

## *Old Geelong Football Club: 50 Years 1954-2004*

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### **AROUND THE CLUB**

#### **Stop Press 4 March 9.27a.m.:**

This time last year it was Club Secretary **David Mims**; only twelve months later it is Club Treasurer **Michael Gretton-Watson** who has just been announced as one of the people selected to receive the **Victorian Amateur Football Association's Certificates of Merit** in 2004. About half a dozen such awards are made each year by the VAFA to people throughout the competition who are regarded as having given long and meritorious service to Amateur Football. In Mick's case that service started back in 1963, when he commenced playing with the Club, at the start of a career that extended through to 1976, for a total of 145 games. He moved on to the Club Committee in the later 1960s, and filled the roles of Committeeman, and then Vice-President for a number of years, and more particularly Treasurer of the Club for extended stints in the 1970s, early 1980s, and again for much of the later 1990s, and all of the 2000s so far. He is the sixth member of the Club to be recognised in this fashion in 50 years, and will receive his award at the VAFA's Presidents' and Secretaries' Dinner which we understand is taking place on 31 March: congratulations Gretto on a terrific effort and well-deserved recognition. (With luck we'll put a photo of you in next week's edition. It has proved harder than expected to find a really good action shot from your playing career.)

#### **Training**

A solid jump in numbers last Monday, despite the privations of trying to reach the Menzies Reserve through the worst outbound peak-hour traffic yet on Toorak Road. (Grand Prix? No way. It was bloody awful. **Nick Betts** has got the right idea: he attends Deakin Uni, Burwood Campus, and arrives via the inbound lanes.) Our projected return to Como Park is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - hopefully it might be a few days before that - which will make life easier for many. (Given the problems encountered with the training lights when we started training at Como last year, could we suggest that the Club runs some checks on them by mid-March to see which of them are actually working?)

#### **Training next Monday**

Because of the public holiday on Monday, there will be no training on Monday night; usual training will take place the following Thursday.

#### **Touch wood.**

They haven't all been there on the same night, yet, but it's nice to report that we seem to have lost almost none from the regulars out of last year's Firsts side. This is an exceptional development for a Club which in many - often most - years loses at least half its numbers over the summer, going overseas or back home to the country, or retiring. On the subject of retired players, great to see **Matt Edmunds** making such a terrific effort and contribution with the training drills at training and providing so much general assistance.

#### **Trainers**

As most of you are aware, our sports trainers from last year have all finished their physio courses and this year have other commitments. (For next week, we might try to find out where they have finished up and what they are doing.) We are delighted to advise that in their place **Andrew Harvey** (GGS, 1997) is going to be one of the four trainers/physios at the Club in 2004. **Fleur Kilpatrick** is also returning with two friends to complete the team. We are hoping to get them all down in the week before the first practice match (Geelong Amateurs) to meet everyone.

#### **First practice match**

This will allegedly take place on **Sunday 21 March** against **Geelong Amateurs** - it will allegedly take the form of a six-quarter game, and it will allegedly be at Deakin University, Waurn Ponds campus, Geelong. It is understood (allegedly) that a bus will be organised from Melbourne for those wishing to avail themselves of this facility. Further details of timings - both of the game and of the bus - will allegedly be available next week. We hope.

**50-year Merchandise:** The Club (mainly Social Committee) is looking to get some OGS merchandise (special logo included) to celebrate the 50 years. At this stage the most interest has been shown in: \*T-Shirt \*Polo Shirt \*Stubby Holder \*Ties \*Sports Bags \* Cuff Links and the possibility of \*Umbrellas.

It would be great to see what players are interested in - so if anyone has any preferences please send them to [Simon.OBrien@team.telstra.com](mailto:Simon.OBrien@team.telstra.com), including in your suggestions the colour of shirt if applicable (a wide choice: white or blue). (*Doubtless, Simon, you will be overwhelmed with responses. – Ed.*)

## SOCIAL

### Season Launch

The projected function at the Arcadia remains dependant on the dates which can be arranged for practice matches 2 and 3. If one of these falls on a Sunday, the holding of a social function on the previous Saturday night would appear to be counter-productive. So, apologies for the uncertainty, but watch this space.

