



PLAY HARDER

DAVID SOUTHGATE & ALLEN WHITE

PLAY HARDER

The first 50 years of the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club
1961-2010

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FOREWORD

BY RODGER HEAD

If Gerry Hazlitt was the Test cricketing idol of Haileybury boys of Charles Rendall's vintage, then Rodger Head took things to a whole new level in the sixties. The schoolboy superstar became one of St Kilda's "Immortals" when he played his pivotal role in the club's history-making inaugural VFL premiership win over Collingwood in 1966. Black and white vision of that September afternoon shows a slightly bandy legged Head in the number one guernsey repelling Magpie attack after attack from the back pocket. He played 93 games between 1959-67 before rejoining his mates as senior coach of the OHAFC.

Other Old Boys would play football at the highest level in the decades that followed but Rodger had set the bar high. When Haileybury named its Team of the Century in 2002 there could be no other captain than Rodger Head.

When I left school there was no Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club and Haileybury was renowned for its cricketers and athletes rather than its footballers.

In the late fifties, a group of people, many of whom had been schoolmates, got together and with a lot of hard work formed the OHAFC.

Like all football clubs they consisted of dedicated, hard working people who gave and continue to give unselfishly of their spare time to make things happen. Men and women who work behind the scenes for no reward other than to see their sons, boyfriends, husbands or mates enjoy their footy.

I recently read with great interest Melbourne Brownlow Medallist Dr Don Cordner's foreword in "The Love of the Game", the history of the VAFA. He condemned people who broke the amateur code or took under the lap payments to increase their club's success. I remember there were so many cases of players not eligible to play in the amateurs because they had taken payment as a VFL player or even as a Test or Sheffield Shield cricketer.

When I first came to Old Haileyburians I asked if I could be reinstated as an amateur and offered to repay all monies I had received during my eight years playing in the VFL with St Kilda. I was refused ... I accepted the verdict.

During my time as coach of the OHAFC – which was a great period of my life despite limited success on the field – I had proof that the underhand payments so hated by Dr Cordner were in fact abundant in amateur football.

A very good friend of mine, Alf Keam, was on the executive of the VAFA. I told him of my concerns and that I wanted to publicly expose the "cheats". He quite rightly told me that he would take up the issue. During his term as secretary a rule was introduced allowing former professionals to return to the ranks of the amateurs.

With a level playing field, the return of former League players has grown enormously to the betterment of the competition. Today it is my firm belief that the VAFA is such a vibrant code ranking second in the land to the AFL.

To everyone who has been involved with the growth of the OHAFC, you should be proud of what the club has achieved and though the original constitution allowed only one outside player to join the club, the decision to open our doors has done nothing but improve a very fine football club.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the OHAFC and to David Southgate and his team congratulations for ensuring that the history of the club is well documented for future generations of "Bloods".

Rodger Head
August 2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A project like this requires lots of help from lots of people. I will try to acknowledge you all here and apologise to those I inadvertently omit.

First to our team of writers and contributors. Allen White is essentially the co-author of the year-by-year descriptions of the club's second quarter-century from 1985 and of the final chapter that provides an overview of the club's life and progress. Allen has acted as a valuable sounding board and launch pad for many of the lines of enquiry pursued in this section. He also took the lead role in the proof reading and final editing and tidying-up of the text.

Andrew Home, Andrew Baxter and David Mackenzie co-ordinated the drafting of many of the profiles that feature the club's most prominent identities over the years. They were assisted by a number of others including Peter Bowring, Peter Mason, Andrew Langford-Jones, Blair Main, Brett Carty, Mark Orton, David Connell, Matthew Armstrong, Chris McKenzie, Garry Phillips and Andrew Bonwick. Tony Doyle also contributed a number of profiles.

The Prologue and Epilogue featuring Grand Final day 2006, the day the club reached its Holy Grail of an A Grade premiership, were written by Stephen Marshall; he is also responsible for sourcing many of the quotes that appear in the description of this match.

Former players, supporters and administrators who were interviewed and/or provided further information and comments on the drafts included Ken Allison, Matthew Armstrong, Andrew Baxter, Andrew Bonwick, Jeremy Bourke, Peter Bowring, Heath Broadbent, Peter Carlson, Brett Carty, Dawn Carty, Tim Chegwin, David Connell, John Connell, Paul Corrigan, Mick Dwyer, Roger Gerny, Tony Gilchrist, Andrew Hicks, Andrew Home, Andrew Jenke, Andrew Langford-Jones, Sam Langford-Jones, David Lappage, Pam Lappage, Cameron Lasscock, Don Lord, Andrew Lynch, David Mackenzie, Gary March, Chris McKenzie, Steve Marshall, David Mason, Peter Mason, Greg Meadows, Simon Meehan, Peter Nicholson, Brett O'Farrell, Roger Paul, Garry Phillips, Jill Phillips, Wayne Phillips, Luke Pitcher, Sean Ralphsmith, Darren Seccull, Mark Seccull, Wayne Shand, Geoff Sincock, Dennis Smith, Alan Steen, Phil Stevens, Neville Taylor, John Warnock and Felicity Wigg

Thanks to Rodger Head for his entertaining foreword, assisted by Stephen Phillips.

Through Russell Davidson at the Old Haileyburians Association, Gaby Dowling performed the onerous task of consolidating the individual player career records.

The VAFA happily threw open its resources and archives, including its photographic library that includes a number of images from Garry Sparke at Cyan Sporting Images.

Andrew Baxter was responsible for co-ordinating the production and printing process from the club's end, ably assisted by David Fleer, Mark Button and the Ogilvy Melbourne studio team. It was a pleasure to work with them.

Looking further back, much of this information would not have been available had the club not been so blessed with those who were prepared to take the trouble to keep records for the club's posterity. This long and distinguished line includes the likes of Graham "Boof" Harwood, George Lightfoot, Peter Burke, Max Lyon, Murray Ponsford, Allen White and Keith Schilling, and we should all be grateful for their efforts.

Above all, however, I thank my wife Fiona and children Rebecca and James for what has effectively been a "year of absence" to pursue this strange passion.

It's been a lot of fun.

David Southgate
Hampton
January 2011

INTRODUCTION

In 1985 Michael Lovett reviewed this book's predecessor, *Play Hard and Play for The Game* in *The Sun* newspaper. With painful accuracy he noted, "the cynics of the amateur football world might say you could put the history and highlights of the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club on the back of a postage stamp".

Things have certainly changed. The Bloods' greatest achievement prior to Lovett's review was winning the D Grade premiership in 1969. Or maybe the Junior Section 1 premiership in 1980. Their best finish in senior football had been fourth in B Grade in 1978.

In their second twenty-five years the Old Haileyburians played in four B Grade Grand Finals, winning two, the first by a record margin. And of course they finally made an A Grade Grand Final and won it on their first attempt. Against the all-time competition juggernaut Old Xaverians no less, who were in the midst of winning eleven premierships in sixteen years. The Bloods have not played in C Grade since 1989.

Not only is the former perennial C Grade struggler Old Haileyburians' status in Amateur football different, but so is this book from the original. For starters there's much more success to write about. The nature of the source material is also different. The more formal nature of committee meetings in older days meant that minutes were actually recorded and kept. Somewhat ironically the club archives still hold original minute books dating back to 1962, but very few survive after the late 1980s.

Up until the early 1990s the archives for most senior matches included a team line-up and match report, but not since. The club was also better at archiving internal productions such as printed newsletters, but again this is no longer the case, at least partly because so many communications are via email and the club website.

On the other hand, there were a number of facilities that made the compilation of this book easier than the last. Access to the VAFA's scanned collection of *The Amateur Footballer* meant far greater use was made of this publication. Internet search engines also made it easier to scan the major media for references to the Old Haileyburians. And computers and email make it far more practical to involve a wider circle of subjects for feedback.

The net result of the club's success and slightly different source material is that this book is probably more about the football and the on field results, especially for the firsts. In 1985 we profiled about 75 club identities, but for this edition the number has swelled to over 190, and these pieces should provide plenty of colour behind the more seriously told story of the club's development. For reasons of space and time, the statistical section has been reduced, unfortunately resulting in the exclusion of some of the quirkier and more entertaining parts of the previous volume.

Visually the new edition is far superior to the last. Colour printing was a serious luxury that could not be considered in 1985, but no big deal now. Who knows what other advances will be available for the 75-year edition – if nothing else we can at least be sure there will be more stories of triumph and failure to be told.

PROLOGUE

"If you choose the winning path – you've just chosen the harder path"

So wrote senior coach Peter Nicholson to his charges the week before the biggest game in the history of the OHAFC, its first A Grade Grand Final. "Nico", a man for whom the term "colourful character" seems barely adequate ("What kind of club has an art night?" he asked of one rival club), was supremely confident before the game. "I loved playing under Nico", said former St Kilda champion Stewie Loewe. "Always plenty of banter and one liners. And he was ferocious about getting stuck right into your opponent".

The club's pre-match confidence was clear to umpire Russell Davidson. "The Haileyburians had an air about them before the first bounce" said Davidson. "I paid a couple of early frees to the Bloods, and Xavs' Tim Occlshaw told me I already had two out of two wrong. The Xavs boys were apprehensive from the start".

When the Bloods trained at Elsternwick Park during the week, former player Jeremy Bourke, by now working at VAFA Headquarters, played the Hunters & Collectors' classic "Holy Grail" through the PA "as loud as it would go". While now something of a football chestnut (thanks, Channel Ten), there was no doubt the stirring anthem could still work its magic. The great line "we were marching as one on the road to the Holy Grail" seemed to fit the coach's mantra of "put the team first - it doesn't matter who gets the glory as long as the job gets done". Although Stewie Loewe thinks it may have backfired in his case. "Nico had me so fired up on the Thursday night that I slightly tweaked my hamstring. But I'd never done a hammy before and I thought I'd be fine on Saturday."

The only change to the second semi-final team was the inclusion of David Mason, who had been battling a tender hamstring, for Nick Corcoran. "Corcs" could consider himself unlucky as he had played most of the season and was starting to play good footy again, but history counted for Nicholson and "having the son of number 22 gave us that little bit extra". The disappointed Corcoran had played his last game for the Bloods and departed for Xaverians in 2007. Nico's other main concern was whether his forward line would be too top-heavy if conditions got heavy (as they would).

Apart from the fact that he was 38 years old, Mark "Disco" Seccull faced the added pressure of playing with two broken bones in his left foot, the result of a clash halfway through the last quarter of the second semi-final. "I had waited this long my foot could have fallen off walking to the ground and I would still have wanted to play" said Seccull, whose legendary first half performance would elevate him from "Disco" to "Five Star VIP Nightclub" status. "The jab I had before the game worked a treat, the second one at half time not so good".

Conditions would be arduous at best after a massive downfall early in the day. Umpire Davidson wondered how anyone could play in them. But according to Mark Seccull, "it could have been minus ten degrees and snowing as far as we were concerned". Andrew Jenke recalled, "I remember waking up and seeing the rain and wind outside our place in South Yarra and thinking this is going to be ten times worse at Elsternwick Park".

Weeks beforehand, the Bloods' campaign had turned around after four successive mid-season losses, and finals rather than relegation once again stared the club in the face. It became obvious that their biggest rival for the flag would be the ubiquitous Old Xavs. One of the VAFA's most successful and respected clubs, Xavs had the wood on the Bloods and had beaten them six successive times prior to the 2006 season. The Bloods had a sole victory to their credit in eleven games since 1997.

In 2006, however, the boot was on the other foot. "We ended up beating them four times, and they felt the same way" said David McKenzie. When he spoke to his Xavs opponent after the game, he would be surprised to hear, "We just couldn't beat Old Haileyburians this year".

