

TOP GUNN! IT'S TWO FLAGS FOR OGS.

We've done it! The OGFC has achieved the ultimate for the 1990 season: Premierships in both the Firsts and Reserves, each taken in convincing fashion.

It was the Club's fourth senior flag, and its first since 1966. For the Reserves the win meant the second triumph in three years, and the third flag. The success capped off a wonderful year for the players, and has rewarded so admirably the supporters of the Club - especially those who have followed it over many seasons.

In glorious conditions at Beach Road, Sandringham on 8 September, the Reserves started the day with a solid win over Aquinas, 12-15 to 10-3. OGS led from start to finish, and never really looked troubled, although three quick goals to Aquinas at the start of the last certainly put some interest back into proceedings! As with the Second Semi-Finals day, the Reserves' effort was not only great in itself, it set the scene for bigger and better things to come.

Then it was the Seniors' turn, and in front of the biggest crowd ever at an OGS game - it even got a mention on 3LO that night - they did themselves and the whole Club proud, to defeat AJAX 19-15 to 10-7. We struggled for much of the first half, and trailed by 11 points at quarter time, and by over three goals in the second, but then the turn-around started. By half time we had clawed back to within two points, and from there on it was all OGS. The Blue and White, now holding their marks, and for once kicking straight, controlled the third term to go to a four goal lead at the final change, yet knowing that AJAX are a side who will not give up. An early goal to OGS set the pace in the last, however, and we never relented. By the start of time-on the lead had extended to over 9 goals, and the Club song was ringing around the ground. 15 minutes later OGS' Captain Cullen Gunn held the Premiership cup aloft, and the OGS were home.

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In addition to the results, highlights of the day included the superb weather and great atmosphere, the tremendous number of supporters for both clubs, and the terrific number of our supporters who made the effort to be down there from well before the start of the Reserves. Particularly pleasing was the wonderful representation of the Club's 37 years in crowd; from people who had played when the Club was first formed in 1954 (the first President Bill Mollard and first Captain Evan MacGregor were amongst those in attendance), right through to people who have joined the Club in the past few weeks.

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Around the Club

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the Club's Presentation Night will be held on Friday, 5 October. Full details appear on the attached flier. For obvious reasons we're expecting a big turn-up and there will be a cut-off point. Please take a couple of minutes to take a careful note of the procedure for replying or you'll be out on the footpath and out in the cold!

The Club's Annual Meeting will be held two days earlier on Wednesday 3 October. Perhaps less glamorous (just) than the Presentation Night, it is most important in relation to charting the Club's course for 1991 and beyond. The agenda and explanatory notes appear on the flier, and we do hope the meeting will be well supported.

The Players' Weekend Away to Bairnsdale departs Friday afternoon, 12 October, and returns on the Sunday evening. If you are intending to go, or need further details, you must contact Bruce Harwood (527 9478 H; 265 2571 W) or Bill Dowling (867 4669 H; 6144844 W) by the end of September.

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Match Reports - Grand Finals

Reserves: Old Geelong 12-15 d Aquinas O.C. 10-3

OGS impressed from the word "go", to put in one of their best quarters for the year - marred only by some poor shooting for goal. Mike Davis was providing great drive round the packs, with Craig Hollis burning on the half forward line. The game could nearly have been sewn up

at 1/4 time when we lead 3-6 to 1-2. The second continued in similar fashion; OGS were bigger and faster, and with Bill Dowling a focal point we went further ahead. A five goal lead at the break was handy. The third term saw us edge further in front, though the opposition received three goals from frees - (the count was well over 2 to 1 against us for the game). Tim Johnstone turned many attacks at centre half back, and Tony Light was playing a great game as the match progressed. The last quarter saw some tension come back into the game as Aquinas added three goals to be within striking distance. However, the backline held firm, and after Dowling kicked his 5th late in the game, OGS went on to a comfortable and well-deserved victory.

Best: Johnstone, Hollis, M. Davis, Dowling, Heritage, W. Davis, Light

Goals: Dowling 5, Borthwick 3 (this tally took Mark to 64 goals for the year, easily the top of the E Reserve goal kicking list), Hollis 2, Light, R. Furphy

[The 22 players to represent the Club in the Grand-final were: Mark Borthwick, Tim Breadmore, Marcus Currie, Mike Davis, Will Davis, Bill Dowling, Bob Furphy, Alastair Gray, Steve Gude, Robert Hanna, Angus Heritage, Craig Hollis, Tim Jackson, Tim Johnstone, Peter Jones, Geoff Lavender, Tony Light, Hamish MacGowan, Ian Mackay, James Neville-Smith, Chris Pearson, Cameron Slorach. Coach: Chris Barnett. Runner: Brendan Smith.]

