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The OGFC has cleared the first hurdle.

In a remarkable day at the Ross Gregory Oval, Albert Park, on 25 August, the Reserves came from behind in the last quarter to snatch victory in the Second Semi by six points. And later in the afternoon the Firsts came from further behind in the final term to take their match by 3 points.

The immediate result of the Seniors' great win is that the Club has gained promotion to D Section in 1991 - the first time the OGS have won promotion to a higher grade for 16 years. No tears, but none at all, will be shed in the Club's departure from E Section.

The other, tremendously important result is that both OGS teams have now gained births in their respective Grand Finals, to take place at Northcote V.F.A. ground on Saturday 8 September. (Melways Map 30, G.11). It is the first appearance by an OGS' senior team in a Grand Final since 1974, and the opportunity for the Club's first senior premiership since 1966!

The Reserves will start at 11.45 am, the Seniors at 2.15 pm., and although our supporters will have to pay for the privilege of seeing the OGS in Action, (\$3 entrance fee, we think), we hope that you'll be there en masse to urge the players along.

There were plenty of celebrations in the couple of days after the win. One can only hope that the players will now put that behind them, however, and concentrate totally and utterly on the lead-up to the Grand Final. A Premiership - Two Premierships - is the ultimate objective, and to hear the occasional opinion that the Club has already done its job is simply unbelievable. Ask anyone who was connected with the Club in 1975 when it lost two Grand Finals on the one day what they think of that attitude - and then duck!

2nd Semi - Reserves Old Geelong 6-8 d. Mazenod O.C. 6-2

OGS kicked against a fresh wind in the first term, and in a nervous opening went four goals down at the break: three came from frees close to goal as we played from behind. The second term looked better, despite a change which saw the wind blowing almost straight across the ground.

At 3/4 time we trailed by two goals but still looked a chance; we plugged away, and half way through the quarter had levelled the scores. Then Will Davis from the wing kicked long into attack: the ball bounced/skidded through to Peter Jones who was hard-pressed by an opponent: Jonsey's sensational mid-air knock on of the ball past another opponent and straight into the hands of Mark Borthwick in the goal square brought the house down, as Bortha goaled to put OGS in front for the first time in the game.

Best M. Davis, Heritage, W. Davis, Breadmore; Morrison, Slorach, Neville-Smith
Goals Borthwick 3, N. Burn 2, Breadmore

2nd Semi - Firsts Old Geelong 7-15 d. Mazenod 8-6

An incredibly intense quarter of football as OGS kicked to the non-scoring end and performed well. The tackling and smothering was truly outstanding, and the backline led by Angus

MacDougal held out many attacks in great style. At the end of the first term OGS had performed well kicking to the non-scoring end, to trail by only a goal. The second term, however, disappointed, especially on the score board as the inaccuracy which had plagued us in the first match against Mazenod at Como (when we kicked 6-27) returned. A number of set shots from close in resulted in points, and we managed but one goal for the quarter, whilst the opposition added two against the wind. As has been the case in much of the second half of the year, we seemed to be relying on individual effort rather than team work, and at half time we trailed by about 15 points.

The third term saw OGS, led by Sam Bayliss, continue to give all, but still we combined in mediocre fashion. Again our kicking for goal was dreadful - at one stage we had 3-13 up - whilst the opposition saw two lucky long shots bounce straight through to give them a 23 point break at the last change. OGS added just two points to the 12 minute mark of the last term, and looked gone, when suddenly the game changed in dramatic fashion. Richard Woods scored our fourth from a free, Jamie Pescott, on from the bench, snapped a class goal from a pack, and maybe OGS were back with a chance. The lift was dramatic. Gunn drove the ball forward again for Sam Furphy to mark and goal, and OGS had kicked as many goals in five minutes as they had in the first three quarters. Then Dan Ritchie pulled in a fine mark a long way out and at last kicked straight and long to give OGS the lead for the first time in the game. The last ten minutes seemed an eternity. The opposition attacked. Manton, almost kickless till then, marked in a pack on the last line of defence, and then gained a number of crucial defensive hit outs in ruck as we held on in a desperate finish..

Best: Bayliss, MacDougal, Harwood, Bones, Handbury, Stewart

Goals: Furphy (Sam, not Bob) 3, Woods 2, Ritchie, Pescott

Around the Club

The Best and Fairest count conducted on the Sunday after the last home-and-away game saw Firsts' Captain Cullen Gunn score his second B and F win in the Seniors, adding to his victory of 1988. He narrowly shaded Charlie Ross who has had a great year mainly at centre half back, and John Manton came in third. Dan Ritchie was 4th, and Simon I-want-a-mention Bones finished 5th. Well done, Simon.