Woodrow Medallist Andrew Jenke was also confident after beating Xavs in the "Cage Match" at their home ground later in the season. "That game gave us the mental edge after the previous year's defeat in the preliminary final. We knew we could beat these guys anywhere".

Part of Nico's psyche was to make everything and everyone accountable and symbolic. Prior to the game he urged his players to do something not yet achieved in the history of Australian Football - to "win the warm up". As his players went through their drills on the outside oval, a skidding car crashed in a nearby street. Xavs hadn't yet appeared for their warm up and the first win of the day was already in the bag. More symbolism.

There was still a game of football to be played and won. But as the coach had written to his players earlier, "Don't be surprised when we win it".

Not if, when.

CHAPTER 1

HEALTHY INFANT 1961 - 1963



False Start

In 2011 the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club (OHAFC) celebrates fifty years in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA). But its beginnings go back much further in the mists of time.

The very first Old Haileyburians team was formed in 1925 through the efforts of three enthusiastic Old Boys; 1911 school leaver Bob "Bod" Boddington (who played five VFL games for Melbourne in 1919-20), and two 1920 leavers in Leo Dethridge and one TEK Fisher, the club's secretary, treasurer and goal sneak. Tom's grandson, David Mackenzie, was to play in the club's ultimate success, the 2006 A Grade premiership.

Old Haileyburians entered B Section of the Metropolitan Amateur Football Association, established in 1892. Yarra Park in Swan Street, Richmond, just across the railway lines from the Melbourne Cricket Ground, was the club's home ground, and later became known as the Old Scotch Oval.

To improve their playing and financial resources, in early 1928 the Old Haileyburians combined forces with Old Trinity Grammarians, playing as "Old Haileybury-Trinity". This combine lasted until the end of the 1934 season, after which it disbanded due to insufficient playing numbers.



The combined Old Haileybury-Trinity team of the late twenties and early thirties, photographed at the Old Scotch ground. Leo Dethridge is the captain, and Tom Fisher is sitting on the ground on the extreme left of the front row.

In 1929 they enjoyed a vintage year, winning nine games and finishing fourth on the ladder, but disappointingly lost their semi-final to Black Rock, 18.15 (123) to 7.15 (57). Star player Don Robertson won the B Section competition Best and Fairest in 1930 and 1931. Don's son David played in the very first Old Haileyburians team in the VAFA in 1961. David's sons Jeff and Andrew played in the 1980s, Jeff in two premierships teams (the 1980 under-nineteens and the 1989 reserves).

Old Haileybury-Trinity's record was:

Year	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Wins	3	6	9	5	3	6	4	1

Each player paid two shillings on the day of the match. Along with the proceeds of picture nights and raffles, this was used to pay for the rent of the ground, umpires and footballs. It is believed that the three Old Boys who started the club made up any shortfall at the end of each season. Dethridge and Fisher became the modern Old Haileyburians club's first two Presidents (another 1920 leaver in Barrie Berggy became its third). But that was a long way off.

JUDGE GEORGE LEO DETHRIDGE, CMG

The OHAFC's first President, Leo Dethridge gave standing to the embryonic club in its early days. In 1919 he was School Captain, Dux and captain of both the football and cricket teams. The following year he captained the premierships football team as well as the school.

Dethridge also captained the first Old Haileyburians team of the 1920s and 1930s. A large man with great presence, his role in the club reborn in 1961 was partly one of figurehead as he lacked the time (but certainly not the enthusiasm) to attend all meetings and matches. "The Judge" was nonetheless popular with both players and parents by virtue of his down-to-earth nature.

Dethridge also served as Secretary of the Old Haileyburians' Association from 1924-29 and as President in 1934-35 and 1948-49, which was recognised by Honorary Life Membership in 1966. Admitted to the Bar in 1927, Dethridge was appointed to the County Court in 1946, where he served as Chairman of Judges from 1970-75. He passed away in 1978. The OHAFC was indeed fortunate to have his interest.

President 1961-63



Ken Hill and Russell Hare punch the ball away from a lone Preston opponent at the Haxley Reserve in 1961. Other players from left to right include Robin Boag, Dennis Mills (2) and Peter MacFarlane.

In the Brighton Womb

In 1960 a number of Old Haileyburians filled the Old Brighton Grammarians' reserves team, with a view to forming their own club. So the Home brothers, David Child, Ross Venn, Morris Brown, and Peter MacFarlane played together for the first time as Old Boys. Morris Brown, later well known as the school's sports-master, was largely responsible for the team's administration, while future stalwart Murray Ponsford even pulled on a pair of boots in anger!

The Old Brighton team competed in the only VAFA reserves section, which contained fourteen teams; a surprisingly small number considering five grades of senior VAFA football were being played at the time. The strength of reserves teams varied considerably from long-established clubs such as Ormond, Old Melburnians, Old Scotch and University, to less strong outfits such as State Savings Bank, Bellfield and AJAX.

Ross Venn captain-coached the team, and Andrew Home is believed to have won the Best and Fairest. The team won six of their eighteen games, although three were conceded on forfeit, as was one loss against.

Old Brighton reserves finished an enjoyable season in tenth place on the ladder. Its home ground was the Brighton Beach reserve, while the Brighton Grammarians seniors played at the school oval in New Street.

The three on-field victories were against the twelfth-placed AJAX (twice) and the thirteenth-placed State Savings Bank. In generally low-scoring games the team was rarely thrashed, although the loss to Old Xaverians was by over twenty-five goals. Eventually Old Melburnians took out the premiership from De La Salle, Old Paradians and Old Scotch. Ormond's Ken Rowse, who later coached the first Old Haileyburians junior team to a premiership, was fifth in the competition Best and Fairest.



Lanky ruckman Rod Home contests and John Stahmer plays preying mantis. Ken Hill (9) and Brian Henderson (6) wait in anticipation. Haxley Reserve, Preston, 1961.

1961 – Born Again

The details of the establishment of the Old Haileyburians' Amateur Football Club of the modern era are unclear, as available minute books only record the business of the club since February 1962. Morris Brown appears to have been a major motivating force behind the Haileyburians fielding their own team. Morris was himself a product of one of the early areas for recruiting, Hampton Rovers' juniors (Hampton Scouts). Graham Harwood was also heavily involved, along with young lawyers Peter Epstein and Tony Browne, who wrote the club's first constitution. Popular sources of players included the 1960 Old Brighton reserves and Power House. In 1961 and 1962 there would only be one Old Haileyburians' team.

Under coach Ross Venn, the first modern Old Haileyburians team took the field on Saturday 22 April 1961. Their opponents for the E Grade match were Old Trinity, an ironic touch given the ancient history of the combined Old Haileyburians-Old Trinity team. Albert Park Oval Number Ten, the Haileyburians' first footballing home, was the venue and the changing-rooms were a far cry from today's relative comfort. But even the youthful yet respected skipper Andy Home had a fair thatch to keep his short-back-and-sided ears warm!

This first team was:

Backs: Brian Henderson, Morris Brown, David Child
Half-backs: John MacFarlane, David McLean, Robin Boag
Centres: Keith MacFarlane, Andrew Home (captain), Don Thomson
Half-forwards: David Schaffter, Russell Hare, Robert Gynge
Forwards: John Davies, Duncan Sutherland, Lindsay Worledge
Followers: Rod Home, David Robertson
Rover: Peter MacFarlane
Interchange: Dennis Mills, Tony Clarke



The Home brothers, Andrew in front and Rod behind, lead the Bloods out for their game against Commercial Bank at Albert Park Number Ten Oval in 1961. In the background are John Stahmer, boundary umpire Murray Ponsford, David Child and Ken Oaten.

ANDREW STEWART HOME

Andy Home's record speaks for itself, and along with Tom Fisher and Peter Davies he is one of the club's early fathers and mentors. He also contends strongly for the title of the club's greatest player, at least through the 1960s, although his modesty would prevent him making such a claim himself!

Home captained the school's football and cricket teams in 1958. He also played with Hampton Scouts, who lost their Grand Final by a point to Melbourne University juniors, for whom brother Rod played. The following year Andy joined Rod at University before captaining and winning the Best and Fairest for the combined Old Haileyburians/Old Brighton reserves team. The leadership experience obviously played a part in being appointed the first captain of the new Old Haileyburians club in 1961.

In that first year Andy began an incredible streak of what would have been 132 consecutive matches, but for his brother's wedding on the thirty-sixth. Andy's durable frame and ability to ride bumps, combined with this quick football mind played a large part in this feat.

Other attributes of the accountant's game were a wonderful pair of hands for marking, particularly in a large pack and constructive handball which made him the club's most creative player. Andy also had an uncanny ability to baulk fleet-of-foot opponents while apparently standing still, although he never moved rapidly at the best of times. Placed in the top three in the competition Best and Fairest in 1963, 1964 and 1965, Andy's anticipation made him one of the first to call for restraint when Zeke laid a tackle.

Andy's kicking was the subject of much hilarity. A reluctant kick for goal, he preferred to pass to a team-mate and regarded thirty yards as more remote than Siberia. Scavenging forwards Bowring and Kellock hovered like vultures for Andy's chipped passes, and fed well on the offerings.

Not a classical captain, Andy was rarely an urger on the field. Amongst his younger team-mates he had an over-riding presence however, and to a man they looked up to their skipper on and off the field. Punctuality was never a strong point, especially as Andy relied on Zeke and Russ Hare. He even missed the 1969 premiership team photograph, although he was only the captain!

Continued over...

The first quarter was a disaster. Kicking with the breeze, Old Trinity swamped the scoreless Old Haileyburians with the then large quarter's total of 5.4 (34). The new club responded with such verve in the second quarter, however, that by halftime the balance had been redressed and scores were level. A fine third quarter set the Old Haileyburians' Amateur Football Club up to draw first blood, at least on the field. The season's eventual leading goal kicker Duncan Sutherland kicked five goals and along with Peter MacFarlane, "Rev" Boag, the lanky Rod Home, David Shaffter and Brian Henderson was the best in "a very even team".¹ The final score was 13.12 (90) to the visitors' 7.7 (49).

After this resounding victory the Bloods suffered the disappointment of having its four match points unjustly removed by the VAFA for the supposed playing of an unregistered player, clergyman's son Robin Boag. This despite Secretary Morris Brown swearing he personally received verbal confirmation of the affable Boag's registration from Alex Johnson.

The team subsequently suffered five successive losses, undermanned in talent and frequently struggling to field a full team. Inexperience may have played a hand in these reversals, as the match comments indicate the scores and results did not always reflect the state of play.

In those primitive days of 1961, one hundred points was a reasonably high score; the Old Haileyburians only kicked one such score all season to three against. Compare this to the relatively unsuccessful 1982 team, who despite losing many matches still managed to kick six centuries. Other differences to today's game were the absence of both the centre-square and out-of-bounds-on-the-full free kick. Trademarks on boots, advertising on jumpers and VAFA-approved equipment were unthought of, and the "benchwarmers" were precisely that; nineteenth and twentieth men rarely took the field before half time unless there happened to be a serious injury or a particularly bold or desperate coach.

So the club's first legal win by 77 points was of enormous magnitude, against what must have been an insipid University Reds side. Andrew Home led from the front with a best-on-ground performance and five goals. This started a purple patch where the club won its only three games for the year in successive rounds. Old Trinity were defeated on the field again, this time without recrimination from the registrations committee. On a windy June afternoon at Albert Park, Preston became the first district club from north of the Yarra to be defeated by an Old Haileyburians side – just!

For the rest of the season the team generally struggled hard and was often well in the game at the major interval, before fading away due to a "lack of condition and experience".² The departure of Ross Venn as coach two-thirds into the season didn't help. Venn's place was taken by probably the most intelligent man in the club, Rod Home (despite brother Andy's claims). The scholar was assisted by Russell "Moon" Tulloch, who played a handful of VFL games for South Melbourne in 1962 before touring with the Wallabies.

