

Old Geelong Football Club: 50 Years 1954-2004

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Around the Club

Training

This commenced last evening in mild conditions and with a turn-up of around 30 which was a fairly good start considering Tech and Uni etc are yet to resume. Having the use of the Menzies Reserve pavilion is most helpful, the surroundings are as picturesque as Como Park, and the hill is smaller!

A notice been put up down at Como advising as to when and where pre-season training is taking place, in the hope that we might pick up some potential footballers passing by.

It is possible that Wednesday night trainings will be changed to Thursday nights, but if this is to happen, plenty of notice will be given.

Change of Address

A lot of work is going into trying to update the Club's database: please, if you move house, or change phone numbers or email address, please let us know – it's as simple as sending an email to peter@peregrineadvnetures.com or david.mims@target.com.au

Registrations. People who played at least one game for the Club last season, providing they have not played in a formal weekend competition in Australia since doing so, have their registration carried through to the current year. (We have 119 on this list.) Registration application forms for new players, or anyone returning after missing last season, will be available most training nights.

A third **practice match**, additional to the two in last week's notes, will probably take place on 3 or 4 April, against Bulleen-Templestowe. We are endeavouring to obtain the use of Como Park for this purpose.

Marking 50 Years

There are two major events being planned to mark this anniversary. The first will involve Geelong Grammar and Geelong College playing a practice match at Como on **24 April** before our main game, with a **major lunch** being conducted at the same time. This will require the Reserves playing at 9.30am or at a different ground.

50-Year Dinner

Details are slowly solidifying like a fruit jelly setting in the fridge: subject to the receipt of certain paperwork, the date seems 99.998% set and confirmed as **Saturday 19 June** and it will be at the **Crown Palladium**. A Saturday night has deliberately been chosen to enable current players to attend. The feedback already from past players, etc, who have heard about the night has been extremely positive. Please make a point of telling anyone and everyone whom you come across who has, or has had, any connection with the Club.

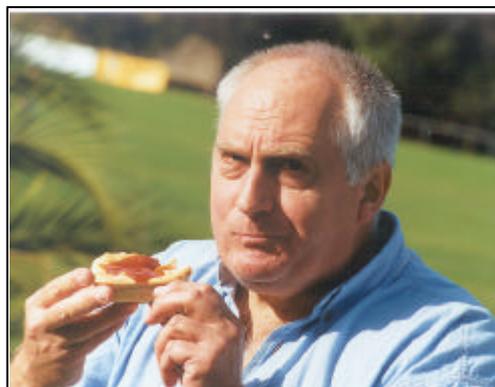
A number of table captains, year-leaders, etc, going right back to the Big Bang - 1954 - have been established, and the process is continuing. **Michael Gretton-Watson** and **Derek Stephens** (159 games 1956-1969) have been supplied with a full copy of the database dating back to the start and are working on this. Expect an explosion of communication on this front in a few weeks' time. We are aiming for an attendance of at least 600, which should be easily achievable if there is adequate notice and publicity.

From Here and There

We're not sure if it was intentional, because we wonder if he has the skills and ability, but **Steve Lansdell** managed to land a 50-metre "long-bomb" right on the Editor's head last night at training. Seems some people will do anything to see these webnotes discontinued.

The Great Pie Shop Drama. Calling all guinea pigs. With a certain degree of hesitation (following the write-up in Webnotes No1, 2004) we are inserting the latest communication from **Michael Davis** (whilst wondering what a *trial#* opening could bring), relating to **Jester's Pie Shop**. It reads as follows:

"Sorry about the false start last time. Most of you know what builders and developers are like. We are going to have a trial opening on the 6th and you are all welcome to come down and try our magnificent pies, and while you are there you might as well get a drink on us. Date: 6 February. Time: 6pm onwards. Where: **55 Swanston St**, Melbourne. Who else can I bring? Your wife, husband, girl friend and boy friend and most importantly the person in charge of buying party pies at your work or home." (*#Perhaps a hard hat as well – just in case everything is still not quite finished.* – Ed)



"I just can't wait for the perfect pie" - D.F.

