

SEASON SUMMARY

Season 2004 saw the Old Geelong Football Club take big steps both on and off the field. In a major improvement performance wise, all three teams had their most successful seasons of recent years with both the Seniors and Reserves partaking in finals action. **Michael Lockman** steered the Seniors to what was their first finals appearance since 1999 and after victory over Ivanhoe Assumption in the 2nd Semi Final they came up against a determined Old Carey in the preliminary final. Whilst they couldn't quite go all the way, it was a huge step for the club in general and has set up 2005 to be a year that looks very promising for the O.G's.

The Reserves side finished second on the ladder and for the second consecutive year under **Ben Dunn** reached the Grand Final. Whilst not making any excuses, weather conditions on the day made it very difficult for players and supporters alike and La Trobe played better football to take home the premiership.

The Club XVIII had what was possibly their most successful season and notched up six victories to finish in sixth position on the ladder. With **Henry "Moose" Edgar** as coach, the side showed significant dedication and improvement on previous years to show that these boys are not just making up the numbers.

COACHES REPORTS

Seniors Report from Michael Lockman

"By taking an overall view of the season, 2004 can be described as a successful one. Off the field, the club enjoyed many functions – the highlight being the 50th anniversary celebrations held at Crown with almost 500 people attending. Great credit goes to John Manton and the committee of the Ogs for organising such a memorable and highly successful night. The support the club received from former players and parents throughout the year was good, and if this is built upon it augers well for the clubs future.

On the field, the seniors won 13 ½ games from the 18 played, which was a pretty good effort, but only good enough for us to finish in third spot on the ladder, it should be noted that we did beat every team in the division. After winning a tough and very hard fought first semi-final, it is now history that the week after we played our worst game of the year and were convincingly beaten in the preliminary final. This coupled with the fact that the reserves lost the grand final the week after meant that the season ended on a very disappointing note for the club.

There are however, many positives to be taken from the season. The players have now developed a far more aggressive and positive attitude to their football. We no longer hope to win, we expect to win based on our ability and the effort we now put into training and playing. Our style of play is now more team-orientated and committed, and competition for places in the side is greater due to the improved depth and attitude of players at the club.

The highlight for me, as senior coach of this club, is the mateship and camaraderie that now exists amongst the players. When you have a group of people with a common goal, prepared to make sacrifices for each other, than you have a real team with the potential in football parlance to achieve the ultimate success.

This, I believe, now exists at the Ogs. Our challenge is to build upon this by keeping the playing group together and recruiting well in the off season. We can reflect on season 2004 as a year of improvement but the disappointment of its ending should remain firmly etched in our minds.

When we re-group in 2005, it will be with a resolve. Not only to enjoy our footy, but to achieve as much as we possibly can as a team and to take the club and ourselves a few steps further."

50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Thanks to the efforts of many, especially **John Manton**, a 50th year Anniversary Dinner and Team of the Half Century evening was organised mid-season at the Crown Casino. With a turnout of 476, representing people who have been associated with the club right through the Club's 50 years, the night was an overwhelming success. A considerable number of people had come in from interstate, whilst a number of others had cancelled or postponed other commitments to be there.

Ian Cover was a great MC and during the course of the night we heard from **Garth Manton** (original player in 1954 – 6 games, and President for seven years), **John Manton** (current President), and **Mark Vickers-Willis** (current player).

In addition to the aforementioned the Club presented its own OGFC Certificates of Merit to a number of people who have been substantial part of it for many years. After receiving his, **Dale Fraser** did the honours in presenting others to **Tony Brocksopp**, **Michael Davis**, **Gary Fawcett**, **Michael Gretton-Watson**, **Tim Jackson**, **John Joyce**, **Sandy Hunter**, **Peter Lemon**, **Garth Manton** and the late **Nugget Stephens**.