In the final game of the year against Old Carey, "Russ Tulloch took over as coach from Rod Home for the final few games. We congregated at

Andrew Stewart Home Continued...

Andy's dressing saw him chided even at amateur level, to the extent of being told to lift his game. His on-field appearance was legendary, and give or take a forelock, altered little over the years. Arriving with unwashed gear, bundled in a swagman-like towel, Andy donned a jumper fit for Tarzan with rarely more than half his favourite number one attached to the back. His boots were invariably old, and there could be strange odours downwind from "Old Father Time".

Andy Home "retired" early in 1972, victim of Roger Head's vigorous pre-season training. He played his 200th match the previous season in a great finals performance, but opted for the "Socials" and the odd game of basketball. In 1976, Andy was first to automatically qualify for Life Membership as a 200-game player. Eventually Home made a comeback in the reserves, which culminated in a return to arms for the firsts against Coburg in 1978. In his first senior game for over six years, economy of movement again won the day, and Andy was the team's best player. In 1980 he typified the spirit of Don McQueen's "Dad's Army" reserves team.

Andy Home's sons Richard and Cameron both played a number of seasons at Old Haileyburians and at least outdid their famous father by playing in A Grade. Cameron played over a hundred games and naturally wore Andrew's old number one. Having played in the club's first game in 1961, Andrew Home was still a conspicuous voice in the crowd at its last nearly fifty years later, the 2010 Grand Final. Old Man River just keeps rolling along!

245 games (205 1sts, 40 Reserves), 213 goals (184 1sts, 29 Reserves), 1961-81

Member 1963 & 1969 (captain) 1sts Premiership teams & OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 1

Best & Fairest 1sts 1963; Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1962, 1965, 1966, 1970; Best & Fairest Reserves 1978

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1976

Captain 1sts 1961, 1964-65, 1969-71; Vice-captain 1sts 1962-63, 1966-67; Deputy Vice-captain 1sts 1968

Committee 1962-68

¹ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 April 1961

² Peter MacFarlane, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 July 1961

the “Harp” Hotel about mid-day from whence we wended a serrated path to the opponents’ den. Surprisingly, we were in front halfway through the first quarter but our earlier excesses caught up with us and we were faced with the prospect of annihilation. Coerced by the coach to “give ‘em heaps” at half-time, the third quarter saw a brawl ensue during which Russ Hare, who had earlier been replaced through injury, returned to the field in his clothes to assist his team-mates in the melee.”³

The umpiring of the day also featured in the club’s match reports, beginning in round eight with “the game was marred by umpiring which did not help either side”.⁴ An encouraging feature of the season’s later stages, however, was the introduction of a number of boys still at school. One of these young saplings was the particularly fresh-faced and fair-haired Peter Bowring, who became a goal-kicking colossus for the club for the next fifteen years.

David McLean, alternating between the two key defence posts, won the club’s first Best and Fairest with nineteen votes scored on a three, two, one basis. Runner-up Rod Home was five votes behind and Peter MacFarlane, playing predominantly in the centre, finished third with eight.

The Presentation Dinner was “very successful although the club lost £5-10-0. This loss was due to complimentary tickets”.⁵ Although on the surface 1961 was a relatively unsuccessful season, it had re-established the Old Haileyburians’ Amateur Football Club in its own right for the first time in over thirty years and laid the basis for a more successful second year. The experience was invaluable.

DAVID ALLISTER McLEAN

The Old Haileyburians’ first Best and Fairest winner, David McLean, was a brother of the Castlefield school’s long-serving master, Jim McLean. The former boarder was a magnificent full-back and stood around six feet tall in the measurements of his day. Neat, tidy and strong, McLean had all the attributes; he was a long kick and a solid mark who played the game hard but fairly.

A typically quiet country lad, McLean disappeared after a brief but successful career with the Old Haileyburians. Taciturn, it seems from the minutes of the time that the attractions of home life were strong.

*59 games (57 1sts, 2 Reserves),
no goals, 1961-64*

Member 1963 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 7

Best & Fairest 1sts 1961

Committee 1962-64



Old Haileyburians’ team for the last game of 1961, played against Old Carey at Rathmines Reserve. This was the match preceded by a visit to the Harp Hotel. David Young played but missed the photograph.

Back row: David Child, Tony Clarke, John Stahmer, Ken Hill, Peter Burke, Ken Oaten, Peter Bowring, Graham Currie, Bob Bean, Brian Henderson.

Centre row: John Augustine, Keith MacFarlane, Bob Gyngell, Andrew Home (captain), Robin Boag, Peter MacFarlane, Norm Egerton.

Front row: John Davies, David Troedel.

³ Personal communication, Peter MacFarlane, 1984

⁴ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 June 1961

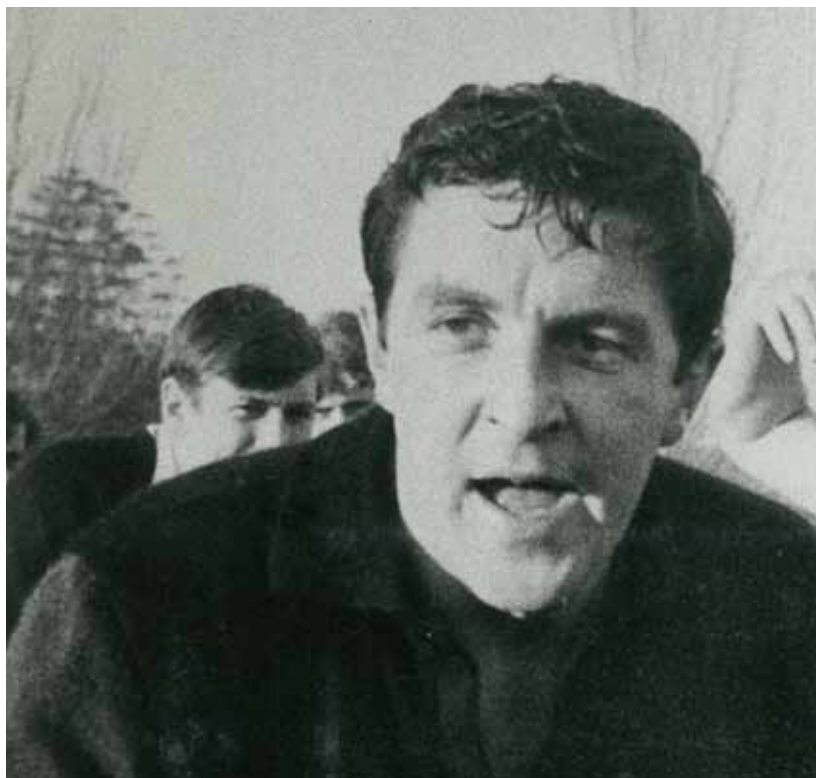
⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 February 1962

1962 – The Arrival of Zeke

In 1962 and 1963 the “Healthy Infant” dramatically shook off its early ills to shoot up two grades. Such was football in 1962 that Old Haileyburians resumed training on 13 March, a month before the season’s first official match. New coach Peter Davies, a father figure to the young team although barely twenty years of age himself, was appointed only a week beforehand. Only one practice match was organised, against Power House juniors.

An early administrative controversy, along with the never-ending insurance issue, was the decision to raise the weekly subscriptions from three to four shillings.⁶ Another feature of the day was the more formal requirements for entry to the club by new players who were not Old Haileyburians. The Committee considered all applications before granting them admission to the club. The club began moving to secure the use of the Halifax Street reserve in Brighton, and the fielding of a reserves team for 1963.⁷

Social highlights included the infamous “Cookie Games”, expertly led by the coach. These were a well-established training routine at Albert Park, particularly on Thursday nights, where the likes of Rev Boag, beanpole John Stahmer, Andrew Home, Russ Hare, Keith MacFarlane and Rob Gygell participated enthusiastically with the days of drink driving campaigns decades away.



The immortal “Zeke”, Peter Davies, urges his team on in typical style at Halifax Street in his last year as coach, 1967. Despite the sunshine apparent in the photograph, Davies has a long-sleeved jumper on as usual. Peter Horne glimpses anxiously over the patriarch’s shoulder.

PETER MORTON DAVIES

Universally known as “Zeke”, Peter Davies is one of the true patriarchs of the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club. Nick-named after a wolf-like Teutonic cartoon character, stories abound of this earthy man and father figure.

Davies joined the club as captain-coach in 1962, with experience in B Grade with Power House but strangely not the highest level of APS football. As a leader, coach and man Davies was ideally suited for his times, and his blood and guts style gained instant acceptance with his young players. All looked up to their Messiah aged only twenty-one, determined to lead the Bloods out of the wilderness of “this crummy E grade”.

Not a man for the delicacies of either tactics or baulking, he was nevertheless a very attacking coach, who emphasised the physical aspects of the game rather than the skills. His favourite expressions in the early days were “We need a bit more tiger round the packs” and the almost rhetorical question “What are we going to do to them?” which was answered with “Bowl ‘em over!” by the players. “Bowl ‘em over” was subsequently immortalised in the club song.

Zeke’s coaching methods met with such success that his first two years saw two Grand Final appearances and hence promotions. After the 1963 triumph he departed to the United Kingdom with Russell Tulloch to take on the locals with his own style of rugger.

A fine overhead mark and raking left foot drop-kick (he could hardly kick with his right), Zeke played mainly in defence. Tackling was an integral part of his game and he often performed “the whirl” on a hapless opponent, despite team mates’ pleas of “Don’t do it Zeke!” or “Let him go Zeke!”, and the upfield ramifications. Like his great mate Andy Home, Zeke almost always neglected to clean his boots; in his long-sleeved jumper he was perpetually bedraggled.

During Zeke’s years overseas the OHAFC grimly struggled to hold on in C Grade. On his return in 1967 Zeke was persuaded, somewhat reluctantly, to again captain-coach. Unfortunately club dynamics had changed and the big fellow had to an extent lost touch with Australian Rules football. Consequently Zeke’s second stint as playing coach ended in relegation.

On his return from overseas Zeke apparently had difficulty remembering which code he was playing and the famous “bumper bar”, an elevated forearm, appeared. Never suspended, he did however make several appearances as a witness. Davies was reported in his last match, while coaching the reserves, but received only a severe reprimand.

Continued over page...

⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 6 March 1962

⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 February 1963

Tony "Monty" Browne, David Robertson and Peter Epstein were responsible for more formal functions, including a car rally to the wilds of Mount Macedon. Rain had little effect on either the navigation or the thirst of the competitors. John Stahmer's parents generously opened their home to the young club. So did Ian Cole, although unfortunately the club kleptomaniac made off with a number of Cole's records.

On the field 1962 was infinitely more successful than its predecessor, with the Bloods forcing entry into the Grand Final and therefore D Grade. The team opened up with six successive wins, and their only loss in the first eleven matches was to eventual finalist Collegians Gold. The first two wins were by massive margins, even by today's standards, and Andrew Home kicked a then-record nine goals against the Victorian Pharmacy College team. The chemists were not alone that season in having a miserable time playing Old Haileyburians. The round nine score of 26.16 (172) against a weakened Murrumbeena remained the club record until 1971, although Graham Harwood remarked "neither side impressed in the heavy conditions"⁸

Perhaps the most meritorious early win was over a high-marking Old Camberwell, who trailed by only three points at three-quarter time and held the advantage of the breeze in the final term. The undaunted Bloods rattled on four goals to steal the match, and followed this fine effort by rolling the previously undefeated Monash. After a slight mid-season slump, the Haileyburians' form improved towards the finals with a number of fine wins. Top teams Collegians Gold and Commercial Bank were amongst their scalps.