Firsts: Old Geelong 19-15 d A.J.A.X 10-7

OGS started nervously, and although we drew first blood when John Manton goaled, were soon troubled by AJAX's pace and accurate disposal. Bruce Harwood, a surprise move to the forward line, put us back in front, but other chances went begging. AJAX were moving the ball with precision, and suddenly we were one and then two goals down, though with as many scoring shots. The second again saw us struggling: each time we looked like closing the gap, AJAX replied, and with Harwood injured we were performing badly. Manton in the ruck was one of few players firing: a number of forward moves were repulsed easily when the ball came to ground, and AJAX added two quick goals to go to a 20 point break.

With much of the quarter gone OGS appeared in trouble, particularly when full forward Richard Woods marked strongly, goaled, and then hobbled off with a torn hamstring. However, Dougal Morrison onto the ground added bite up forward and things suddenly looked better. A goal to Pescott, followed minutes later by the goal-of-the match to Cullen Gunn boosted the OGS dramatically and we were back in front by a whisker. A late score to AJAX saw them three points up at the long break, but we were now right back in it.

The 3rd quarter started well with Sam Furphy prominent: a great mark and goal put us in front. (We won't mention his next kick, straight into the man on the mark). The AJAX running game was now faltering as our big man strength took over. In defence Angus MacDougal, out-pointed early in match, was now well on top, and the whole backline looked tighter. Harwood was back on, to full forward (!), and his two goals for the term, and another to Furphy, saw us add 5-4 to 1-2 to go a four goal lead at the last change. Useful, but hardly unbeatable.

The crucial first goal in the fourth went to OGS in the first minute, after a strong mark to Ritchie. Victory was now there for the taking, and OGS had winners all over the ground as we added another six goals to AJAX's one. The opposition never stopped trying, but it was OGS' game, and OGS' flag.

Best: Gunn, Furphy, Manton, MacDougal, Handbury, Bayliss

Goals: S. Furphy 4, Harwood 3, Ritchie 3, Manton 2, Gunn 2, Woods, Bayliss, Handbury, Stewart, Pescott

[The 20 players to win the Club's Premiership were: Sam Bayliss, Simon Bones, Richard Burn, Peter Clark, Dominic Colaci, Garry Fawcett, Sam Furphy, Cullen Gunn, John Handbury, Bruce Harwood, Angus MacDougal, John Manton, Dougal Morrison, Jamie Pescott, Charlie Richardson, Dan Ritchie, Charlie Ross, Cam Stewart, Mark Williams, Richard Woods. Coach: Alan Quaife. Runner: Andrew Dawson.]

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A place gained in a Grand-Final - with the excitement, tension and sleepless nights that the lead-up brings - is a real novelty for Old Geelong (only one player in the Seniors team

had ever played in a finals match for OGS before we beat Mazenod, and only four had in any other football.) It was a great reward for the players, and especially those like Gunny, Charlie Richardson, Peter Clark, Richard Burn, Dougal Morrison and Mark Williams who have given so much to the Club over many much less successful seasons. The following items from that tremendous two weeks are compiled from many sources - and we had to leave plenty out:

#### Finals notes

Two weeks is a long time between the Second Semi and the Grand Final. Training was Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week, and on the Saturday. The final Monday brought freezing wind, heavy mud, and pouring rain - the worst night of the season - and just about the best turn-up since late March!

The week's break, however, was very helpful: we still had five or six pretty sore players the Saturday after the Semi. (And, one suspects, a couple still sore going into the G-F, but there was no way they were letting on.)

And little wonder the Club ultrasound machine blew up in a cloud of blue smoke a week or so before the G-F. When you're treating someone with as many injuries as Dougal Morrison it was bound to happen.

With the recent AFL draw at VFL park, we are reminded of how close the OGS' Grand Final came to being put back by a week - when AJAX won the Preliminary Final by just one point against Mazenod. Mazenod received a free 30 metres out on the final siren but the ball veered off line and was punched back into play, centimetres short of going through for a point.

Ground change the weekend before the G-F caused some controversy - though not for coach Alan Quaife who lives just round the corner - but in the finish worked well. We caught the previous Newsletter in the nick of time to put in the amendment notice, and lots of rain on the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday meant that the Northcote ground would have been heavy. Clearing conditions mid-week, however, promised that the Sandringham surface would be good, so next there was the question of the wind. But here, too, everything went right as that great big High parked itself over Victoria to produce excellent conditions.

