

Old Geelong Football Club 2004: Printed Newsletter No.

On the 24th of April, 1954, the following 23 players formed the squad for the Old Geelong Grammarians Football Club in its first-ever match, in E Section of the VAFA, against Old Trinity: **Bill Irvine; Fred Moore; Robin Delves; Bill Morrison; Guy Nevett; Askin Morrison; John Happell; Ted Ringwood; Jim Middleton; Perc Palfreyman; R.W. Felton; John Officer; Alex Newman; David Sholl; Ric Bouvier; Michael Moore; Thea Bodycomb; John Bennett; Neil (?) Howard; Harry Youlden; Dick Tracy; J.A. "Johnno" Johnstone, and Bill Mollard.** (Thereby probably also incurring the Club's first-ever fine, because team sheets are meant to be in alphabetical order.) In the finish it appears that Messrs Palfreyman, Irvine and Michael Moore did not play: A detailed report of that first game appears in the Weekly Notes dated March 18 on the Club's Website.

The game was played at Fairfield Park, close to the Yarra, and it is has been suggested that facilities were so limited that the after-match showers consisted of a swim in the river. The Club won its first match, 19-22 to 2-2, but only two of its first nine, before storming home in the second half of the season to win seven of the last nine, and finish fifth. Thus had begun something which has continued, with varying levels of success and precariousness, efficiency and the opposite, for 50 years. In 1963 a Reserves side was started, and in late 1973, in recognition of a changing membership base, especially the increasing contribution from Old Geelong Collegians in both playing and non-playing capacities, the name was changed to the Old Geelong Football Club.

Regrettably, there do not seem to be *any* photos from that first season, and just one from 1955 and one from 1956, which (opp) we think was the D Section Premiership side, possibly taken at half time during the Grand-Final game. (The two photos were both notated as having been taken at half-time of the Semi-Final, but each has different personnel, so only one of them can be right!):



Back Row: L to R: Darryl Cantor, Basil Seymour, Bob Paterson, Ian Peake, Perc Palfreyman, David Lear, Jo Breadmore, M. Park, Jock Morris, George Eadie, Mike Pointer. Middle Row: Evan McGregor, Bill Irvine, Bill Mollard (Boundary Umpire), Bill Morrison, Malcolm Macleod (partly hidden). From Row: Mike Tinsley, Bob Hesketh, Jack Jolley, Noel Rundle, Dick Smallwood.

To mark this 50th anniversary year there will be **two special functions** conducted during the course of the season – the first will be a lunch at Como Park on **Saturday 24 April**, co-incidentally 50 years to the day from the Club's first match, and the second will be a special 50-year dinner to be held at Crown Palladium on the evening on **Saturday, 19 June**.

The function on 24 April will take the form of an informal lunch at Como Park from 11.45am to 2pm, at a cost of about \$10, plus drinks. During the day our Reserves will be starting early, probably about 10am, and there will be a practice match between Geelong College and Grammar

from noon until about 2pm, after which our Senior side will be playing Williamstown CYMS. It is not necessary to advise of your intention to attend the lunch beforehand.

The function on 19 June is the subject of a separate invitation, included with this Newsletter, which contains the relevant details. A team of Table Captains, running right through the 50 years of the Club, has been established, and a list of their names and contact details appears later in these notes and can be accessed through the Club's website (oldgeelong.com.au), by opening the Weekly Notes dated 18 March. Additional Table Captains may be added to the website from time to time. We emphasise that you don't have to know, or be friends with, or even remember, any of the Table Captains to come along; they are there to facilitate lists and to encourage people to get involved, and you will still be more than welcome to attend by responding directly to the Club. Please note that no bookings can be accepted or held without payment.

Fixtures. And "Using the Club Website (oldgeelong.com.au)"

The draw for the current season is set out on the enclosed Fixture Card (but please remember that things do change from time to time!), along with some important contact details.