Russell Hare and the club's resident gendarme Alan Frowd also distinguished themselves in a match against a North-of-the-Yarra club at Albert Park Number Ten. Hare's knee, as was often its wont, gave way around three-quarter time. Retiring to the changing pavilion in search of the club's medical kit, he sprung upon an Albert Park wino pilfering the players' pockets. Russ removed the distraught dero from the rooms, before the policeman took over even though still involved in the match. Frowd's expert interrogation was reputed to include the victim's head bouncing repeatedly off the wall of the Albert Park changing rooms.

The team wore white shorts for their first final, the second semi against Collegians Gold. They kicked with the wind and quickly established a lead that steadily increased all day and would have been more but for inaccuracy. For once the umpiring was commended. Peter Bowring led the scoring with four goals and Peter MacFarlane ran circles around his opponents in the centre. They were ably assisted by future President Dennis Smith, David Young and Peter Loh in "an even side".⁹

The win was even more commendable considering the unavailability of the Home brothers and Ken Hill. Andy Home attended brother Rod's wedding; obviously Rod hadn't considered finals appearances when setting the date. Ken Hill played as a schoolboy in the latter games of both 1961 and 1962. The demands of cadet camp at Puckapunyal kept him out of this game,¹⁰ but not as first ruckman in the Grand Final.

The Homes, Hill and Graham Currie replaced "Champ" Reed, Dennis Mills, secretary John Davies and Cookie Games king Rob Gyngell, for the Grand

Peter Morton Davies continued...

In the late sixties Davies' career wound down, and he was dropped for the 1969 Grand Final despite his famous detective work on Peter Keenan after the second-semi. He retired in 1971, and turned his attention to the "Socials", where in combination with Andy Home and later Johnny Gyngell he coached them to many finals appearances, including another premiership in 1977.

In 1981 Zeke returned to the mainstream club, this time as President in a time of dire need. Despite his skills with the hot dog and the dim sim, the big man was not the best of administrators, and the club really struggled both on and off field in those times. Davies was also hindered by the lack of co-operation of the school and the Old Boys' Association.

Perhaps less than happy at his removal as President in the coup of 1983, Zeke continued to sit on committee where he simply loved a cigarette and "story time". He continued to regularly attend the club's matches, especially at home, where, from the McKinnon Reserve's comfortable facilities, he helped co-ordinate many supporter luncheons.

A central figure in many anecdotes, Zeke is remembered for his efforts with Russell Tulloch on the basin at the Marysville Guest House, his leadership in the "Cookie Games", being bitten by a taipan-like bull ant camping in the Portsea cemetery and a famous trip on the Geelong Road in a battered VW. His nose had more bends than the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. Never one to do things by half, Zeke died suddenly of a massive heart attack in October 2002 aged just 61.

In the life of the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club, Peter Davies was an extraordinary man. His achievement in leading the Club up two grades to C Grade after only its third year of existence was momentous and cannot be overstated.

*113 games (90 1sts, 23 Reserves),
25 goals (14 1sts, 11 Reserves), 1962-71*

Captain-coach 1sts Premiership team 1963

Jumper numbers 20 & 6

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1982

*Captain-coach 1sts 1962-63, 1967;
Vice-captain 1sts 1968*

*President 1981-82
Committee 1963, 1968-71, 1981-84*

⁸ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 9 June 1962

⁹ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 1 September 1962

¹⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 23 July 1962

Final against Monash University at Albert Park Oval Number Three.
The team read:

Backs: Brian Henderson, David McLean, Peter Burke
Half-backs: Graham Currie, Peter Davies (captain-coach), Don Lord
Centres: Alan Morris, Peter MacFarlane, Keith MacFarlane
Half-forwards: Dennis Smith, Andrew Home, David Young
Forwards: Peter Loh, Peter Bowring, Peter McCready
Followers: Ken Hill, Brian Jones
Rover: Robin Boag
Reserves: Rod Home, Russell Hare

Graham Harwood reported, "This was a disappointing end to a great season, sixteen wins and only four losses. Monash University outmarked, outbumped and generally outplayed the Old Haileyburians who wasted what limited opportunities they had by poor kicking and foolish handball in the windy conditions".¹¹ Old Haileyburians' score of 2.11 (23) against Monash's 8.9 (57) remained the equal-lowest score by a first eighteen side until 1991 and good players were hard to find. The skipper battled hard and, with Ken Hill, shared the goal scoring to be his team's best player. The three Peters, Loh, McCready and Burke, along with Brian Henderson and Graham Currie were listed in the best players.



Ready for their unsuccessful assault on the 1962 premiership, the Bloods gather around Captain-coach "Zeke" Davies before the game against Monash at Albert Park Number Three Oval. From left to right: Peter Bowring, Ken Hill, Dennis Smith, Peter MacFarlane, Don Lord, Robin Boag in front of Graham Currie, David McLean, Peter McCready, Peter Loh, Andrew Home, Peter Davies, Alan Morris, Russell Hare, Peter Burke, Rod Home, Keith MacFarlane, David Young.

¹¹ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 September 1962

The Presentation Dinner held at St.Kilda's Prince of Wales Hotel proved a great success, the main attractions being the bun-throwing competitions and less successful propositioning of the middle-aged waitresses. The proceeds contributed to the year's profit of £138-13-4.¹² Five perpetual trophies were established: the President's trophy for the Best and Fairest, the Runner-up's Trophy, the Trophy for the Best First-year Player, a Service Award and the Most Consistent Player trophy. In addition to these, Peter MacFarlane was awarded a trophy for the Best Player in the Finals Series and the skipper for Best in the Grand Final.

Despite the disappointing Grand Final result, 1962 was a season full of merit. The appropriately named David Young polled sixteen votes to win the first of two Best and Fairests. Young played all nineteen games that season, a feat not uncommon as fifteen of the team played at least sixteen games. Not surprisingly, Young also won the Best First-year Player trophy, while the coach's popularity was reflected in his winning the Best Clubman trophy. Andrew Home and Dennis Smith each polled five votes less than the youngster to tie for runner-up. Peter Bowring drop-kicked and torpedoed sixty-three goals in his first full season, a total he was to better twice in later years. After their meeting in late August, the Committee retired until February 1963.

BRIAN NEVILLE HENDERSON

An outstanding back pocket player with sound judgment and great hands, Brian Henderson stuck like glue and rarely allowed rovers their traditional "rest" in the forward line. An occasional dash decorated his play, but forwards found him harder to shake than Scotland Yard. Henderson was the only man to play one hundred games in the firsts and not kick a goal.

Late to mature, he was never selected in the school's first eighteen. His youthful looks and an old school cap enabled "Hendo" to bluff his way into the MCC Ladies' Stand when still in his late teens, but it may have been his downfall for the "Cookie Games".

In the mid-sixties Henderson's name inevitably won him the name of "Bandstand" after the host of the TV show. Perhaps ironically then, it was Brian's younger brother Ian who became well known as the ABC's chief news reader. But the back pocket put on a few great performances of his own.

*105 games (100 1sts, 5 Reserves),
2 goals (2 Reserves), 1961-67*

Member 1963 1sts Premiership team;

Jumper number 6

Committee 1964

¹² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 February 1964

1963 – First Success

Three significant events mark the Old Haileyburians' 1963 season; the formation of a reserves team, the move to the Halifax and William Streets Reserve in Brighton, and their first premiership in its inaugural season in D Grade. The momentum of the previous year continued under the inspiring "Zeke" Davies after disturbing early-season reports that the big fellow would be "altera terra", a possibility strong enough to force his temporarily resignation.¹³ Happily he remained Down Under for another year while the club's playing and administrative stocks expanded.

How tenancy of Halifax Street was secured is unclear, and the club's occupancy was a curious saga. The benefit of an excellent location was set against a perpetual battle to prove the minnow-sized oval's suitability for senior football. But some of the club's happiest days were spent at Halifax Street, along with nearby Khyat's Hotel.

One of the improvements required was the provision of hooks in the changing pavilion,¹⁴ possibly a luxury unseen at Albert Park. Another was the erection of a scoreboard, which a generous Brighton City Council completed for the club. Perhaps to some disappointment, the Committee also agreed that the "supply of refreshments is to cease at 6.30pm and players and guests to leave dressing rooms by 6.45pm".¹⁵

Club membership was still an issue early in the season. To illustrate the formalities, the Committee resolved, "before any boy expelled from Haileybury be admitted to membership of the OHAFC, the views of the Headmaster be ascertained".



The 1963 premierships team celebrate their victory in typical style at the Prince of Wales Hotel. There are nineteen players in the photo and an equal number of trophies on the table in front. Perhaps the boys are warming up for another round of the "Cookie Games".

Back row: Peter Reed, Don Morris, Peter MacFarlane, Robin Boag, David Child, Peter McCready, Don Lord, David Young, Alan Ross, Brian Henderson, David McLean.
Front row: Peter Bowring, Keith MacFarlane, Rod Home, Peter Davies (captain-coach), Andrew Home, Dennis Smith, John Stahmer, Russell Hare.

¹³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 February 1963

¹⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 25 March 1963

¹⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 April 1963

This was watered down from “a person expelled from the school will not be admitted to the club”.¹⁶ Two non-Old Boys, Neil Ewin and Michael Stahmer, were granted membership after it was agreed that, “the people concerned were likely to be good members of the club”.¹⁷

On field the season began for both the firsts and the new reserves team out in the wilds of Preston’s Haxley Park. For the reserves’ first two years of competition, their opponents were not always necessarily the same as the firsts, so to play away together was something of a novelty. The twos were unfortunate not to start with a win following a dashing third quarter before they “ran out of condition”,¹⁸ a problem that has never really been eliminated from Haileyburian reserves sides. The seniors enjoyed the first of three successive wins despite the non-availability of coach Davies “suffering from blistered feet”; perhaps due to their “superiority in pace”?¹⁹

The reserves saw less action than their senior team mates, winning two games on forfeit (including their first “win”) and enjoying two byes. They finally broke the ice on the field with a seventeen-point victory over Old Camberwell on a day where sixteen players were unavailable. The highlight of their season was their “courage and determination”²⁰ in defeating the second-placed St Bernards, who kicked a lamentably inaccurate 1.11 (17).



David Young executes a drop kick at Old Geelong Grammarians’ Como Park ground in 1963. Peter Bowring (35) prepares to receive the pass. Russell Hare is in the background with his familiar knee bandage.

¹⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 25 March 1963

¹⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 April 1963

¹⁸ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 April 1963

¹⁹ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 April 1963

²⁰ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 13 July 1963

On a shocking mid-winter's day, Monash, already arch rivals, repeated the previous year's Grand Final result by inflicting the second of what were only three defeats for the firsts' entire season. After losing to Old Brighton in round eleven, however, they were not beaten again for the rest of the season.

As in 1962, following a fine home-and-away season the senior team won the second semi-final. At the Kew Cricket Ground (Victoria Park), despite being "nervous at the start",²¹ the Bloods established an eleven-point lead over Bellfield at half time courtesy of a six-goal second quarter.

Bellfield's scoreless twenty minutes while kicking to the scoring end in the third quarter proved decisive, and despite being only five points ahead at the final change, the Haileyburians kicked along to the Grand Final and C Grade by thirteen points. Dennis Smith notched four goals and Peter Bowring three. David McLean displayed his 1961 form at full-back, and was ably assisted by Peter McCready, the youthful and comparatively innocent Michael Porter and David Young. As usual, the team's mastermind and mentor also played well.