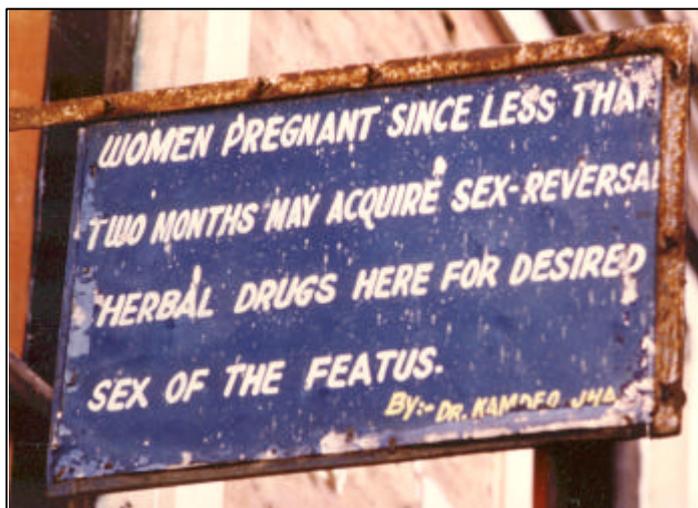
When they brought in Stage 2 **water restrictions** about October last year, we had visions of Como Park looking rather like a goat paddock in southern Niger by the end of February. However, the easing of restrictions at the beginning of December, to say nothing of last Thursday's downpour which apparently had the ground briefly looking like Lake Como instead, have meant that there is currently no danger of that.

Mind you, the downpour caused plenty of problems – we understand at least one of our Malvern Members was seen up on the roof of his house in pouring rain at three o'clock in the morning, trying to affix a tarp. Usually the only other times he's up on the roof is in clear conditions. During a full moon. Howling.

We understand the Football Club will be fielding a team in the South Yarra Cricket Club's "**Arcadia Hotel**" **Seven-a-side Knock-out Comp** at Como next Sunday, 8 February. With such names as **Matt Goldsworthy, Jussy Fitzgerald, Lachlan Teague, Al Munro, Ed Bayles, Charlie Fairbairn, and Tim Bayles** representing the OGS, the result really looks like a forgone conclusion.

On the subject of **Baylsey**, we reported two editions ago on his impending fatherhood later in the year. We're not sure if he and **Kirsty** are after a boy or a girl, but perhaps one of my many contacts in Kathmandu might be able to assist. If it's not too late. See opposite!

Meanwhile, in another fascinating new development on the medical front we note that **Beetle Southey** was seen limping quite badly at training last night – before going to his car and getting out and using an asthma inhaler. Whereupon, the limp disappeared. (Which could be terribly bad news for the physiotherapy industry.)



And despite the recent turmoil amongst the very highest echelons of top and senior management at the National Australia Bank, we are pleased to report that at least **Ian Munro** has kept *his* job.

Few **players back from overseas**. **Hughie McCarthy** returned from his stint in Mexico just before Christmas, **Chris Stinchombe** from Canada early January, and **Jim Kilpatrick** has just got back from studying in Ireland (and ogling on the beaches of Spain). Co-incidentally, we learnt about Jim's return at

almost exactly the same time as transcribing some information into the Club's central archives, from the year 1970. Newsletter report of a Reserves victory over West Brunswick included the following: *Round 13: it was noted that **Jim Kilpatrick** played a great game at full back, whilst **Andrew De Crespigny** had booted 4 to be second best.*

Trophies from last season: Memo to **Chris Stinchombe** and **Matthew Strauch**. Your mugs (Captain's Trophy – Firsts, and Most Consistent – Reserves, respectively) remain in the possession of the Club Treasurer who, after discovering they are not made of real silver and worth melting down, would like you to get them from him. You can phone him (**Michael Gretton-Watson**) on 0413 738333.

We've received a personal invitation to the **Annual Old Geelong Collegians versus the Old Geelong Grammarians Golf Day** at Barwon Heads on Friday 19 March (which, given my golfing ability, is roughly the equivalent of sending *Attila the Hun* an invitation to the opening of a Rembrandt exhibition: i.e slightly misplaced). However, if any of our readers of significantly greater golfing ability are interested in details (you must hold a current Club, VGA or AGU handicap), you can email this publication.

We note from looking at some old records that the **Menzies Reserve**, where we are now training, was once under consideration as a home ground for the OGFC. Rather fortunate it didn't eventuate – the 50 metre arc lines would have intruded well inside the centre square, and we can envisage ten footballs a day going out on to Toorak Road.

From the Archives (50 Years)

Last webnotes advised that to offset the never-ending flow of contributions from our current members, with the consequential never-ending barrage of current news, we would start to produce an item each week or so with a few bits and pieces from years-gone-gone by as we sort through the Club archives in connection with the 50th anniversary celebrations. They'll be done in no particular order – just that in which the books emerge from the dust or come off the shelf. This week we start with the year 1969: *(Items in inverted commas are extracted from the Minutes of Committee Meetings.)*

Year: 1969 - a few smatterings

*The Club was playing in C Section: the President was **Garth Manton**, Senior Coach **Peter Scott**, Firsts' Captain - **William Tunbridge**.

