

Old Geelong Football Club: marking 50 Years 1954-2004

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GENERAL

Last Week

The first practice match last Sunday, against Geelong Amateurs at Deakin Uni, Geelong, was a pretty successful affair. The first good thing was that about 50 players turned up on time and at the right place (admittedly to then discover that the start had to be put back by an hour due to the fact that the playing surface was partially covered by cars, due to an adjoining event). The second good thing is that we more than matched the Ammos in the first three (of six) quarters (mainly Reserves), and kept up with them pretty well in the rest of the game. It is difficult to make comparisons when playing against a Club in a completely different competition, but it could be noted that they were Runners-up, missing by only a narrow margin, in last year's Bellarine Football League grand-final, and also that their season starts on Saturday week.



(photos: Steve Hope-Johnstone)



may not draw the biggest crowd ever, it will mean that getting to the Punt Road ground and then finding somewhere to park may not be just a five-minute exercise.

There was terrific co-operation last Sunday with virtually everyone wearing white shorts and dark blue socks as requested (see last week's Notes with its section on Club colours): this week we are again regarded as the away side, so you are again asked to wear **white shorts**.

As previously advised, the practice match the following week will be at Como on the Saturday, 3 April. Details next week.

Training

Thursday 26 March is the last time we are training at the Menzies Reserve. Next week, training will revert to our home ground, **Como Park**, Williams Road, South Yarra, and will change to **Tuesday and Thursday evenings**. For the information of new players: with highly limited exceptions, cars are not allowed into the ground. The best parking is accessed from Como Avenue, and you are warned not to park in the centre part of the roundabout – the council from time to time initiate blitzes on illegal parking.

We have been advised that the timing devices for the training lights will be re-set to take into account the end of daylight saving this weekend. We await the outcome with a certain degree of trepidation. (*Especially as*

one bank of lights was blazing away merrily in broad daylight at 7.52am this morning as I walked past on my way into work. - Ed)

To mark the return to our home ground, next Thursday evening, 1 April, our first after-training meals will be available upstairs (cost, about \$4), courtesy of **Davo** and **LoAn** and “**Jester’s - The Jaffle Pie Co**”. For those of you new to the Club, the Thursday evening meals last year were a regular feature and highlight (and for a lot of you probably the most nutritional meal of the week!).

AROUND THE CLUB

Great to see **Willie Paul** back on the track for us last Sunday for the first time since Round 2 or 3 in 2002. We were looking forward to seeing all three of them (**Jim, Will** and **Tom**) on the field in the same game, but it appears that Tom’s troublesome and chronic calf problem has flared again.

Equally, really bad luck for **Lachie Teague** who just eight minutes into the first quarter sustained a cracked tibia after someone fell across his leg: a really disappointing start to proceedings, especially for someone who had been putting in so well at training right from the start.

More players back from overseas are **Sam Ross** who was studying for some months in the U.S. in the last half of last season, and **Tom O’Brien** who has been travelling for the last couple of seasons.

It is not all that long now to the start of the season: it is important that anyone wishing to sign up, but who has not yet done so, should do so a.s.a.p., as the paperwork in some cases can be extensive and time-consuming, especially if we have to get clearances from other VAFA Clubs, or “A Forms” from country clubs, etc. etc. Please do not leave things until the last minute. And once the season starts, please note that the VAFA Permit Committee meets each Wednesday evening, and that new applications must be lodged by 5pm on that day. A new applicant coming down on a Thursday has no chance of being registered for the following Saturday, even if he is a straight-forward application.

We have been asked to repeat Ben Dunn’s request from last week, to which he has (surprisingly) had no response. “**Reserves Runner, and Reserves Assistant Coach:** Ben Dunn who is seeking the services of a Runner and also an Assistant Coach (a working knowledge of Shakespeare is no longer required). He can be contacted on ben.dunn@citigroup.com or on 0412 559918.”

FROM HERE AND THERE

Some of you who had to put up with lying on the Club’s **training tables** last year mightn’t have had a troublesome or bad back *before* you started, but would probably have finished up with a pronounced curvature of the spine. (At least two of those tables looked more like a hammock.) We are pleased to advise that the Club apparently purchased no less than five “new” tables at the MCC *Auction of Priceless Artefacts and Memorabilia* held last October, prior to the demolition of the Members Pavilion. (They - the tables - might be old, but are apparently very sturdy, and “weight a bloody ton”.) We don’t know if it had anything to do with the fact that the Auctioneer for the day was well-known Club Member, former player and former coach, **Simon Bones**, and that one of the Spotters at the auction was former player and former President, **Peter N. Clarke**, but we have been assured that the price was very reasonable. Since then the tables have been in storage with Committeeman **Tom de Steiger’s** company, **Under-Raps**, who can store and protect just about anything under plastic, from Compact Disks to Battleships, and most things in between. We can only hope they now find some way of getting the tables out.

“Under-Raps® is a professional company specialising in encapsulation and shrink wrapping, using a special industrial grade plastic with superior durability and strength. Under-Raps® provides on-site protection and containment for all construction and industrial applications. Under-Raps® encapsulations are weather resistant and UV protective, allowing work to continue even under adverse weather conditions.”