For the Grand Final, Peter MacFarlane returned from injury to replace the unavailable Tony Kellock, so the team to play the familiar Monash at Ross Gregory Oval read:

Backs: Brian Henderson, David Mclean, Alan Ross

Half-backs: Don Lord, Peter Burke, Michael Porter

Centres: Russell Hare, Peter MacFarlane, Keith MacFarlane

Half-forwards: Dennis Smith, Andrew Home, David Young

Forwards: Rod Home, Peter Bowring, Peter McCready

Followers: John Stahmer, Peter Davies (captain-coach)

Rover: Robin Boag

Reserves: Alan Morris, Peter Reed

The first quarter was evenly contested, with neither side able to settle down. Old Haileyburians had more than their share of scoring opportunities, but the windy conditions sent shots astray until finally Andrew Home and Bowring (two) scored goals. The second quarter was Old Haileyburians' best; they scored three goals and held Monash goalless until just before the bell. In the third quarter Monash matched OH and seemed to gain the upper hand but strong defensive play held them at bay. Old Haileyburians started the last quarter with a quick goal but Monash fought back and scored goal for goal, but could not bridge the gap despite Old Haileyburians never really getting the run of the ball.

The Bloods completed the entire last quarter with both reserves on; Peter MacFarlane injured his shoulder in the second quarter and Robin Boag's leg saw him out of the match by three-quarter time. They held a slender lead all day; ten points up at the first change, nineteen points at half time; sixteen points at the final break for the season, and eventually a fourteen point victory. Peter Bowring with four goals was the major scorer in Old Haileyburians' first premiership, and Andrew Home gathered the ball close enough to goals to boot three majors. Russell Hare was voted Haileyburians' best, while Peter Davies continued his good form in Grand Finals along with Peter McCready, Brian Henderson, Keith MacFarlane and Andy Home.

PETER DAN BURKE

Distinguished cricketer Peter Burke played in St Kilda's 1964-65 district premiership side and with the Kentish second eleven in English County cricket. "Pom" emigrated from England at an early age and captained Haileybury's APS cricket team in 1960.

After missing the first three games in the club's history, Burke engaged in a competition of attrition with Andy Home that lasted longer than a Timeless Test. By the end of the 1967 season Burke had played 127 games in succession, all in the firsts, but had only caught up one of Andy's lead. He did however find time to marry Brian "Splash" Sprague's sister Jenny.

Burke was a steady, reliable half-back and like Sergio Silvagni his pace rarely varied either during a game or over his career. Solid but not fast, he was rarely best on ground but often in the best six. In 1969 he kicked his first goal in his 136th match.

A transfer to Western Australia curtailed Burke's career at the Old Haileyburians but he became one of Australia's most highly-qualified physical education experts. Coach to many junior cricketers, he was also a highly regarded umpire and umpires' advisor for the Amateurs. Some felt the decisions did not go always go the way of the OHAFC when Burke umpired their games, but he did officiate in the 1980 juniors' semi-final when Philip Kingston was extremely lucky not to be reported.

*149 games (133 1sts, 16 Reserves),
8 goals (1 1sts, 7 Reserves), 1961-70*

Member 1963 & 1969 1sts Premiership teams

Jumper number 30

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1966-67

Committee 1965-67, 1969

²¹ Graham Harwood, Match report in OHAFC archives, 31 August 1963

1963 D Section Grand Final at Ross Gregory Oval, 14 September 1963

Old Haileyburians	3.4	6.5	8.6	12.6 (78)
Monash Blues	2.0	3.4	5.8	9.10 (64)

Goals: Bowring 4, A Home 3, R Home 2, Smith 2, Boag

Best players: Hare, Davies, McCready, Henderson, K MacFarlane, A Home

Flushed with the ultimate success, the youthful champion side celebrated at the home of David and Ken "Skinny" Young's parents, and as if that wasn't enough, resumed or continued the next day at Robin Carroll's Baxter property. A riotous annual dinner followed at the Prince of Wales Hotel which thoroughly outdid 1962's performance.

Unfortunately the premiership pennant was left behind in the excitement of the night, even though one Brian Sprague had been delegated the task of its care. "Splash" proved derelict in his duty, and due to somewhat strained relations following the thirty shillings a head dinner, which bolstered the year's profit to £69-11-6,²² the flag was not returned until at least mid-summer.

Other social functions started with the early-season pie nights and ended with the infamous Marysville safari tour. Mike Worrell volunteered his home for a "pleasant Sunday afternoon" following the first Bellfield match,²³ and some of these afternoons proved lengthy indeed.

The next formal function was held at Geoff Bowring's (Peter's father) residence and was a great success both socially and financially, producing a profit of £22. Unfortunately Mr Bowring's electric razor was "misappropriated" during the evening.²⁴ At the next committee meeting, "the secretary reported that he had purchased a new Sunbeam electric razor for £2-12-0 (at a 25% discount) and had presented it to Mr Bowring on behalf of the Committee. Mr Bowring had expressed his regret that the loss had been reported in the first place, but was very pleased with the new razor and asked the secretary to express to the Committee his appreciation of their generous gesture".²⁵

Parties at Young's and Mike Worrell's towards the latter months of the season were held either side of the Cockatoo car trial, won unsurprisingly by Rod Home. Youngs' affair was particularly successful with over one hundred attendees,²⁶ a healthy effort for such a young club. Finally the boys took on the Marysville Golf House, after the Pacific Hotel at Lorne had the unknowing good fortune of missing their booking. The Marysville trip was especially memorable for rugby star Moon Tulloch's effort with a washbasin. Fortuitously the team's efforts in its remotest and longest "away game" are not recorded in the minutes, but the budgeted cost of the trip was comfortably exceeded.

All this was part of the normal growing-up process for Australian males in the early sixties, as there was neither the variety nor the sophistication of entertainment that exists today. Their behaviour was a product of the era as well as their age.

Best and Fairest in the premiership season was Andrew Home narrowly ahead of Alan Ross, the pick of the recruits. Reliable back-pocket Brian

PROFESSOR RODERICK WEIR HOME, AM

Distinguished academic Rod Home played a significant role in the OHAFC's formative years, overshadowed though he might have been on the field by younger brother Andrew. Rod was School captain in 1955 and Dux in 1954 and 1955. As Vice-president to Judge Dethridge he performed many of the President's duties during "The Judge's" frequent absences. From 1968-74 Home sat on the College Council and was one of those responsible for Michael Aikman's appointment as Principal.

Rod was large, gangly and, according to his younger brother, could look a "lolloping plodder". Although a true macropod, he could leap and deliver magnificent palms from the ruck. His height and reach made for skilled marking, and he was a good enough player to be only narrowly beaten in the 1961 Best and Fairest, when he filled in for the Senior Coach as well as the President. Ten marks against Preston and the Albert Park wind that year were particularly memorable.

In his younger days Rod gave a good account of himself against future Brownlow Medallist John Schultz, even managing to loosen some of Schultz's teeth. As a veteran in the reserves, Rod's experience was of immense benefit to many younger players, as was his lecturing ability to many a mediocre umpire! Occasionally mean with those pointed elbows, he was a fully accredited member of the "Cold Hands Club". Rod's literacy in French, Latin, German, Italian and Russian would have made him a natural as club interpreter.

Home matriculated at fifteen and completed his Physics degree in 1960 before joining Haileybury's staff. A PhD at the University of Indiana followed, then a return to the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne, where he was appointed the first Professor in 1975 at the tender age of thirty-nine. Home was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2010 Queen's Birthday honours.

*102 games (61 1sts, 41 Reserves), 27 goals
(22 1sts, 5 Reserves), 1961-69*

*Member 1963 1sts & 1968 Reserves
Premiership teams*

Jumper numbers 16 & 13

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1961

*Coach 1sts 1961;
Vice-captain reserves 1968-69*

Vice-President 1961-64

²² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 February 1964

²³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 June 1963

²⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 15 July 1963

²⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 19 August 1963

²⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 19 August 1963

Henderson showed success in the Cookie Games was not everything and finished third. Once again the coach won the Best Clubman award, and this time made it to the United Kingdom after the season, twelve months late but no doubt happy in hindsight with the timing. John MacFarlane's notable service was rewarded, while Ian Cole and Don Thomson took off the major trophies in the reserves. However, the main success was of course that of the senior team, and a healthy future appeared assured, with A Grade surely only a few years away.

The "Healthy Infant" did remarkably well to rise two grades in consecutive years, a feat repeated only once by the club since. In its fiftieth year it was playing only one grade higher than it had been after 1963, its third in the VAFA. The oldest player in the 1963 premiership team, Rod Home, was only 24 and at least a year older than the next oldest. Much of the team's early success was attributed to its extreme youth and the enthusiasm and natural fitness that came with this, all skilfully harnessed by Zeke Davies' inimitable leadership style.



Peter Bowring marks over an Old Geelong Grammarians opponent, while David Young and Robin Boag (24) scout for crumbs, Como Park, 1963.

CHAPTER 2

STILL A CHILD 1964 - 1967



1964 - Cus Currie Saves the Day

The Old Haileyburians largely spent 1964 to 1967 struggling to remain in C Grade. The momentum generated in previous years slowed as the club matured, and Zeke Davies' departure left a gaping hole in leadership. "Still a child", the club had four different coaches in as many years.

After the team soaked in the congratulations and three donated niners for the previous year's Grand Final party, new President the peerless Tom Fisher sought a new coach. His predecessor Judge Dethridge was appointed a Patron of the club along with College headmaster David Bradshaw. John MacFarlane passed over the secretary's duties to brother Peter, who wrote detailed and entertaining committee meeting minutes.

Unlikely candidate Andrew Home took charge of the pre-season training¹ before Ray Catherall eventually filled the senior coaching position in mid-March, while Tony Clarke took over as playing coach of the reserves. At the school carnival the club ran the Treasure Hunt stall,² the prize being that new-fangled device, the transistor radio. Meanwhile the recruiting sub-committee noted that "every effort should be made to entice David McLean from his domestic entanglements"³; but the 1961 Best and Fairest winner would be unavailable for nine games.



Content in retirement, Tom Fisher strikes a characteristic pose.

THOMAS EDWARD KEATING FISHER

It is hard to imagine a more faithful member of the OHAFC than Tom Fisher. His enthusiasm, optimism and passion for the club were infectious and a crucial ingredient in its early success and stability.

A pharmacist, and honorary supplier of the first-aid kit for many years, Tommy played in the Old Haileyburians teams between the wars as a handy goal-sneak. In his younger days he was also a wrestler, ranked in the top three in Victoria. A keen golfer, Tom was a foundation member of the Pharmacists' Golf Association and, typically, missed not one of the Association's interstate tournaments for an incredible number of years. Ubiquity was one of Tom's key characteristics, and he would rarely miss a match or a meeting if he could help it.

"Mr OHAFC" was a very active President, especially in his first term of office. Extraordinarily generous, if the Club needed something, such as coir matting for the clubroom floors, invariably Tom supplied it. This trait extended to loaning a youthful Peter Bowring his Jaguar for kicking six goals in a game! With his loyal wife Jo, Tom hosted many committee and team meetings.

Fisher was held in the deepest of respect, and the first man awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Club. The saddest aspect of the move from Keysborough was leaving the oval that bore Tom's name, but the trophy for the Best and Fairest player in the First Eighteen remains the TEK Fisher Trophy.

Always immaculately groomed, the retiring nature of this "Silver Fox" did not lend itself to folklore. He was remembered in later years for his custody of the magenta valuables bag and perennial offerings of The Amateur Footballer. Meetings were not the same without Tom's softly-spoken "hear-hear". Unfortunately Tom's memory in particular eventually failed him, so many younger members had no concept of his industry in their club's formative years.

Had he still been alive, there would have been no more delighted supporter than Tom to see his grandson David Mackenzie play in the club's first ever A Grade premiership win in 2006.