*After a mediocre season, the Firsts, on 6 wins, had to win their last game of the year against Old Melburnians, and relied on another club to lose, in order to stay in the Grade. OGS thumped the OMs, only to learn that the other club, which needed to lose (and which was expected to lose), had managed a draw!

*There was significant consolation for the Club when **Terry Brown** won the Best and Fairest Award for the whole of C Section, only the second time an OGGS player had won a section B & F. Brown, who travelled up and back from Geelong to train each Tuesday and Thursday, went on to win the Club's Turnbull Trophy for Best and Fairest and also the D.M. Bennett Trophy for Most Consistent.

* Other trophy winners were:

EH Montgomery Trophy – Runner Up to Best and Fairest: Tim **Armytage**

DC Moore Trophy for Best First Year Player: **Michael Crawford**

Brazier Trophy for Most Improved Player: **Tony Nathan**

I.D. MacKinnon Trophy for Best Club Man: shared **Robert Mims**, **Ted Gray**

R.H. Seymour Trophy for Best and Fairest in the Reserves. **Peter King**

Captain's Trophy: **Bill Tunbridge**

Club trophies for the year were provided free of charge to the Club by **Cr Allan Whalley** who was in the jewellery business (and was also Lord Mayor of Melbourne); his son played for the Club.

* A second training light pole was finally being put up at Como after years of wrangling with the Prahran Council who only the previous season had refused any addition to the one, small, two-light pole.

* For some years the Prahran Soccer Club had also been using the ground at Como but would be leaving at the end of the season; the VAFA advised that another VAFA Club would share the ground alternate weeks with OGGS the following year. Prahran Baseball Club was still using the ground Saturday mornings, so the Reserves were still playing at Righetti Oval, Kooyong. The Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Club also had some rights to use the ground on a couple of Saturdays a year, which all-in-all made for a scheduling nightmare.

*Ground Rental: was \$40 for the year, and nothing for electricity. (Ground rental last year was \$8682.17; the electricity bill for training lights and the rooms was \$866.58.)

“**Gretton-Watson** complained about the lack of administration at the turn at his place, especially the absence of a record player, and the need for one or two people to operate the barrel all night. **M. Forwood** complained about the \$1 admission fee. This was not advertised beforehand and there was very little food available.” (As **Lachie Stevens** and **Mark Avery** would doubtless confirm. *we have no doubt that our current Social Committee would have had things totally and properly organised.* – Ed.)

*A new rule penalising players kicking out of bounds on the full would be introduced the following season.

*Club legend **Michael “Footy” Fraser** played his 100th game.

“The Captain complained about the massive variation of goal umpires (supplied by the Club) and the considerable lack of ability of most who have done the job.”

“The President reported he had received an apology from **J. Jefferies** who had driven his car across the oval.”

With two weeks to go before the Club’s Black-Tie Night: “Only three tickets have actually been sold.” (*Things must have improved late in piece – seems they got 138 there in the finish - Ed.*)

“**Garth Manton** and **Andrew Chapman** both owe the Club one dozen bottles of beer which they took home with them after the Black Tie Night.” (*We phoned Garth about this, and he mumbled something about the Statute of Limitations.* – Ed.)

“Black Tie Night. A loss of \$60 was incurred. R Bright owes \$20 to the Club for beer and if this is ever paid the loss will be lessened accordingly.” (*If we’ve got the family tree right, **Reg Bright** is current Committeeman **Tom de Steiger**’s father’s wife’s brother: looks like the ball’s now in your court, Tom.*)

“The Coach’s **gym night** was held at Wesley. Good attendance. Enjoyed by those present and a good break from normal training. However, we still lost next week.”

In those days, weekly permits were required to dispense **alcohol** during* and after home games, and the alcohol could not be sold – it could only be provided *gratis!* “The Secretary reported that he had been rung by the Licensing Inspector for the South Yarra Area (Malvern Police) asking if the Club was in a sound enough position to give away beer. Secretary said yes. Some discussion ensued at Committee Meeting as to how to best obtain donations that might offset our generosity.” (**The VAFA’s rule prohibiting the consumption of alcohol by spectators – and presumably players – during matches was not brought in until some seasons later.* - Ed)

And a month later (full Committee Meetings were held every month of the year): “Donations. Our supporters continue to be generous at home games and the money received from the Old Brighton match offset the cost of providing free beer and provided an extra \$19 for Club funds. From the Commonwealth Bank game we were able to put 21 cents into funds.”

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Important Stop-Press Forget about going to Davo's Pie shop on 6 Feb - the grand opening has been delayed, yet again!!!!!!

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From next week, a number of hard copies of the Weekly WebNotes will be available at training for those who prefer that method of access.

If you wish to contact or contribute this publication, please email peter@peregrineadventures.com