In addition, as with last year, we again refer readers to the Club's website which, at least in places, provides a source of regular and current information about the Club. Each week (or occasionally fortnight) the **Weekly Webnotes** are updated with current news, and, especially in this 50th anniversary year, the occasional throwback to some of the Club's earlier seasons, good, bad, or indifferent. It has been a protracted effort to encourage Club members to use this source as a matter of course (good readership now by current players, parents, and from members overseas, but still weak from local past players, Pivot Club members, etc.), and we again urge you to get into the habit. New notes are usually posted onto the site on Thursday afternoons or Friday mornings, and previous editions can be accessed for some months. The news provided this way **is far more current and topical** than just about anything we can provide with these printed newsletters which are mailed but two or three times a year, and allows for the insertion of colour photos, something which costs prohibit in printed newsletters.

President's Report – John Manton

Welcome to 2004 at the OGS.

The year for us started in October 2003 with the AGM and the election of five new committee members. With no resignations this doubled our Committee and will certainly help spread the workload. Remaining on the Committee are **David Mims** (Secretary, for his umpteenth year), **Michael Gretton-Watson** (Treasurer, for his umpteenth year: see later report), **Tom De Steiger** (general), and **Simon O'Brien** (Football Operations). These four have shown their dedication to the OGS over many years and we are fortunate to have their support.

The following are the new members of the Committee:

***Hamish Browning** has taken on the role of Vice President. Hamish has been involved with the Club as a player, team manager and more recently as schools liaison during season 2003.

***Graeme Goldsworthy**, who lives in Geelong, will be liaising with Geelong College and Geelong Grammar to maintain the relationships between the OGFC and the schools in 2004.

***Michael Davis** returns to the Committee as the food and beverage co-ordinator. Michael has been actively involved in this role in an unofficial capacity for the last two seasons.

***Mark Avery** and **Lachie Stevens** (both current players) are in charge of all social activities; they are well under way with the planning for the coming season.

Training so far this year has been excellent. Attendances are up and more importantly the quality of the training is up, thanks to the efforts and planning by our Senior coach. After a year at the helm **Michael Lockman** has raised the bar: the expectations in all areas, including application and effort, have been taken to a new level. Michael will be supported again this year by **Ben Dunn** (Reserves Coach), **Russell Parkinson** (Assistant Coach) and **Mat Edmonds** (runner), whilst former player **Patrick Henry Edgar** has taken over the mantle of the Club 18 from **Sean Wilson** who has undertaken the job for some years. It is disappointing to report that yet again proposals to re-instate the Under 19s have failed – the City of Stonington raised objections to an increase in the number of teams playing at Como.

This year the OGS are celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. There are two major functions being held to mark the occasion.

1) A practice game between Geelong College and Geelong Grammar will be held as a curtain raiser to our first home game (Como) of the year on Saturday, April 24. The day will begin with the OGS Reserves at 10am followed by the College/Grammar match at 12 Noon and the OGS Seniors at 2pm (all these times are approximate at this stage). There will be a luncheon provided (at a small cost) and all are encouraged to stay around for the after-match.

On Saturday 19th June a Black-Tie Dinner will be held at the Crown Palladium. The night will involve (amongst other things) the announcement of the Team of the Half-Century, a small number of select auction items, dancing, and plenty of reminiscing - and not too many speeches! (If any readers have any photos from their time with the Club, you are encouraged to contact us well beforehand and to loan them to us for scanning for the audio-visual presentation.) The room is limited in capacity so get in quick or you'll miss out.

I am delighted to advise that long-standing player and Club administrator **Mick Gretton-Watson** (current Club Treasurer, and Treasurer or Committeeman for close to half of its 50 years) was recently honoured by being awarded one of the Victorian Amateur Football Association's **Certificates of Merit** for 2004. Each year the VAFA presents about half a dozen of these to persons throughout the competition considered to have given outstanding and meritorious service to Amateur Football over an extended period of time; with Gretto's career with the Club starting in 1963 (145 games through to 1976), plus extended stints as Club Treasurer in the 1970s, 80s, 90s and for all of this millennium so far, I can only say that he has thoroughly deserved this recognition. He is the sixth member of the Club in its 50 years to have received this award.

The year is promising to be both successful and enjoyable. We encourage all to participate in the above functions and in the Club generally, and to come to as many games as possible during the season.” - **John Manton**

And a note from our Senior Coach, Michael Lockman

“Welcome to the 2004 season at “The Oggery” – a year that sees the Club celebrate the 50th anniversary of its formation. Let's make it a huge year, on and off the field. Attendances at training

have been good, averaging at least 40 and sometimes recently getting upwards of 65 players on the track. Skill levels and fitness continue to improve and there are many players who are far more advanced than this time last year.