Sad blow for Don MacLeod who badly broke a finger at training on the Tuesday before the Grand Final. Don has been one of the Club's most loyal contributors over many seasons, and missing the chance to play in another Reserves' Grand Final must have come as an enormous disappointment. Especially as it now means he'll have to play at least that one extra game next year to reach the 150 game mark rather than retiring.

Another person retiring from his duties is Reserves Coach, Chris Barnett. In a symbolic move he was seen placing his football boots in the rubbish bin on the Thursday evening after the last training. Silly move, Barney - it could have been a draw!

After training that Thursday evening, the Club was addressed by Graham Richmond, former Richmond administrator and current State selector. A terrific speech to help fire the boys on.

There were a number of players terribly (and understandably) disappointed when the Reserves team for the G-F was announced, and the selectors could not find a place for the likes of Chad Pappas, Ed Spiden, Nick Strauss, Simon Burgess, Scott Jaques, Gowan Stubbings, Peter Law and the President Andrew MacMillan. These were guys who have trained and in many cases played consistently all year; however, it was great to see them all present at the Grand Finals - and clearly wrapt with the results. (The simple fact is that the Club must have another team next year, when you look at the numbers who left this year, didn't even try coming down because they'd heard the numbers were too strong, or spent half a season without getting a game - ED.)

And on the Friday evening the Reserves all met at Mark Borthwick's for dinner (home-cooked by Mark to avoid the remotest possibility of food poisoning, so he said) and a quiet evening's football video viewing. Fortunately, Barney's tape, Carlton's Greatest and Latest Premierships appears to have disintegrated with age since the OGS Reserves were preparing for the 1988 Premiership and we didn't have to sit through that again.

Grand Final day saw the Firsts meeting at P.A.s (the pub sold more iced-water than they do in a month) before heading down to the Sandy ground in time for the start of the Twos. The boys were quietly confident, providing we weren't going to let the AJAX runners get out on their own. In this regard the experience of losing to AJAX at Como earlier in the season (we had led by four goals at half time) would prove to be a valuable lesson.

The run-throughs for both the Firsts and Reserves were made for us by the Geelong (AFL) Cheer Squad - who presumably wanted to keep their hand in during the regretablely long off-season. Thank you to Dr. Darryl Jones who brought the banners up from Geelong. (Darryl's advice to son Peter after the Reserves was to ice that injured knee, to go home and rest it, and not to drink too much alcohol. From the manner in which the advice was being heeded by mid-afternoon Sunday, we are expecting an imminent amputation at the hip.)

And Garth Manton (President of the Club when it won its last senior flag) was seen sporting a large sticking plaster on his jaw at this year's Grand Final. Seems he was so nervous that he'd cut himself shaving that morning - with an electric shaver.

Survivors: only five players from the 1988 Reserves Premiership side took the field for the 1990 Reserves Grand-final: Geoff Lavender, Bortha, Craig Hollis, Will Davis, Hamish MacGowan.

In a season with many contenders for the Most Forgetful Player and Biggest Leaver of the Gear, Equipment, Clothing awards, the following are the few of many nominations that have been received:

- Nick Strauss - 4 pairs of Gucci work boots;
- Angus MacDougal - wallet (repeatedly); jumpers (frequently); (and a certain possibility of even more items at P.A.s last Monday week, so we are told)
- Bob Furphy - luminous Hawaiian shirt left at training in the middle of July!

The winner, however, is Ian Mackay who left his boots down at the rooms at Como the Thursday before the G-F. Certain look of relief when they were handed back to him the following Saturday, and we're glad he got them, because he went on to shut No.4 of Aquinas completely out of the game. No.4 was the (senior) grade best-and-fairest two years ago, and had dominated both of Aquinas' reserves finals appearances this year to get them into the G-F.

One the happiest people on the day was Tim Jackson after the Reserves' Premiership win. When President two years ago, and after 160 games with the Club, Jacko failed to gain selection in the side which won the 1988 premiership. This year some of us felt he lacked the pace to make the Final team (though those comments about sending down an artist rather than a press photographer to capture the action were a bit rough!). However, he was picked on the bench, and, in an audacious move, was started in the centre - where he went on to prove the doubters well and truly wrong.

We're wondering if Jo Breadmore (Seniors, 1957: there was no such thing as Reserves then) and Tim Breadmore (Reserves, 1990) are the first father and son combination to have played in Premiership teams for the OGS.