TEAM OF THE HALF CENTURY

A galaxy of stars were nominated for this and for the selection committee it was always going to be a tough ask to narrow it down to 22. However, under the chairmanship of **Dale Fraser** with a representative from each decade a team of very talented footballers was assembled. To be eligible for selection, players must have played 40 games or more for the club. A photo of those to be honoured with selection can be seen below:



Team of the Half Century: *Back Row:* Rob Hesketh, John Manton, Dan Ritchie, Will Paul, Andrew Howells, Mark Vickers-Willis, Stuart Glascott. *Middle Row:* Dougal Morrison, Tony Poolman, Bill Morrison, John Stephen, Terry Brown, Rick Whalley. *Front Row:* Cullen Gunn, Bruce Spiden (Capt), Evan MacGregor (both as Coach and as a player), Mark Neeld, Michael Crawford. (Absent: Ian Peake, Richard Weibye, James Taylor, and Jerry Rasmussen)

GRAMMAR vs COLLEGE AT COMO

Round 2 was the our first home game and thanks to the co-operation of both schools, Como Park was organised to host a game between the clubs founding schools, Geelong Grammar & Geelong College. The pouring rain of the previous day was not repeated, and didn't seem to deter former players and parents from showing their support on the day. It was a close affair most of the day with Grammar finishing a little in front, thanks largely to some inaccurate kicking from the College boys. It was quite possibly the best recruiting and public relations exercise in the history of the Club, and we hope that something like this can be repeated on a regular basis. Also in attendance were the schools' Directors of Football, **David Oman** (GGS) and **Daniel Clifford** (GC), plus **Carol Barnard** who is the General Manager of Marketing and Communication at Geelong College, along with **David Waterhouse** who is the President of the Old Geelong Collegians Association.

PRESENTATION DAY

The Sunday following the Grand Final was a day for those who have excelled at the club during the year to be recognised and honoured for their efforts. The social committee organised a barbeque feast for all in attendance with "Heard's Meats" providing the tucker and many fresh ales available for sale at the Nugget Bar. One of the club's big fund raisers, the Reverse Raffle, was also held throughout the day with majority of the 200 tickets being sold and big prize money up for stake. Stuart Hall was the lucky man to take home the \$5,000 first prize, whilst the major honour role for the day was as follows:

Seniors

Best & Fairest: Will Paul
R/U Best & Fairest: Mark Vickers-Willis
Most Improved: Henry Legoe
Most Consistent: Steve Lansdell
Best Finals Player: Tom Paul

Reserves

Best & Fairest: Mark Leslie
R/U Best & Fairest: Tim Bayles
Most Consistent: Anthony Dhillon
Best Finals Player: Tav Makin

Club XVIII

Best & Fairest: Andrew Slattery
Coaches Award: Tim D'Antoine

Life Membership (100 games): Will Paul, James Paul, Chris Stinchcombe & Jon Malpas

League Leading Goalkicker: Mark Vickers-Willis

Best First Year Player: David Kimpton

Best Clubman Award: James Paul

FOOTY TRIP

For the first time in years, players and coaching staff are heading interstate for closure on the 2004 season. Thanks to the organisation of **Daniel Salter** and **Jimi Paul**, thirty eight of the boys are heading up to the sun of the Gold Coast to celebrate their efforts for the year. The weekend away begins Friday the 8th of October and returns Monday the 11th of October.

SPONSORS

The club are very grateful of the off-field support we receive from our sponsors and wish to acknowledge them again for their assistance in season 2004:

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In summary, we would like to thank the efforts of these sponsors, along with the committee, the support staff, the supporters and the players for making 2004 such a successful season down at the Old Geelong Football Club. Most importantly we look forward to having you all back on board next year as we hope to build on the momentum developed over the past few years.

THANKS

Finally on behalf of all current players and coaches, we would like to acknowledge the enormous and continuous efforts a many people who have made this season a most enjoyable and successful one. Without listing them, we all know who they are and without their constant input, this club would not be what it is today both as a football unit but equally as important, as a group of close friends. At this time we would like to acknowledge the marvellous efforts of David Mimms who leaves the club after decades of service. He is going to pursue business interests in Mansfield, and we wish him and his family all the very best in their new home. We look forward to seeing him as the ever vocal supporter he is, whenever an opportunity beacons for him to come down and watch us.