## FROM HERE AND THERE

Two “new” players seen at training, and moving just a little gingerly, have been **Angus MacGowan**, and his brother, **Stewart MacGowan**. Angus coached our Reserves back in 1996 – the team made the finals, only to lose by a point to AJAX in the first semi-final – but has been overseas since. They are brothers of **Hamish MacGowan** who was a member of our 1988 and 1990 Reserves Premiership teams.

We continue to give **Davo’s pie shop (Jester’s, 55 Swanston Street, Melbourne)** lots of coverage whilst we await information as to who the rest of our sponsors will be this year, at which time we would be happy to give them equal coverage. We mentioned Jester’s to our Office Manager here at work and gave her some of their brochures. We received the following e-mail in return after she made a visit:

*“That Morning Glory Egg and Bacon Pie is the BEST thing I have EVER tasted ...”*

Speaks for itself really.

Clash of the Titans (apart from the Cats v Melbourne encounter this Friday night) will occur on Saturday when **Ed Bayles** (playing for Melbourne 4ths) comes up against new recruit **Stewart Timms** (playing for Geelong 4ths) at Geelong: doubtless a cricket encounter of roughly the same magnitude as the current Zimbabwe vs Bangladesh test series in Southern Africa.

We mentioned in the previous webnotes the star-studded line-up of former OGFC players at **James Taylor’s** wedding a few weeks ago – and said how nice it would be to have those players, at their peak, back on the field for OGS. Looks as if **Leith Morrison**, for one, was impressed after reading the notes on the internet, for he duly arrived at training last Monday evening after a year-or-so’s absence.... We now look forward to seeing him at his peak.

Seems about three weeks ago there was someone walking his dog around the Menzies Reserve who asked which Club it was that was training there. Turns out his name was **Steve Crawford** and that he played for OGS, from 1960 to 1965. (*37 games according to the records. – Ed.*)

**Mark Avery** made his debut triathlon appearance yesterday evening in preparation for the upcoming **BRW Triathlon**. Being a “naturally gifted athlete” (as shown back at school when he took out GGS “Sportsman of the Year” in 1997), the big man had few nerves before the event. The fact that he had to get the puncture kit out during the day was a clear sign that the bike hadn’t been used for a while and hence a perfect excuse for a poor showing. Despite this and his claims that he was overtaken aplenty on the cycle, he managed to finish mid-field after blitzing the swimming section through the Docklands Quay.

**Alister Timms** was one proud man at training on Monday night, for it was the first time he was able to complete a time-trial and not bring up the rear of the pack (*and anything else that might have gone with it? - Ed.*). His enthusiasm shone through for the remainder of the training and with the culmination being a circuit of push-ups, sit-ups and knee jumps, Big Al led the Oggery with mighty gusto.

Ex-captain of the OGS, **Daniel Salter**, is representing the Victoria Racing Club at the **Dubai World Cup** later this month. In short “he meets, eats and drinks with the mighty sheiks”: sounds like hard work! (*On the drinking side of it, we hope he makes very sure he doesn’t arrive in one of the nearby countries by mistake. - Ed*) He will be overseas for about three to four weeks from all reports, so let’s hope this lifestyle doesn’t

"eat" into his fitness campaign! (*Pity about that – he's been training impressively to-date. And another warning, Salts – The Dubai World Cup is not infrequently frequented by the likes of Dale Fraser and Russell Parkinson. - Ed*)

There is some widespread talk of an OGS **Lawn Bowling Championship** occurring on a Sunday at some stage throughout the season. With the sport being classified as "one of the most dangerous sports in the world" due to its extreme death rate (most of them heart attacks, mind you), we see it as a good opportunity to recover from a Saturday game and bond as a team. It is extremely cheap entertainment, at a cost of \$8 per person for the hire of balls and the green. (*Instruction manuals extra. - Ed.*) Further to this, it has come to our attention that a few of the boys are getting in early practice (namely **Jonny Malpas, Tempo, Jimmy Legoe and Mark Avery**). All appeared to show a lot of potential, except for Aves who consistently seemed to give his bowls "not enough grass"!! (*Sounds like a good idea for some extracurricular sporting activity for the Club. Some years ago there was a regular tennis day, and on occasions I organised a squash tournament – the Lemon Squash competition – pre-season. - Ed.*)

**Tom Youl's** efforts at training on Monday night are to be applauded - arriving with his face looking as if he had just been beaten up by the bouncers at the Arc on the weekend, he battled courageously through training. It wasn't until **Locky** pulled him aside to coach him into taking the grab out in front rather than on his chest that Tom commented that his hay fever was so bad that he could hardly see out of his eyes.