Yes. They beat Bill Handbury (Reserves, 1966) and John (Seniors, 1990) by about two hours.

Rare sight: OGS players had to be roped off at 1/4 and 3/4 time in the Firsts to stop them being overwhelmed by the number of our supporters in attendance.

In a day that had just about everything, it was disappointing that we had just about no-one in attendance from Geelong Grammar - Glamorgan excepted - despite the Club's attempt to get a bus brought up from the School.

Crowd for the game was undoubtedly the biggest ever to witness an OGS match by a mile, which could be one reason why Vafa Treasurer Noel "\$5-a-head" Rundle was all smiles (though did he see all those people who climbed over the back fence for nothing?) Other reason was that Noel was a member of the Club's first two Premiership teams in 1956 and 1957.

OGFC Trivia Quiz No.1: What colour jocks did Sam Bayliss wear in the Grand Final?  
A. Bright Red. Clearly. Unless four thousand people were colour blind.

The guy who hit the siren which gave us both Grand Finals was Jim Stanley who time-kept for the Firsts and the Reserves both Saturdays. Thank you, Jim, for a job well done.

And after that great photo in the sports section of "The Sunday Herald" the next day, we understand that the Victorian Dental Association has phoned with the offer of a free consultation for (from left to right!) Peter Clark, Richard Burn, Simon Bones, Garry Fawcett, Charlie Ross (just), Bruce Harwood and Dougal Morrison.

And did you notice that behind the players, Tony Brocksopp has managed to creep into the top left hand corner of the photo: looked like a re-run of his appearance in the 1988 Reserves Grand Final shot.

Also in the top left was Steve Calder (99 games in the mid 1970s) who had driven down from Deniliquin for the matches. A very enthusiastic Mr. Calder somehow managed to finish up with the Premiership Cup later in the evening, which, in turn, he somehow managed to transport to the Collingwood Football Club Social Club where a function was being held for long-time OGS' supporter Di Paton. It's only a rumour that the members there kept on enquiring what the silver thing with handles on it was.

Steve was one of the many, many people who travelled very considerable distances from the country and interstate. We reckon that Andrew MacDonald (a member of the 1988 Reserves Premiership side) who came down from Darwin probably wins the award, though the completion of Bruce Allender's contract in northern Thailand a week before was also useful.

We're not sure if it was Clive Landale's diction, (it was he who phoned the results and Best Players etc through to the VAFA) or George Mc Taggart's hand-writing (George is the VAFA's Press Correspondent) but those results in The Age and The Sun were a bit off line. For "Dunn" read "Gunn", for "Prescott" read "Pescott", and in the reserves, for "N. Davis" read "M. Davis." Sorry about that, Michael.

The after-match function/celebration at the Will Sampson Hall was also a great success; 350-400 people including stacks of parents and friends, and lots and lots to celebrate. A big "thank you" to the girls who helped decorate the hall that morning - Ali Cotteril, Bec Hodge, Amanda Tait, Sue Johnstone, Jenny Bradshaw, Sarah Watson and Kate Manton - and to the entire Social Committee (Simon Burgess, Tim Johnstone, Bob Furphy and Bill Dowling) for all their hard work in arranging the function - to say nothing of the clearing up afterwards.

OGFC Trivia Quiz No. 2: Where were the Club's after-match celebrations held after the last double premiership in 1966?

A. Garth and Sue Manton's private home! (Frankly we are puzzled that they did not make a similar generous offer this time. Perhaps it had something to do with the insurance premiums.)

Glorious weather of the Saturday persisted into the Sunday with a large number of the Club congregating in the beer garden at P.A.s for lunch and a long afternoon in the sun (we presume that was why Mango finished up under a table - in an attempt to find some shade). Sales of ice water were down on the previous day, but other categories compensated. Even the Monday saw over 50 players and supporters back there for lunch, but some of us had to work.

And we understand that there was even one Club member who received an unsolicited call from his doctor on his arrival home from P.A.'s on the Sunday night. Seems the G.P. had read of OGS' win in "The Sunday Herald" - and was wondering if the Club member needed a particularly strong anti-headache prescription. (One Panadeine was quite sufficient - Ed.)

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Other matters

The AJAX club, who have been most generous in their applause of OGS' performance in the Grand Final, videoed the game. Regretably the OGFC did not. (Although Nev's Dad was seen to be getting some footage between flat batteries and running out of tape). AJAX have very kindly agreed to let us have a copy of their video, and we hope to arrange a viewing soon: perhaps at the Annual Meeting or Presentation Night.