It is difficult to write about Tom Fisher to the extent he deserves. Yet had it not been for his drive it is likely the club would have suffered the fate of its predecessor in the twenties. The OHAFC owes him a tremendous debt.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1971

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1969

President 1964-66, 1968; Committee 1964-77

¹ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 3 March 1964

² Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 3 March 1964

³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 16 March 1964

As well as looking after the minutes, Peter MacFarlane was also responsible for the club's victory song. One committee meeting "concluded with a recitation by the secretary (MacFarlane) in an attempt to elevate the standard of the club song. Unfortunately, the subtleties of the innovation were beyond comprehension of many of the committee and the motion lapsed following violent condemnation from a certain quarter of the meeting".⁴

The once exclusively male club began to realise there was more to life than football and Cookie Games, and a female influence finally reared its attractive head in the form of a ladies' auxiliary. This first organised form of support was an important development for the club's growth. The minutes reported "A Home's obvious ability with regard to the comprehension of feminine complexities left little doubt in the minds of the committee as to the success of such an innovation. His appointment to co-opt such an auxiliary was carried unanimously".⁵ There were occasional hiccups, as when "R Home referred to his wife's discomfort at the match when entry to the women's toilets could not be afforded. He was assured that in future steps would be taken to remedy the situation".⁶

The ladies were not alone in their discomfort. "The provision of toilet paper in the club rooms was also recommended to the committee. R Catherall volunteered to supply the necessary equipment".⁷ In those days when the girls lazed on car bonnets while their heroes pounded the turf, the ladies' auxiliary proved a great success, particularly financially. They opened "a field for proceeds which hitherto had not been exploited, ... spectators are given the opportunity to patronise the club and enjoy their inherent gambling instincts".⁸ Mesdames Bowring, Home and Augustine ran the canteen from a green-topped white tent.



Haileybury's headmaster of the day, David Bradshaw, about to unfurl the previous year's premiership flag at Halifax Street in 1964. With him are new president Tom Fisher and City of Brighton Councillors Ward and McLeish.

PETER WATSON REED

Peter Reed was a fine schoolboy athlete whose prowess as a sprinter saw him play most of his football on the wing or half-forward flank. Solidly built, with fair hair, this quiet achiever also known as "Champ" was only the eighth OHAFC player to reach the 100 game milestone. He may have underrated himself a little, but was always a welcoming presence for new players at the club.

*112 games (58 1sts, 54 Reserves),
64 goals (27 1sts, 37 Reserves), 1962-69*

*Member 1963 1sts & 1968 Reserves
Premiership teams*

Jumper number 32

⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 16 March 1964

⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 3 March 1964

⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 3 March 1964

⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 April 1964

⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 18 May 1964

Equipment was a problem, despite the generosity of the President. Fisher provided coir matting for covering the floor of bare concrete as well as the usual gratis first-aid kit, a role fellow pharmacist Keith Nance assumed in later years. One explosion of funds, a “rather astonishing report”, resulted in the “employment of those stagnant funds”⁹ in the purchase of luxuries such as an electric urn and tracksuits for the reserves’ reserves.

The 1963 flag was unfurled at the first match of the season against State Savings Bank; Headmaster David Bradshaw performed the honours. The reserves started their season well with two wins but it took the senior team three weeks to record its first win in C Grade, fittingly against contemporary rivals Monash. The reserves lost only one game of their first fourteen on the way to an eventual second placing on the ladder. They still played different opponents to the firsts, but the isolation didn’t bother them. By round seven the seniors had won four games, including a thrilling victory against Old Carey where Tony Kellock marked and kicked truly in front of goal late in the afternoon.¹⁰

The firsts met Hampton Rovers for the first time in “an often spiteful game” in which Hampton “tried to win at any cost and played the man, but with no success”.¹¹ The Rovers also proposed a ladies match, although it seems this offer was not taken up.

Typical mid-season issues included the old perennial of injuries and players’ insurance in those pre-Medicare days. The club decided to insure the siren and loudspeaker,¹² if not the players. Frank White, who fractured a finger, was an early beneficiary of the injury money pool,¹³ a slush fund dispensed at the discretion of the committee, which led to protracted discussions. Subscriptions were a low two guineas, but bad debts were a problem. An entrepreneurial streak was revealed in Andrew Home’s advice that “the club shift its patronage from Khyat’s Hotel in the light of an offer by the Hotel Terminus”.¹⁴ Maybe the chaps’ reputation preceded them.

The season’s great controversy was undoubtedly the round sixteen match in which the firsts, battling to avoid relegation, “were blatantly robbed



The Old Haileyburians’ first premiership flag flutters proudly in the breeze, Halifax Street Oval, 1964.

KEITH DOUGLAS MacFARLANE

Keith MacFarlane was a tremendously determined, tough player who mostly played on the wing or half-back.

For reasons his team-mates could seldom discern, Keith was frequently involved in minor and other on-field altercations. On one famous occasion at Halifax Street his Old Carey opponent, having “thrown a couple” at Keith, leapt the fence as the umpire approached and ran off up the street to (unsuccessfully) avoid being reported. In 1961’s celebrated final game, again against Old Carey, MacFarlane’s tangle with future Carlton President John Elliott saw him unfairly nick named “Kicker”, a soubriquet he could never quite shake.

The MacFarlane boys ran much of the embryonic club’s social calendar while their father Bob ran the Halifax Street canteen tent with Geoff Bowring. Keith later became an art master at Haileybury.

*101 games (72 1sts, 29 Reserves),
7 goals (1 1sts, 6 Reserves), 1961-70*

Member 1963 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 11

Treasurer 1971; Committee 1963-64, 1970-71

⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 June 1964

¹⁰ George Lightfoot, Match report in OHAFC archives, 31 May 1964

¹¹ George Lightfoot, Match report in OHAFC archives, 7 June 1964

¹² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 18 May

¹³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 April 1964

¹⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 July 1964



Old Haileyburians players and spectators watch the unfurling ceremony at Halifax Street in 1964. In their first game in C Grade, the firsts lost by 51 points to State Savings Bank. Amongst the crowd, from left to right, are: George Lightfoot, John Rigby, Gil Urquhart, Don Morris (in tracksuit), Dick Metherall, Dennis Smith (with hands on knees), Ken Grant (turned away), Dennis Worledge, Graham Currie (with head cocked), Russell Hare, Bob Bean, Alan Ross, John Armitage, Rod Home, Tony Hunter, Peter McCready (with head down), Tony Kellock, Mrs Home (Andrew and Rod's mother), David Young, Don Lord (with head down), Peter White, Mike Stahmer, Peter Bowring, Ian Cox, Neil Ewin, Jim Williamson (in sunglasses), Brian Henderson, David Norton (with hand on face), Peter Burke, David Child, Ian Rankine, Peter MacFarlane (in profile), Dennis Roberts and Andrew Home (captain).

of victory". Playing Hampton Rovers at home, "the Hampton goal umpire signalled a point ... when it was a clear goal. On another occasion he waved both flags - then told the field umpire he did not know (the result of the scoring shot) - and the field umpire bounced the ball"¹⁵ in the Bloods' one-point loss. A protest was lodged, despite the efforts of the Home brothers, "who expressed the feeling that the Club was acquiring an unfortunate reputation within the VAFA".¹⁶ A vehement "Ball-brief", was placed in the VAFA Record and left unretracted despite a motion to withdraw it and apologise to the Rovers.¹⁷

Old Haileyburians finished the season ninth on the premiership ladder, below Old Carey only on percentage, but nonetheless set for relegation. Peter MacFarlane attended a VAFA Executive Committee meeting held to consider the protest and returned to report to "a stunned committee ... that the Executive Committee had upheld the protest and that the match would be replayed".¹⁸ This followed the finals, in which Hampton were involved, so the Bloods trained for three weeks between the last home and away game and the replay. If the Haileyburians won the game, Old Carey would be relegated instead. Old Carey were understandably less than delighted and it is believed the Baptists offered the Rovers a suitable incentive.

After a "sedate, end of season start, ... things soon livened up".¹⁹ In an even game, Old Haileyburians trailed by five points late in the game. Injured halfback flanker Graham "Cus" Currie, broken arm and all, dribbled a legendary left-foot goal off the ground just before the final bell to reverse the result of the original acrimonious game by exactly the same margin. The one point win kept the club in C Grade. Even better the Rovers missed out on their incentive.

BERNARD ANTHONY RUSSELL CLARKE

Art teacher Tony Clarke, nick-named "Weary" after the legendary Haileybury humanities teacher, Brian Clark, coached the seniors the year after he led the reserves as captain-coach to their first ever finals appearance in 1964.

Weary was a thoughtful and imaginative coach whose biggest failing was perhaps a lack of attention to the physical fitness of his players. An excellent club man, in the reserves he frequently exercised the playing coach's prerogative of playing in positions he enjoyed, usually at full forward or in the centre, where he would use his bulk cleverly.

Clarke famously owned a favourite pair of faded black shorts, a shade of grey so convenient he wore them for both home and away games and was never queried by the umpires. Drily humoured, he was short, heavy and solid, built in the mould of Burl Ives. His other passions included art, drama and golf, the latter as both an administrator and single-figure player.

70 games (22 1sts, 48 Reserves),

34 goals (9 1sts, 25 Reserves), 1961-66

Jumper number 26

Coach 1sts 1965

Captain-coach Reserves 1964, 1966

Captain Reserves 1963

Committee 1964-66

¹⁵ George Lightfoot, Match report in OHAFC archives, 8 August 1964

¹⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 August 1964

¹⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 August 1964

¹⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 August 1964

¹⁹ George Lightfoot, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 September 1964

Late that year the Haileyburians considered fielding a team in the VAFA's under-nineteen competition for the 1965 season. Apparently "there were indications of a drift to other clubs, this being made by boys who felt that they had little chance of selection in the OHA teams".²⁰ A special committee of Tony Clarke, John Davies and Brian Henderson investigated the issue, but encountered a major problem in finding a ground for the junior matches, as well as a "certain apathy by the Association towards fielding any further teams".²¹ The club's application to the VAFA to field an under-nineteen team was withdrawn early in 1965, mainly due to a lack of numbers and the Headmaster's decision not to grant the use of a school oval.²²

Another concern late in the season was the "behaviour of supporters. Peter MacFarlane voiced the opinion that many of the club's supporters had behaved disgracefully during the year and that they had helped spread ill feeling amongst other clubs. This, however, was not generally agreed upon by the rest of the Committee".²³

The reserves made the finals for the first time, which they played before the Hampton Rovers replay. In a disastrous second semi-final against Footscray Tech Old Boys the Bloods suffered their largest loss of the season. The preliminary final was against Hampton Rovers of all teams and "in a poor show ... they richly deserved to lose", which they did by six goals. "They simply did not go for the ball as if they really wanted it".²⁴ The team for the final was:

Backs: Ken Oaten, Don Morris, Ian Cole

Halfbacks: David Hales, Ian Ladner, John Mears

Centres: John Davies, Quentin Wenke, Ian Rankine

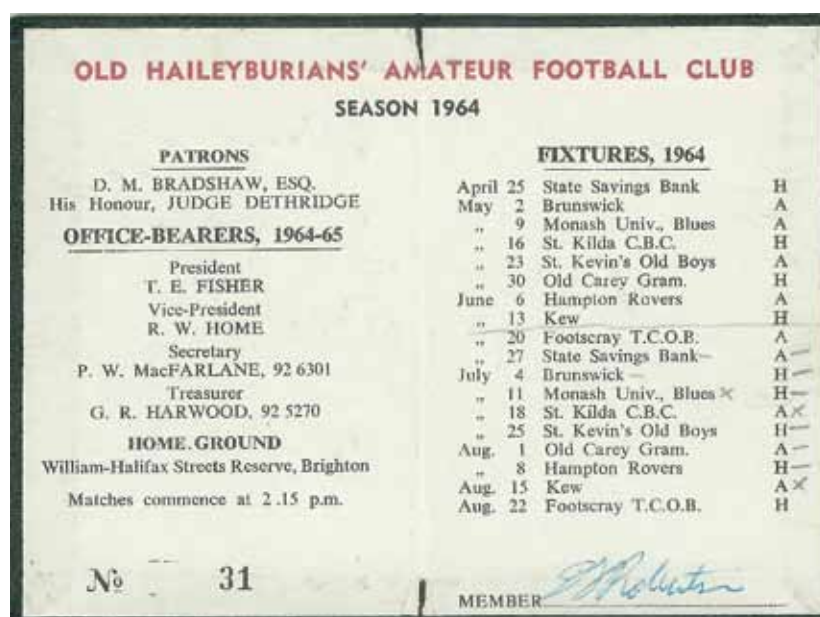
Half-forwards: Tony Hunter, Ian Greenaway, Alan Dow

Forwards: Tony Clarke (captain), David Norton, Don Thomson

Followers: David Child, Peter Reed

Rover: Geoff Carter

Reserves: Ken Young, Dennis Roberts



OHAFC membership card, 1964

ANTHONY WILLIAM KELLOCK

Along with Tom Fisher, Murray Ponsford and Graham Harwood, Tony Kellock ran most of the affairs of the Old Haileyburians' Amateur Football Club in its first decade. An outstanding schoolboy batsman, he shared a record partnership of 343 with David Shaw against Ivanhoe in a touch over an hour and a half. Kellock also captained the school tennis team in 1955-56.