Former OGS player **Samuel P. Bingley** starts his new job with the *AFL Hall Of Fame* soon. With this on his CV, it could surely provide the background to what will be needed in constructing an **OGS Hall of Fame** for the 50th anniversary celebrations!!

Bit of a scare for the Oggery last night with ruckman **Dave Taylor** falling down the stairs at his new residence in Toorak. The big man couldn't find his way in the dark and felt a crack as he rolled his ankle, commenting at the time that he won't be training tomorrow night. However, since then he has retracted his initial thoughts and he "thinks the sound and the ill feeling of twisting things made him a little scared and made him think it was a little worse than it actually was."

**Ben Dunn** has kicked off an instrumental pre-season by attending a whole one session thus far! (Due to pressure of work and study.) We don't know if he is keeping up his appearances running around the Albert Park Lake, but we hope to see him return to Menzies Reserve soon! (*That terrible threat at the end of last season about registering this year and playing a game seems to have receded into the background, at least for the time-being.*)

**Jon Malpas** has returned to the study arena and is hitting the books hard. In his first week of his MBA he has been in at work prior to 7:30am each morning and didn't leave the office last night until post-7pm. Let's hope all this effort he is putting into the books doesn't distract his form on the footy field for the Oggery (and a potential 100<sup>th</sup> game) in 2004! Meanwhile his girlfriend (**Kathy - brother of Al I-Still-Haven't-Made-My-Mind-Up Suvoltos**) has joined Jon by hitting the books - only problem is Jon takes the car each day and she is forced to tram it out to Deakin.

On the subject of 7.30am, on most mornings this week the Editor has been walking into work at that time along the Gardiner's Creek bike track which runs between Scotch College and St. Kevin's schools. Looks as if OGS aren't the only club with difficulty **accessing** their **ground** for training pre-season, for it was almost certainly St. Kevins Old Boys Football Club who were out there training on their school oval both today (Thurs) and Tuesday mornings. We wonder how the suggestion of a 7.30am training run for OGS would be received!

One of the aims of this publication is to provide a fair, reasonable and equitable **spread of coverage** of people, rather than having people like **Mark Avery** mentioned 25 times in the one edition. However, we have had had a last-minute update in from CNN regarding his triathlon warm-up (see earlier mention in these notes), to the effect that "Aves' triathlon results are in and he was beaten by four chicks!" And the news is that there is worse to come for him, because he will be up against no lesser a sporting personage than the Club President, **John Manton**, who will be representing **Harry The Hirers** in the same BRW event. (Be afraid, Mark. Be very afraid. And don't expect another mention before August.)

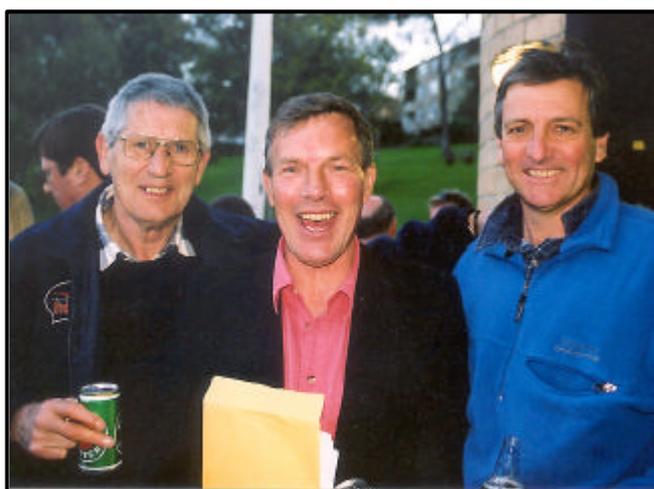
## 50 Years (an occasional feature): 200-plus game players

In its 50 years the Club has had five players play over **200 games**. They are **Tony Brocksopp** (played 1971 to 93: **287 games**); **Tim Jackson** (played 1977-96: **259 games**); **Cam Macmillan** (played 1958-78; first player to reach 200 – in 1970; **226 games**); **John Mollard** (played 1971-89: **210 games**) and **Charlie Richardson** (played 1983-96; 204 games).

