

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

General WebNotes 2004: No 8 (April 1) [www.oldgeelong.com.au](http://www.oldgeelong.com.au)

Despite soaring temperatures to 35°C, in the shade, and we weren't, the practice matches last Sunday were a significant success: the turn-up from players was terrific, to the extent that for the earlier game we had over 20 on the bench, and for the "Firsts" we had ten on the bench. Which indicates how strong our numbers are going to be this season – if we do the right thing by all our players and ensure that the Club 18 team is run with the same levels of support as our other sides. The surface of the Richmond ground is terrific, (there is a siren that can be heard, please compare with Como), and we came out ahead of the opposition in both games. The good numbers meant that it was possible to rotate players regularly in the heat and that no-one was significantly affected by the conditions.



### THIS WEEK

The two practice matches against Bulleen Templestowe are at Como with intended starting times of about Noon and 2.15pm. (New players into the Club might note that once the season-proper starts, Reserves matches commence at 11.40am and Senior matches at 2pm.) This week, as the home side, we should be wearing dark **blue shorts**.

Please note the VAFA has issued a notice that the same rules **forbidding the consumption of alcohol** by spectators during matches during the official season will apply during practice matches as well. This applies to any of our supporters up on the hill and around the side of the ground, and the assistance of everyone is requested in making sure that this does not take place.

### SOCIAL

An informal **Season Launch** will take place on the evening of **17 April**, after the first match of the season, at the Arcadia Hotel, starting at 6.30pm and with food provided. More details next week and the following week.

### AROUND THE CLUB

A reminder that on Thursday, 15 April there will be the **Jumper Presentation Night** upstairs at Como after training, along with the **announcement of Captains**, and Vice-Captains, and Deputy Vice-Captains and Deputy-Acting-Assistant-Vice-Captains, and the like. On a more sombre note, this is also your chance to pay subscriptions and to purchase VAFA shorts, so please arrive adequately armed. Last year we got heaps in on the night and we need to do the same this year and pre-warn everyone to get their cash, chequebook, credit card, sugar daddy, parents, etc., cashed up for the night. We are trying to find out if there will be a set of **player photos** taken like last year, and, just in case, you better remember to bring down your brush and comb.

Great to see **Tommy Fallaw** back on the ground on Sunday after he missed most of last season with a wrist injury.

New Club 18 coach “**Moose**” **Edgar** has had major rowing commitments which last up until Easter. He will be down at training on Tuesday next week to be introduced to the players.

The Club’s first General Mail-Out/Printed Newsletter to members (about 600 copies) is expected to be going out in the next couple of days: whilst we have a certain number of **parents of current players on the mailing list** it is only a small number in comparison with the total number of our players and there is room for a lot more. If you would like your folks – or, indeed, anyone else for that matter - to be added to the list, please advise details to **Peter Lemon** at training or this Saturday. Parent(s) already on the list at the moment are **Ainsworth, Atkins, Avery, Bayles, Cole, Goldsworthy, Hope-Johnstone, Kilpatrick, Legoe, Leslie, Macarthy, Paul, Salter, Seymour, Southey, Stevens, Stinchcombe** (thank you for the note this week) and **Vickers-Willis**.

Lots of **behind-the-scenes commitments** at this time of the year. **Michael Davis** attended the compulsory VAFA Sponsors’ Night a couple of weeks ago, whilst last week **Michael Lockman** attended the compulsory VAFA Coaches’ Night. And last night there was the VAFA’s compulsory Annual Presidents, Secretaries and Delegates’ Dinner. The OGS were represented by Vice-President **Hamish Browning**, Secretary **David Mims**, and by Committeeman **Simon O’Brien**, and also present was our Treasurer **Michael Gretton-Watson**. We have received the following report from Obbie:

