “inviting players and members to train, and even play, with our club if living in Melbourne. (*These are the first references to **The Geelong College** we have seen in any of the Club’s paperwork or records.*)

He was also told to write to the O.G.G. General Committee listing expenses and asking with what part thereof they were prepared to assist.

\* A proposal had been in the air (suggested by **Noel Rundle** in June) to amend the Club’s constitution and the proposed changes were accepted in principle – to be submitted to the next AGM. (It is not said what the changes were to be, except that Article 8 must be an odd number.)

\* During the year our current Firsts’ time-keeper of 2012, **Trevor King**, played his first game for the Club, reporting,

“I played in what I think was the first game in 1962 against Footscray Tech at Footscray. I’ll never forget it because there wasn’t a blade of grass on the ground and it was absolutely pouring with rain. I don’t think I got a kick because I was too busy protecting myself!”

(A fairly big statement, considering that Trevor had fought a number of 10-round preliminary boxing bouts at Festival Hall - the House of Stoush - in the few years previously. He had also been a sparring partner on occasions at the Police Gym with an up-and-coming young boxer by the name of **Lionel Rose**. “I never laid a glove on him, he was too bloody fast.”)

The VAFA initially refused his application for registration as a result of Trevor having picked up some coinage thrown into the ring after such prelim bouts, stating that in doing so he had breached his amateur status. In those days the definition of amateur was so widely phrased that even someone who admitted to have had a wager on a sporting event, such as a round of golf, was deemed to have infringed their amateur status. However, he was granted re-instatement of his Amateur status and allowed to play. )

Trevor continues,

“I’ve also been thinking about the alleged clubroom renovations in 1962. Anyhow at home games everything happened downstairs at Como. We used to have a drink after the game standing on the cold, damp concrete floor of the downstairs room on the right hand end of the building as you look at it. I seem to remember that we couldn’t use the upstairs, but that the Council made the upstairs habitable sometime during that season. Anyhow that’s as best I remember it.”

Perhaps that is the answer to the query raised earlier. Looking at photos of the pavilion taken in 1939 (*not by me. – Ed.*) the exterior looks very much that like of today, but there was no top storey at all. Perhaps it was an upstairs section which was added in the early 1960s.

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**Trophies for the year** were awarded as follows:

Turnbull Trophy for Best & Fairest: **Tony Blazey** (second from left, Eltham BBQ, 8 April, 1962)

EH Montgomery Trophy for Runner-Up to Best and Fairest: **John Stephen**

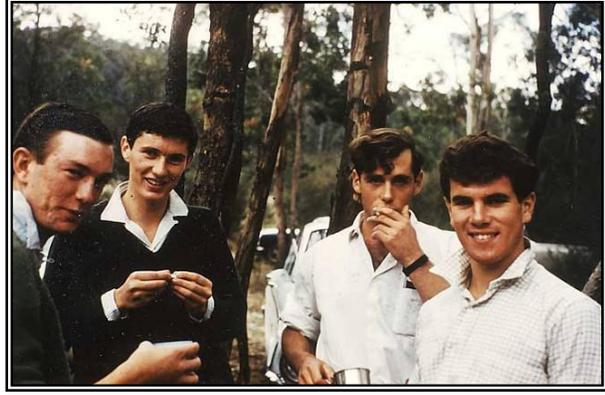
DC Moore Trophy for Best First Year Player: **Ian Brown**

D.M. Bennett Trophy for Most Consistent: **Brian Sprague**

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And finally, as promised, or threatened, the rest of the photos from the Eltham Barbeque of 1962:





We are going to try to re-scan some of these on a better machine at some stage.

*Final note, 2 July, 2012: three of the people mentioned in these notes were present at the game last Saturday, 30 June at Como.*

If anyone has anything to add, change, criticize, complain about etc, please email Peter Lemon on [peter@peregrineadventures.com](mailto:peter@peregrineadventures.com)