This extraordinarily scruffy looking Reserves 1998 group, right, includes *Tim Jackson* (second from left, front row standing), and *John Mollard*, (fourth from left, same row). Another five in the photo went on to play over one hundred games for the Club: **Don Bradshaw, Andrew Jenkins, Lou Officer, Scot Moffatt, and Steven Anderson.**



And the photo below was taken last year at Como one Saturday after a game, featuring Cam MacMillan, John Mollard, and Tony Brocksopp, with a grand total of 723 games between them.



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### This Week's Player Profile – David Taylor

**Also known as:** Big Rocks, Rocks, Tails, Devros, Rocko, DT the VI.      **Age:** 24

**Went to:** Hutchins (Hobart), Melbourne Uni – Trinity College

**Occupation:** Work in Audit in the Minerals, Energy and Utilities team at Ernst & Young (Big 4 Accounting Firm in the City)

**Lives in:** Toorak with the Big **A-Frame** (*not again – Ed.*) and **Jim Legoe**, and **originally from:** Campbelltown, Tasmania

**Married/attached/available/desperate:** Attached

**Career with OGS:** 2004 will be 6 years. (*On 51 games, and counting, at the moment. – Ed.*)

**Awards at OGS (if any):** Reserves Runner-Up B&F 2000, Miss OGS 2003 (*We understand the competition in both cases was intense - Ed.*)

**Preferred playing position:** Ruck

**Perceived football strengths:** Big Heart

**weaknesses:** Non Preferred, Injury

**Best player seen at OGS:** **Mark Neeld, Lucas Wilson, Will Paul**

**Highlight of Career:** 1999 Finals Series; Collecting Subs 2003

**Favourite Food:** Chops, Steak and Chips with sauce

**Music:** Bit partial to Mariah Carey's Greatest Hits

**Place:** Anyway "Cool" on Chapel Street

**Film:** Rambo

**Fantasy:** To play a full season without injury. (*Well, for starters, you could try watching the steps when you arrive home at night. – Ed.*)

**Restaurant/pub etc:** A good night is always the PA's-ARC double, then some joint in Chapel Street like *Revolver*.

**League Club followed:** Geelong

**Other major interests/hobbies/achievements:** Love spending time with beer and friends.

**If I were stranded on a desert island, the five things I would take with me are:**

1. Derby Day Car Park at Flemington
2. Fair bit of VB
3. A few bikini-clad ladies
4. Chops and sauce
5. Eski & BBQ

**If I could have any job in the world it would be:** A man of leisure

**As a child I really wanted to be (when I grew up):** A Collins Street farmer.

**The things I like most about myself is:** Can't think of anything that I don't like.

**What makes me cringe/angry is:** Listening to what I did the night before. People who are all talk and no action.

**Future plans – say for next three years:** To finish this bloody study business and get O/S at some stage.

**General Comment about how you see the Club:**

**Its strong points:** Youth and Enthusiasm – Good blokes

**Needs to improve/change:** On-field Performance – No more "only if we had....."

Club needs to take into account the transition into International Accounting Standards in the coming year.

(*We have no doubt that the Club Treasurer & his assistants will have that completely under control. – Ed.*)



*D.T. features left in both photos. Other players, Will Abbott, Tim Bayles, Mark Leslie; heaven only knows where the ball finished up on the right.*

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The following army of people assisted with material for these notes this week: **David Mims, David Taylor.** (And **Jim Legoe** was going to contact us when his greyhound won.) If you are reading a hard copy of these notes, the in-colour notes should appear on the website, sometime Friday 5 March.

If you have anything to contribute to these notes, please email [peter@peregrineadventures.com](mailto:peter@peregrineadventures.com)

Stop, Stop Press: Re the lagging Legoe greyhound "Furious Mullet ran yesterday at The Meadows and came dead last. Got off to a good start and then just got knocked out on the corner. Thus its odds of 19-1 in a seven-dog race were justified!!"