“Last night was a quality occasion, with 3AW Morning Host *Ross Stevenson* being the guest speaker of the night. He told countless anecdotes of his football in F Section (*now D3 – Ed.*). **Gretto** got an award for his service to the Amateurs (*see Webnotes of 4 March relating to his Certificate of Merit. – Ed.*), and a spiel was given of his countless years of service given to the OGS, including his playing, coaching, secretarial and treasurer duties. He has also spent many an hour updating the scoreboard in the pocket. The funniest part of the night was having a look at the cover of the Dinner Menu which had many a photo of Amateur footballers, and there was one of **Mark "Monolith" Vickers-Willis** playing against Hawthorn last year and actually giving off a handball\*\*; I think that must have made his stats for the year 137 kicks and 1 handball. *Mike Brady* got up at the end of the night and knocked out a few of his footy classics, "Up There Cazaly" and the like, as old grey man reminisced as to how good they were in their day. (*Thanks, Obbie: I remember the song quite well. – Ed.*)

(# A photo, *Vickos!?* That’s another \$25 dollars to charity, thank you.)

(\*\*A handball!?! Not necessarily! These days you can do just about anything with “Adobe Photoshop” on the computer. – Ed.)

And in relation to our **four trainers**: They have all done first-aid courses and are all now completing their (compulsory) Sports Trainers Course. In addition, they are all studying physiotherapy or related courses at present.



## FROM HERE AND THERE

Our Reserves and Club 18 umpires this year will be the same as last year, being **David Mims**, **Chris Barnett**, and **David Varley** (the last-mentioned for only two games). This puts enormous pressure on the first two, and the powers-that-be are apparently trying to persuade **Michael Davis** to join the panel as well, if the Vafa are going to do another accreditation night. Davo is the bloke who umpired our earlier game last Sunday. (Comment: Did a good job. Needs to be a bit more forceful with the whistle. Dress sense: shocking.)

On the subject of **umpires**: does anything ever change? Comment from one of our games back in 1956. "Umpire. Good but technical. We failed to adapt and decisions went against us all day."

We would like to thank **Steve Hope-Johnstone** for most, but not two, of the photos which he supplied from last Sunday for use in these Webnotes. (*I know that I was entitled to look somewhat hideous in my eighth quarter of running the boundary, but one of those two photos has left me a shattered man. – Ed. And perhaps, three hours of trying later, it indicates that "Adobe Photoshop" is not all that it's cracked up to be after all!*)

Interesting looking at some of the **details supplied** by new players signing registration applications so far this year - one had played with Old Scotch Amateurs in Perth; and is it really true, Stewart, that you were born in Canberer?

We put in a big item in last week's notes about **Tom de Steiger's** company, **Underwraps**, mentioning, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that they will place just about anything into protective sealing "from Compact Disks to Battleships". So imagine the surprise when we received this note from Tom yesterday: "*Could you mention in the Webnotes that I need two, maybe three, blokes to work for a week in mid-to-late April in Tasmania. (They will receive transportation, plus accommodation, etc, and \$20/hr.) Dates not confirmed yet: the reason is to wrap a **passenger ferry** indoors for **Incat.**" (Now that sounds like a hell of a number of rolls of cling-wrap to us. - Ed. If anyone is interested, and as long as you are not a good footballer, please contact these notes for Tom's details.)*

The "new" training tables purchased at the MCC auction (see last week's Webnotes for details) duly arrived at the ground last Tuesday evening. Whilst they will probably make the likes **Aves** and **Mimsey** go weak at the knees at the thought of perhaps using the same tables as *Jack Mueller* and *Norm Smith* and *Ron Barassi* and *Robbie Flower* and *Gary Lyon* and *David Neitz* before them, to the rest of us the tables look solid and functional; and that's about it.

**Training lights.** Well – a better start than last year. At least five of the seven lights were working last Monday, and none of those went off during the middle of training.

We'd like to thank **Edward** and **George** (and **John**) **Manton** for all **running water** for the players last Sunday. When the actual season starts we think that the first two will be prevented from doing the job (not quite old enough yet), although Dad should be able to continue without any problems.