One of the most pleasing aspects of pre-season so far from my point of view is that we have lost virtually no players from last year and we may have picked up some good additions to the list. Coupled with an enthusiasm and a good work ethic, all portents are good so far.

Very soon, though, we shall see how we stand. The practice matches are upon us, and it will be very interesting to see how we fare as a team and as individuals. We have a very even list, so it is imperative that all players put their best foot forward in the coming weeks. I look forward to the season with great anticipation. I am very determined that we play to our potential. Let's dare to dream." (Stop Press: two practice matches have been conducted so far, the first against Geelong Amateurs, the second against Yarra Valley Old Boys in the section above us, and both been very successful.)

Finances

Subscriptions:

The subscription payable in the Club's first season in **1954** was five shillings. (Followed by a 100% hike the following year to ten!) Affiliation fees paid to the VAFA were 50 pounds and 13 shillings, whilst ground rental was 18 guineas, and gear purchases (mainly pullovers and footballs) were 166 pounds. (Admittedly the Club had only one side then.)

Last year, some of the payments made by the Club included: Ground rental - \$8682; Physio and Trainers - \$4470; Player Insurance - \$4160; Electricity (for rooms and for training lights) - \$866; VAFA Affiliation Fees - \$13,313; VAFA "other" (*Amateur Footballer* magazine; functions etc) - \$3088; Repairs and Line Marking - \$751; Medical expenses, especially tape and bandages - \$2577, Telephone - \$909; Football expenses, and General and Public Liability Insurance - \$3864, to name but some of the costs. All up, our outlays amounted to \$70,632 (and 75 cents). For this reason, it should be obvious that income from sponsors and from subscriptions is of enormous importance to us.

Sponsors:

In relation to **sponsors**, we are delighted to have our major sponsors of many years back on board again this year: namely the team at **Bennison Mackinnon & Associates**, Real Estate Agents at 1215 High Street, Armadale. **Richard Mackinnon** (24 games, 1973-74), **Andrew McCann** (37 games, late 1990s) and **Jock Langley** will be happy to assist members in relation to real estate matters, especially if you are seeking to sell property in the Armadale, Toorak, Hawthorn, Malvern, Glen Iris, Albert Park, Middle Park, South Melbourne and the Mount Macedon areas. They can be contacted on Melbourne 9864 5000 or via their website, www.benmac.com.au (and, please, mention that you are connected with the Old Geelong Football Club).

In addition, we would like to acknowledge the sponsorship of **Urban Maintenance Systems**. "UMS is a specialist provider of building and maintenance services to Government, Local Government and Private Sector organizations throughout Australia. UMS provides comprehensive infrastructure maintenance services to facilities management, roads and street signage, open space, painting, graffiti management and essential services environments. The OGS are supported at UMS by a number of past and current players. **Sam Furphy** is the CEO, **Campbell Walker** Executive Director, **Dale Fraser** Human Resources Manager, and within the current pool of casual, even very

casual, employees, are **Russell (the Barrel) Parkinson**, plus last year's senior captain, **Chris Stinchcombe**, and past player **James Cook** (recently returned from South America). UMS is a great supporter of the OGS both financially and in assisting the players with occasional casual work. Other Club supporters may want to consider following the example.”

Other major sponsors assisting the Club this year include:

Jester's - the Jaffle Pie Shop (through **Michael Davis**), at 55 Swanston Street (corner Flinders Lane) in the city. Jesters are delivering a revolution in the pie (honestly! All those from the Club who have been there have come back raving about the product which, apart from tasting great, is mainly is low-fat and highly healthy.)

Cadbury Schweppes, thanks to former player and official **Peter Winter**, will be providing significant assistance to the Club with the provision of soft drinks and cordials during the coming season.

The Arcadia Hotel (through current player **Paul Broadbent**) at the corner of Punt and Toorak roads is again back on board as a favoured watering hole for many of our players, as a function venue, and with after-match catering at Como Park.

Gary Fawcett (former player and official) at **Tap Productions** will be providing significant assistance with *design services* and *speciality printing requirements* during the season.