Before joining the Bloods, Kellock played football at Dookie and at Power House, where he gained invaluable experience roving to an All-Australian Amateur ruckman. Short and heavy for his size, "Tinny" was a highly accurate kick, rarely wasting the ball. The plant biologist soon latched onto Andy Home's short kicking near goal in a symbiotic relationship as Andy was only too happy to avoid kicking at the sticks himself.

Fine player as he was, missing the 1963 Grand Final win only through unavailability, Kellock's greatest contributions were undoubtedly administrative. One of the longest-serving and more organised club secretaries, he hoarded the 1962-68 minute book so it still survives today. In 1972 he became only the second man after Tom Fisher to be awarded Honorary Life Membership, a few years before settling in Healesville.

72 games (52 1sts, 20 Reserves),
111 goals (81 1sts, 30 Reserves), 1963-66

Jumper number 12

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1966 (18 goals)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1972;

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1968;

Outstanding & Meritorious Service Award
1965, 1967

Vice-President 1971-72

Secretary 1965-69

Committee 1965-72, 1976

RAY CATHERALL

Ray Catherall's only involvement with the Old Haileyburians was as coach in 1964. His background was not well known and those who saw him on the track and heard his team addresses were disinclined to believe the rumor he had played with North Melbourne reserves.

An electronics wizard by trade, Catherall's talents extended to maintaining the club's siren at Halifax Street. Strong, forthright, and a popular man with the girls, he later coached the New South Wales football team and cricket in Canada before running a sports goods business in Tasmania.

Coach 1sts 1964

²⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 June 1964

²¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 July 1964

²² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 8 February 1965

²³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 14 September 1964

²⁴ George Lightfoot, Match report in OHAFC archives, 5 September 1964

On the social side a number of successful functions were held, although thoughts of another end of year trip were dampened by the experience of Marysville. The club kleptomaniac was finally controlled, and no loss of records or razors was reported. John Stahmer's home was a popular venue, and the Hotel Stanford hosted the Dinner Dance. Tony Browne convinced the Prince of Wales Hotel that the boys would behave themselves at the Annual Dinner, where David Young received his second Best and Fairest award, winning by two votes from Alan Ross. Michael Porter, in only eleven matches, tied with Brian Henderson for third, while Ian Greenaway won the reserves' award by a solitary vote from first-year player Dick Metherall. Quentin Wenke played in only six games and polled eleven votes (including best on the ground in both finals) to finish an admirable third.

So with a bit of a struggle the Old Haileyburians had survived an interesting and occasionally torrid first year in C Grade.



Peter MacFarlane looking just as young in 1976 after a great career as he did in 1961 at its beginning.



Peter MacFarlane's enthusiasm for his club shows in this telegram to President Tom Fisher.

PETER WILLIAM MacFARLANE

Youngest and most accomplished of the three MacFarlane boys, Peter had a particular interest in establishing tradition and its trimmings within the OHAFC. In 1964, along with Graham Harwood, he wrote the words to the club's victory song in response to President Tom Fisher's £10 incentive. Harwood had already written most of the first verse and MacFarlane completed the rest of what is still sung today. A determined MacFarlane recited the new song to convince a derisive committee, no doubt helped by his skills on the ukulele!

On the field Peter covered excessive distances, especially on Halifax Street's cramped wings. Unable to kick on his left foot, MacFarlane's frantic efforts to run around onto his beloved right earned him the nicknames "Circles", "Hot" and "Hottie". Light and small, he was talented and quick enough to evade tacklers most of the time. This combination of small stature and speed could make MacFarlane look a showpony, if only a Shetland.

MacFarlane was famously idolised by a young local girl Louise, aka "The Little Princess", who attended training and, on Saturdays, matches fully attired in football gear with his number two emblazoned proudly over most of her back. There was great concern for the Princess' delicate ears after a vitriolic monologue from Ian Greenaway, later a mathematics master at Haileybury.

Like brother Keith, Peter became a school teacher, while the oldest of the MacFarlane trio, John, attended Burnley Agricultural College. Peter settled in Noosa in the 1980s.

163 games (142 1sts, 21 Reserves),
83 goals (63 1sts, 20 Reserves), 1961-72

Member 1963 & 1969 1sts & 1968 Reserves
Premiership teams

Jumper number 2

Outstanding & Meritorious Service Award 1964

Vice-captain 1sts 1965

Secretary 1964

Committee 1964-65, 1967-69

1965 - Still Struggling in C

Customary early-season turmoil opened the year, and a number of committeemen resigned. The minutes recorded that although “this state of affairs might indicate a dissident upheaval of some kind ... this certainly was not the case, all members retiring as a result of heavy domestic or business commitments”.²⁵ Ray Catherall took charge of training until early March, until he was succeeded as coach by the chunky Tony Clarke, who played the majority of his 51 games in the reserves. Toolmaker and weight lifter Ken Oaten, later Chairman of the Victorian Sporting Foundation, took over the reserves with a thinning Ken Grant as his captain. Four clubs were approached to play practice matches.

Two of the club’s recruits, David “Wedge” Eagle and Keith Nance, made their debuts in the firsts’ unsuccessful opening at Halifax Street against Hampton Rovers. The Bloods squandered a 33-point lead at the final change before Hampton stormed home with 11.6 (72) to an inconsequential behind. Eagle’s “fine ruck play”²⁶ impressed observers, but a number of leading players were missing, including Dennis Smith, the injured David Young, Rob Gyngell, David McLean, Keith MacFarlane and Garry Tuck.

Parkside, West Brunswick and State Savings Bank formed a weak trio the Bloods could look forward to. First time around Parkside were beaten in the wet, West Brunswick defeated by fourteen points after being five goals up at quarter time, and a scoreless State Savings Bank were blitzed by the Old Haileyburians’ still record 13.1 (79) for the first quarter.

Alan Ross’ eighteen marks and twenty-seven kicks in “probably the best exhibition of ruck work ... ever seen at OHAFC”²⁷ was not enough to defeat St Kilda CBC on a perfect day. This preceded a “disgraceful effort”²⁸ against the lower-placed St Kevins in which the following division of Eagle, Ross and Kellock were again prominent. The twos fared little better, persistently beset by injuries. They won only two of their first eleven games.



David Eagle was Runner-up in the VAFA D Grade Best and Fairest in 1968, and third in 1969.

DAVID ALLAN EAGLE

David “Wedge” Eagle studied at Haileybury for only a short time after attending Hampton High School. His abilities were recognised by St Kilda, where he played in the reserves including finals on the MCG. When Eagle joined the OHAFC in 1965, his physical presence made the team walk that much taller. Just six feet tall, he was the Alan Morrow of Amateur football, but tremendous jumping capacity and imposing strength at the contest made Eagle an outstanding ruckman. Team mates still remember that strength enabling him to pick up a feared Parkside opponent and literally tuck him under one arm.

With his prodigious leap Wedge took some of the most spectacular marks seen at the club, particularly in the last line of defence where he saved almost certain goals and repeatedly repelled opposition attacks. His kicking, especially his drop kicks, has been described by experts as less than pure, although his drop punts were serviceable. But for many injuries Eagle would have been an even more dynamic player. Consistent knee problems meant he often played under duress and missed many games.

Testament to Eagle’s abilities were his placings in the VAFA D Grade Best and Fairest, including Runner-up in 1968 and third in 1969 when he played an important role in the premiership team in his last season. After football Eagle embarked on an notable corporate career, particularly as President of Ford’s Pacific Region (who from his era can forget that powder blue Falcon GT?), as a “company doctor” contracted out by KPMG, and CEO roles with International Harvester, Stillwells and Smorgans.

*55 games (48 1sts, 7 Reserves),
38 goals (35 1sts, 3 Reserves), 1965-69*

*Member 1969 1sts Premiership team
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper number 27

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1968

Vice-captain 1sts 1969

²⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 8 February 1965

²⁶ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 24 April 1965

²⁷ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 5 June 1965

²⁸ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 June 1965

Robin Boag took over the management of the social functions from a busy David Child, including a card night at the Youngs, the Ball at "Stardust" and John Armitage's barbeque. Lawn bowls was surprisingly suggested as a possible social event,²⁹ and less is known about the end of year tour to the Isle of Wight Hotel at Cowes than the previous year's effort at Marysville.

Presentation Night was held at the Prince of Wales Hotel as usual, with its thirty-two shilling and sixpence per head menu.³⁰

The second half of 1965 consisted of many uninteresting and lethargic displays in low-standard matches, not unusual for a team in the no-man's land between finals appearances and relegation. A loose defence is often mentioned in the match reports, and the club's two teams won only one game between them in the last five rounds. In the final match, against finalists Monash, the firsts played some of their best football for the year in a game notable for high-marking exhibitions by Alan Ross and the less spectacular Andy Home.³¹

Positional changes were common during the year: for example centre half-forward Peter Bowring, the leading goal kicker, spent the last two games at full-back. The full-forward position was never really resolved; Peter Reed, Peter MacFarlane, Peter McCready, David Norton, Keith Nance, schoolboy star Ross Bannon, Bowring and Don Lord all had a go. Brian Henderson was one of the few to retain the same position all year. Perhaps the team that played in the opening round against Hampton Rovers was the most typical of all the first eighteens that played in 1965. It read:



Alan Ross was Best and Fairest in 1965 - look at those magnificent feet!

ALAN BOYNE ROSS

Brilliant Alan Ross was one of the Bloods' outstanding players of the early years. A prodigious and lovely right-foot drop-kick, he also marked well, and had surprising pace for a man with such big feet. At school he captained both the athletics and swimming teams, and was an accomplished basketballer.

A very popular man, the dashing key defender was versatile enough to play in the ruck or even centre half-forward. Ross filled the role of champion player in the team, much as Peter Mason did in later years, and was selected in the OHAFC Team of the Century.

Ross' football career ended abruptly with a severe knee injury at Monash in the opening round of 1967; the extent and shock of the injury were as bad as suffered by any Haileyburians player, although "Rossy" managed to play the odd game with the reserves at the end of the year.