**What they did in the off-season: Tom Betts, Dinga (Jamie Bell), Nick Betts**, and couple of ex-players **Ted** and **Xavier Fitzgerald** (*who, incidentally, is still to pay last year's subs.- Ed*) started an indoor soccer team in Geelong. (*We asked where they played, and were told, "inside". - Ed.* The name... "CaddyShack United". In grand OGS tradition they started the season slowly but clawed their way up the ladder and by mid-summer were looking good for the finals. Unfortunately their number-one striker, "the injury-prone **Dinga**, sustained what appeared to be a career-ending injury when he tripped and twisted his feeble ankle. Try as we might we fell just one game short of the finals and finally (the 10-week season was about 9 weeks too long) the dream was over." Highlights of the season included a return-from-injury hat-trick by **Dinga**, **Nick's** David-Seamen-like efforts in goal while nursing his back injury, four stunning goals from **Tom Betts** (who provided this report) on his very own right boot in the final game, and **Dinga** getting red carded - for wearing incredibly inappropriate short shorts. "The overall experiment was viewed as a success, and while we may never again pull on the indoor soccer boots, the memories will last a lifetime... Unfortunately so will the image of Dinga gallivanting around in those groin-hugging, spray-on lycra shorts. Sickening, really....."

**What he did in the off-season:** Congratulations are extended to **James Burbury** who was married recently, with little fanfare. Sorry – I don't even know the lady's name, but they are both heading off overseas shortly for a couple of months. James expects to be back in late June to continue his career with the OGS.

Well, no-one could accuse them of being late for proceedings last Sunday: seems both **Matt Bouchier** and **Josh Herdman** put in a frantic phone call to the Coach at about 10:45am last Sunday morning, saying that they were at the Punt Road ground, and there was no-one there. Well, it was 10.45am, *their* time – for most of the rest of the state, with the end of daylight saving, it was still only 9.45am. And if you look back to the previous webnotes, in relation to the practice match against Geelong Amateurs, that now means Josh has managed to get to two games a total about two and half hours before he needed to! Still, it's better than missing the boat.

Remember the dreadlocks? We had a certain difficulty recognising **Dhillo** last Sunday: the bloke seems to go through more changes of hairstyle than *Marie Antoinette* did in October 1793.

Rumour has it that one “**Manga**” **McCarthy** has been getting expert tips from one *Ross Noble* during the Comedy Festival. He, Manga, was trying a few of his new jokes on the 48 Tram last night on some young girls; we wonder how he fared.

Sunday was not the first time we've played on Tigers' Turf. Our Firsts lost a preliminary final there to Melbourne High Old Boys back in about 1992. And we played a practice match against University Blacks – a night game - on the **Punt Road Oval** prior to the start of the 2001 season. Only problem was that it started pouring with rain at half time of the main game, and we weren't allowed to continue playing, because it would mess up the surface.

On the subject of messing up the surface, we're not opposed to a bit a flexibility in helping out a club in difficulties, but we are significantly perplexed by the attitude of the City of Stonington in relation to the use of the Como ground. During the off-season they indicated that they were not prepared to allow us to increase the number of our teams using the ground when we proposed re-establishing an Under 19 side (which we had had there anyway from 1994 to 1999). We were then advised that Como Park could not be used by us for training pre-season (although admittedly they did procure for us the use of the Menzies Reserve, which did fit the bill fairly well). And now we discover that because Toorak Park is not yet up to scratch they have allowed Old Xaverians to train at Como for the past few weeks on Wednesdays, and now on Monday evenings as well. The logic, should there be any, has passed us by.

No **Player Profile** or **Official Profile** this week, despite a number of emails having been sent out requesting input. There's a lot about the Old Geelong Football Club that resembles SETI – the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence: a hell of a lot of time and effort in the going out, and next to nothing in the coming back. (*Perhaps I really will have to do one on myself. - Ed.*)

And a final note in reference to the earlier paragraph about photos on the front of Presidents and Secretaries' Dinner Menu: the same photograph apparently appears in the VAFA's Fixture Handbook for 2004 as well. Which by my calculations, Mark, now takes your grand total to fifty dollars.

Want to contact these notes? [peter@peregrineadventures.com](mailto:peter@peregrineadventures.com)

These notes will be available on the Website sometime Friday.