Mike Gretton-Watson and his staff at **Ingrams, Accountants** at 72 River Street, South Yarra provide endless assistance with the Club's accounting and financial requirements (to say nothing of helping in preparing, folding, stuffing, enveloping and posting over 600 copies of this Newsletter for some light relief).

Furphy's Camper Trailers have come on board as a new sponsor this year. The Campers are manufactured by Furphy's Foundry. This foundry, an Australian icon, was established in 1873 and its Shepparton operation still continues today. A new venture for Furphy's is the introduction of the Furphy Camper Trailer. The Furphy Camper is positioned to supply a high-quality recreational product to the burgeoning outdoor/camping sector. Furphy's Campers: Good, Better, Best.

And another new arrival on the scene is past player **Nick Strauss** who is Dealer Principal at **Northern Motor Group** at 429 Grimshaw Street, Bundoora whose franchises include in Nissan, KIA, and Chrysler Jeep, dealing with new and used vehicles, plus servicing, spare parts and financing. With the chance to save thousands on your next vehicle, Nick can be contacted on 9467588, 0419 566510 or nicks@northernmotorgroup.com.au.

The bottom line is that **sponsorships are not a donation**: we urge Club members to support our sponsors whenever the opportunity arises and to give something back. We will continue to provide significant extra details and coverage of our sponsors in coming weeks on the Club's Website and especially in its the Weekly Notes. (There was a photo from UMS, which included **Dale Fraser**: unfortunately that meant that we couldn't find the room to fit it in this publication, but it will go on the Web on the next couple of weeks.) Equally, if any readers are interested in getting involved in a sponsorship capacity, or know of anyone who might be, you are urged to get in touch with us.

In relation to subscriptions, a payment form is enclosed, and with it you may care to update some of your details. Subscriptions remain the same as last year, namely: Pivot Club \$110; Playing (Student) \$100; Playing (Employed) \$160. And for Non-Players we have re-introduced an Ordinary

Non-Playing membership of \$50 for those wishing to support the Club but who do not have the funds available for Pivot Club membership.

The Club's database is by no means complete – a combination of people moving without advising, and equally, inadequacy in the Club's record-keeping over some seasons. Particularly for past players receiving this newsletter, if you know of others who do not get it, please ask them to advise the Club of their details by phoning the Secretary or President on the numbers on the Fixture Card, or by emailing the Club Secretary on David.Mims@target.com.au. Alternatively, you can contact the Data Base controller, **Peter Lemon**, on peter@peregrineadventures.com or (03) 96520127(w).

Another way of helping the Club

As always, we are looking for non-players to assist with the many jobs and positions that need to be filled each Saturday, not only for the Firsts, but also for the Reserves and for the Club 18. As with the past few seasons, **Dale Fraser** will be co-ordinating a weekly roster for jobs which can include time keeping, goal umpiring, interchange steward (home games), duty officer, sometimes boundary umpires, etc.: he can be contacted on dmfpaxton@aol.com.

We look forward to your support in 2004.

And almost 50 years later: Firsts and Reserves – Como, after the last home game, 2003



Dear Member,

Subscriptions for the 2004 Season of the **Old Geelong Football Club** are now due and payable. Would you please assist our Club by paying promptly? Donations are, as always, gratefully accepted.

PLEASE RETURN TO: The Treasurer, OGFC, Mr Michael Gretton-Watson

Ingrams & Co, Chartered Accountants,
PO Box 2200,
SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141

Your name.....

Address (if different from mailing address to which this Newsletter was forwarded)

.....Post code.....

Phone(s).....

E-mail.....

SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE 2004 SEASON

Players	\$160	\$
Student Players	\$100	\$
Pivot Club Membership	\$110	\$
Ordinary Non-Playing	\$50	\$
Donations		\$

TOTAL		\$_____

Cheques to be made payable to Old Geelong Football Club Inc or debit my Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club or American Express.

CARD TYPE:.....

CARD NO:

EXPIRY DATE: __/__/__ SIGNATURE: _____

Playing members are welcome to effect payments at training, etc. As always, if anyone genuinely feels they are unable to pay, or would prefer to pay by instalments, you are asked to discuss your situation with David Taylor or Bryan Grills.