(As always, we are keen and happy to promote businesses and enterprises and companies and undertakings with which our members – playing or non-playing – are associated. It is as simple as sending this publication an email with some details – although, admittedly, we do realise that

contacting us about anything seems to be beyond 99% of you. – Ed. Anyone wishing to contact Tom can do so on enviroraps@ozemail.com.au or 0414 996633.)

The original *meeting time* at Deakin Uni for last Sunday's practice match was 10.45am. Unfortunately, potential new player **Josh Herdman** was informed that that was the *starting time*, and so duly arrived at the ground at 9am. When you consider that the practice match was then put back from a noon start to 1pm, that's a very long time to be sitting there looking at the inside of some changing rooms.

Former OGS Best and Fairest from 1999, **Paul "Schwartzza" Middleton** was seen putting in a few quarters for the Ammos where he has been playing for the past two seasons. And one of our new recruits, **Will Ainsworth**, was apparently playing against his brother. Before the game, we were half expecting to see Geelong Amateurs President **Bruce Harwood** (as mentioned in last week's notes, one of our former players of the late 1980s and early 1990s), take the field, but in the long run there was not the slightest sign or inclination. He seemed perfectly happy on the other side of the boundary.

"Twenty-Twenty"?: We thought jumper No.1 was picking up a prodigious number of possessions in the first three quarters played last Sunday, until we realised that **Tom Waters** and **Greg Allen** were both wearing No.1 jumpers. Which poses the question as to whether "half of a prodigious number of possessions" is still alright.

With only one *real* boundary umpire on Saturday (*and even that is debatable, given the strength of some of the throw-ins late in the game – Ed*), **Steve Hope-Johnstone** assisted with some pretty impressive throw-ins on the other side of the ground. According to the Club's records, Steve played two reserves games for the Club back in 1981, and also did some boundary umpiring on occasions in a couple of seasons before that: unfortunately no action shots of him have survived, and this (standing in doorway) is the best anyone could find. (Presumably taken in 1978 or 79: the Coach was former St. Kilda player, **Des Kennedy**.)



Nice to see Steve's sons **James** (after he was sidelined for half a season last year following a freak warm-up accident before a game) and **Tim** both on the ground for OGS last Sunday. Both look to be terrific prospects and undoubtedly must have inherited their ability from their mother.

Like a number of other new recruits, Tim left Geelong College at the end of last year; contrasts with the input from those who left Grammar at the same time, which to-date stands at precisely none. It has been suggested that part of this may have been the result of differing levels of access granted to OGFC Recruiting at the two schools. Furthermore, the work done with College by **Graeme Goldsworthy** has been terrific.

On the subject of Graeme, we're sure the players and supporters from both clubs last Sunday enjoyed the free barbecue and drinks organised by Graeme (as to the drinks) and by **Frank Herd** (as to the meat) during and after the game.

However, on the subject of **alcoholic drinks**, this might be the time to mention that once the season proper starts (17 April), VAFA rules prohibit the consumption of alcohol by spectators and supporters during matches (except at especially approved lunches, inside, from Noon till 1.50pm). The rules are strictly enforced, and the financial penalties to Clubs for breach can be significant. Mind you, as part of our on-going research into the early days of the Club, we were highly bemused to come across the following entry in an old Committee minute book from 1958 which read: "Property Steward: **Blair Cattanach** – oranges, gum, sherry, groundsheets, sweaters, shorts, sox, trunks, stops, spare boots." Leaves us wondering if the VAFA's ban on alcohol these days extends to *players* drinking during a match!

And a final reminder from **Jim Legoe** that your chances to join the Club **footy tipping competition** expire about 3pm Friday. We've almost doubled the number of participants from last year, including former

Captain **Mike Crawford** who phoned up from Sydney to join, but it would still be nice to pick up another 20 or so. If you want instructions on how to join, you should access last week's notes on the website.

Marking 50 Years – an occasional feature

Michael Crawford mentioned above and appearing opposite (photo: unknown) played 171 games for the Club from 1968 to 1984, mainly in the role of Full Back, and was Captain of the Firsts in 1973, 74 and 75, Best & Fairest and also the Most Consistent in 1972, and served on the Committee in a number of those years. He is one of the Table Captains for the 19 June 50-Year function.



And **Andrew Howells**, featured below, played 113 games for the Club from 1993 to 2001, much of it as an aggressive full forward who topped our club and section goal-kicking lists on a number of occasions with totals into the 90s.

Photo: Peter Lemon



There is no *Player Profile* or *Official Profile* this week due to the fact that no e-mails came back in. (Perhaps the Editor might have to do one on himself next week if we can't get any better feedback.)

Photocopies of these webnotes are handed out at training on Thursday evenings. We apologise that we ran out last Thursday: the demand is greater than we expected! Electronic copies will appear on the Club website, with photos in colour, on Friday 29 March.

This publication can be contacted on peter@peregrineadventures.com