In the Reserves, the hot favorite Gus Heritage won narrowly from Chris Pearson with Alistair Gray coming third. "Hera" played just eight games in the Twos (nine were spent in the Firsts), but he dominated in every Reserves match he played. Alistair Gray's effort was notable too, for he only came to the Club late in June, and had only ever played soccer before his arrival! 4th was Mike Davis, and 5th, Mango.

In the E Section whole-of-grade Best and Fairest, John Manton finished 3rd and Cullen Gunn fourth, just a couple of votes behind the winner. And pleasing to note that OGS had Best-on-Ground players in 16 of the 18 games played. How things have changed.

Congratulations to Mark Borthwick who brought up his 50th game for the Club, and his 50th goal for the year, in the Reserves match against Doveton (Great Timing, that!). Bortha, who is a linch-pin in the 1988 Reserves' Premiership team (but who found the Firsts a trifle under last year) will unfortunately be going to Perth at the end of the season. (Skills much for the Eagles, - so he says).

Another 50-gamer was Mike Davis who reached that total last Saturday in the Twos' Second Semi. (Much better timing, that!). Davo played a great game to get us back into the game from quarter time on, and was well supported by his brother Will.

Reserves team had two former Firsts' Best and Fairest players in the side, Tim Johnston and Dougal Morrison. Though the pace might have eased a trifle, the experience is invaluable. We're delighted that Bennison Mackinnon & Co have been able to arrange for the latter to take time off work on Saturdays. (The former is in commercial real estate!)

The Firsts' second semi-final win provided an enormous amount of excitement and incipient heart failure (and not necessarily in that order) for the large number of OGS supporters present. Especially so for the good numbers there from the 1980 Preliminary Final side which lost their game 10 years ago to the day, on the last kick of the day. For a while it looked as if last Saturday was going to be a repeat.

Really bad luck for Nick Burn who broke a bone in his ankle in the Reserves Semi, after playing so well at full forward in the first half. Those two one-handed marks were rippers.

We do at least appear to have a ready-made replacement for Nick in the form of Bill Dowling who was unavailable for the same match - he was Best Man at his first cousin's wedding in Tasmania. We understand that he and brother Jim spent a small fortune on phone calls during the day from Hobart to the changing rooms at the Ross Gregory Oval for score updates. In the finish, they reckon it was worth every cent.

Another OGS player far away at the time was Simon Burgess who had been sent to Tokyo on business (Burge also had a broken thumb, from playing tennis, so would not have been available anyway). Looks as if he should be right for the Grand Final, however.

The alterations at Como continue on schedule, with the rooms now starting to look a bit like the bridge of the QE 2. We've been thankful that architect Greg "What-do-you-mean,-no-fees? Carter" appears to have allowed for the presence of the weight training equipment upstairs, because as yet nothing much has fallen down.

The Club's Special Effort raffle was won by the Bar Girls (more accurately, and more tactfully, the Canteen Ladies) who did such a wonderful job with the catering on all the home game Saturdays during the season.

Congrats to Bruce Harwood and Jen on the recent arrival of young Eliza. Lizzie saw her first game of Amateur Football at the age of one week, and it's all done wonders for Dad's recovery from that bad shoulder.

Few people will be aware of the hours and hours which the Club President Andrew MacMillan has had to spend on Club affairs over the past few months. Simply put, its just like having a second job. In the interests of his retaining his other, smaller, paid job in the shoe business, we hope that all Club members will make a point of going out and buying a pair of Koala shoes within the next fortnight.

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The Club's Grand-Final Party has now been arranged for after the games on 8 September, and everyone is invited - players, supporters, Pivot Members, wives, girl friends, children etc.

Time is from 5.30 pm to 11.00 pm
Venue is the Will Sampson Memorial Hall, 102 Henry Street Windsor
Food will be supplied for a charge of \$10 a head.

(The average OGFC parent lives somewhere between Three Hummock Island and the Tasmanian mainland - we know that a substantial number of parents are travelling down from the country, and even interstate, and we do hope that the players in question will invite them along.)

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Rather further down the track, the Club's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3 October, and the Presentation Night on Friday 5 October. A further Newsletter will be produced by about mid-month with further details.

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Go, OGS!