Alan Ross' teaching career took him to Wonthaggi before he was appointed Vice-Principal of St Leonards across the road from the South Road campus. Eventually he served as Principal of Ballarat and Billanook Colleges. Alan's son Angus played nearly 80 games as a bustling half-back, including the 2001 Reserves' premiership triumph.

*68 games (64 1sts, 4 Reserves),
19 goals (13 1sts, 6 Reserves), 1963-67*

*Member 1963 1sts Premiership team &
OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper numbers 4 & 47

Best & Fairest 1sts 1965

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1963, 1964

Vice-captain 1sts 1964

Committee 1965-67

²⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 19 May 1965

³⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 15 September 1965

³¹ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 28 August 1965

DAVID MURRAY PONSFORD

Backs: Brian Henderson, Keith Nance, Peter Burke
Half-backs: Graham Currie, Don Lord, Ian Ladner
Centres: Dick Metherall, Peter MacFarlane, Chris Cholerton
Half-forwards: Andrew Home (captain), Peter Bowring, John Armitage
Forwards: Gil Urquhart, Peter Reed, Robin Boag
Followers: David Eagle, Alan Ross
Rover: Tony Kellock
Reserves: Geoff Augustine, Norm Edwards

Injuries were again a concern late in the season. David Cox, a mate of John Stahmer's younger brother Mike, joining the club as "a qualified trainer",³² the first recorded in a long line of famous club physios. Think of the legendary Artie Goodwin of hot towel fame, Peter "Cool" Parkes, Mike Troup, groin expert Sandra from Richmond, and vaudeville comedian Mark Schneider. An injury fund was established, each player paying a shilling per game, an additional burden to the year's subs of £2-2-0. The club managed a healthy profit of £28-3-10 for the year.³³

Alan Ross finally took out a Best and Fairest award after twice being runner-up, just reward for a fine season of following and occasionally defending. The Meritorious Service award, the Barrie Berggy trophy of the day, was won by the industrious Alan Dickinson, grandson of the school's third head master. "Dicko" ran both the boundary and the bar. He was particularly successful in stopping the supply of underpriced grog from the bar, much to the detriment of his own popularity and Brian Sprague's disgust.

The Committee sought to form a mothers' committee for fund-raising.³⁴ Negotiations with the Brighton City Council and Brighton United Churches Football Club resulted in 65-foot lighting towers being erected at Halifax Street in time for the 1966 season at a cost of £400.³⁵

For a man whose playing career consisted of one game with the Old Brighton reserves in 1960, Murray Ponsford made an immense contribution to the OHAFC. With typical modesty he always played down his role, firmly believing players were the most important people in a football club, such did he admire their courage.

Murray's first contributions were as a boundary umpire in the early sixties, with a fine style of throwing in, complete with an eccentric little skip. Temperate compared to the players, he directed the finances of the Club over the transition from sterling to decimal currency and tied the shoe-string budgets neatly together.

"Pons" would always devour a pie between running the boundary for the seconds and time-keeping or goal-umpiring for the firsts. His routine changed later to time-keeping first before waving the flags, but his liking for the traditional pastry didn't.

It is intriguing to ponder the motivation behind Murray's involvement as the quiet church goer had a relatively small circle of friends (but certainly no enemies) within the club.

Murray Ponsford's other great legacy was his maintenance of the historical records over more than a decade through the 1970s and 1980s. Later he still watched the occasional game, sneaking in quietly under his favourite tweed hat around half-time for a look and a chat until his death in 2009.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1978

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1972

Treasurer 1965-70

Committee 1965-71



Action from the last-round reserves match against Monash at Halifax Street in 1965. The Bloods capitulated by some 73 points. Note the sturdy footwear. Recognisable in the picture from left to right are the bespectacled Graham Neville, Bruce Langford-Jones (as ever with socks down), Alan Hunter (51) and Dennis Roberts.

³² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 July 1965

³³ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 2 February 1966

The club was initially relatively unsuccessful in recruiting the members of the 1965 school football team that won Haileybury's first APS premiership under John Masters. Barrie Berggy's and Alan Ross' visit to the school resulted in few signings, although "the new physical education teacher offered to help the club in this regard".³⁶ Useful recruits who joined during the year included Adrian "Rocksy" Bode, John Rigby, Bruce Langford-Jones, Ric Mulvey, Graham Neville and John Latrielle.

Although the Bloods had never been in any real danger of relegation in 1965, nor had they threatened promotion and the momentum that had seen them power through the lower grades appeared to be slowing.



The 1965 first eighteen grin and bear for the camera ...

Back row: Ross Bannon, Ken Grant, Alan Ross, David Eagle, John Rigby, Ian Ladner, Gil Urquhart, John Armitage, Keith Nance, Keith MacFarlane, Ric Mulvey, Graham Currie, Peter Burke.
Front row: Norm Edwards, Tony Kellock, Don Lord, Andrew Home (captain), Tony Clarke (coach), Tom Fisher (President), Peter MacFarlane, Peter Bowring, Adrian Bode, Brian Henderson.



... and so do the seconds.

Back row: Mike Stahmer, John Mears, Bruce Langford-Jones, David Allen, Ian Greenaway, Graham Harwood, Tony Hunter, Dennis Roberts, John Latrielle, Brian Sprague, Ian Rankine
Front row: Don Morris, Grant McConchie, Bob Bean, Peter McCready, Ken Oaten (captain-coach), Roger Johnson, David Norton, Graham Neville, Russell Hare.

ADRIAN MAXWELL BODE

The determined, tenacious and tough "Rocksy" Bode's nick-name stemmed from his boulder-like appearance, but as a five foot six rover he was no monolith. A rough old kick, probably not helped by his rolled-down socks, Bode was nonetheless considered a real "goer" as evidenced by his propensity to train harder than most in his era.

Bode's quiet nature rarely saw him upset, and he received reliable protection from his regular ruckman and good friend Gil Urquhart.

127 games (78 1sts, 49 Reserves),
 79 goals (36 1sts, 43 Reserves), 1965-74

Member 1969 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 38

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1965

RUSSELL MAURICE HARE

Foundation member and club institution Russ Hare was recruited from Hampton Scouts after winning the open high jump in Haileybury's first APS sporting event in 1958. That great spring enabled him to take many spectacular marks before a recurrent knee injury helped gravity keep a firmer hold on the dapper stock-broker. The joint frequently fell out of place and prevented Hare from completing a number of his 150 games.

Nothing however stopped Hare from playing well in finals in particular. Named best on ground playing on the wing in the 1963 premiership triumph, this stylish, polished player was also capable of holding down centre half-back, centre half-forward or even, with his leap, brief spells in the ruck.

150 games (72 1sts, 78 Reserves),
 61 goals (26 1sts, 35 Reserves), 1961-72

Member 1963 1sts & 1968 Reserves
 Premiership teams

Jumper numbers 9 & 10

Committee 1965-68

³⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 December 1965

³⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 December 1965

³⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 December 1965

1966 - More of the Same with Max

Eighth place and a whisker from relegation was the Old Haileyburians' lot in the year that Australia's new decimal currency was introduced. Max Lyon of Ormond, Mordialloc, Fitzroy and Old Caulfield Grammarians began a long association with the club after being the only new applicant for the coaching position. "Maxie" won the secret ballot and was appointed playing coach, while his predecessor Tony Clarke returned to the reserves, also as captain-coach.

Alan Ross and his recruiting committee eventually managed to transfuse the club with new blood from John Master's team. Many of these tyros became club stalwarts both on and off the field, including the delicate but skilled Ken Allison, lanky team-mate Daryl Regan, Phil Marshall, swarthy and solid Steve Thistlethwaite, Peter Horne, John Austin and still-at-school Andrew "Stink" Langford-Jones.

The season began in exciting fashion with a one point win over St Bernards at Halifax Street, a margin which St Kilda repeated in that year's VFL Grand Final win over Collingwood. Old Haileyburians' "superior fitness and greater determination proved the deciding factors".³⁷ Newcomer Ken Allison swooped in from the half-forward flank to kick four goals in a promising debut, and APS hurdler David Norton at full-forward was named as the Bloods' best despite kicking only one goal. The game was marked by "high marking and fast play-on football".³⁸ The inexperienced reserves finished within three points of their highly rated opponents.

Disaster struck in the next match at Preston, where the Bloods finished the game with only seventeen men on the field, two of whom would normally have been replaced even in pre-interchange days. Accomplished ruck-rover Keith Nance's knee injury ended his twenty-game career.



Max Lyon keeps a close eye on his under-nineteen team, first semi-final 1987.

THOMAS MAXWELL LYON

Max Lyon had at least two distinct careers at Old Haileyburians. The first was as captain-coach in 1966, then as a player with a reputation for toughness after experience at Fitzroy, Mordialloc and Ormond. He once changed the number on his jumper, so convinced was he that an umpire was prejudiced against him. Lyon was a valuable follower and defender for the Bloods, a big man with thin blonde hair, a pink-flushed face, large white ankle bandages, a rollicking nautical gait and an extraordinary memory for names.

Not fast over the ground, Max kept himself in good condition long after he retired. His marking was strong, his kicking fair. As a playing coach he led well by example and spoke impressively, but could be terribly disappointed by poor performances. Lyon's second career began when he returned to coach the under-nineteens in 1986 and 1987, and those same traits were still clearly evident. Blessed with a great influx of talented players, he set about preparing them for senior football by focusing on discipline, teamwork and constructive talking. They made the finals both years, but their loss to Therry in the 1987 decider was particularly shattering for Max.

Many of those under-nineteens became regular senior players and the values Max instilled in his time with them was highly significant for the club's successes into the 1990s. As well as keeping the boys entertained with healthy doses of political incorrectness, Max was respected enormously for his will to win and compete. A small but important illustration of this was Max's vivid hatred of players slipping over or seeing anyone on the deck.

Max's final role at the OHAFC was that of the club's first salaried General Manager in 1989, one of Ken Allison's progressive ideas. He then embarked on a lengthy career with the VAFA which included coaching and selecting under-nineteen representative teams, sitting on the Executive and writing as a columnist in The Amateur Footballer. Junior teams now play for the TM Lyon Cup, and from 1988 the TM Lyon Medal was awarded to the best player in one of the under-nineteen Grand Finals.

61 games (all 1sts), 11 goals (all 1sts), 1966-70

*Member 1969 1sts Premiership team
Jumper number 10*

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1966, 1967

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1994

*Captain-coach 1sts 1966; Captain 1sts 1968;
Coach U19s 1986-87*

*Secretary/General Manager 1989
Committee 1968-69*

*VAFA Life Member 1996
Coach VAFA Representative U19 teams*

³⁷ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 23 April 1966

³⁸ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 23 April 1966

Against Monash the firsts again finished with seventeen, “the loss of brilliant back-pocket player David Young tipping the scales”³⁹ in a three-point loss, after the Bloods had led by three goals at three-quarter time. After a narrow loss at Power House, the club’s hundredth game of amateur football proved miserable, trounced by Hampton Rovers when “the essentials were sadly lacking”.⁴⁰ Herbert, Neville, the Augustine brothers, Regan, Connolly, Bode, Roberts and Smiley were prominent in the reserves’ four wins from five matches.

Against North Melbourne CBC, skipper Andrew Home became the first Old Haileyburians player to play one hundred games. The headline in the VAFA Record’s “Personality of the Week” screamed, “Sometimes Old Haileyburians’ Andy won’t go Home”.⁴¹ Andy rose to the occasion to be best on the ground in his team’s desperate ten-point success over the top team.

At West Brunswick Andrew Langford-Jones’ six goals couldn’t prevent a pitiful last quarter collapse and the surrender of a four-goal lead. Narrow losses on windy days against Geelong and at Brighton exacerbated the Bloods’ plight, and at the halfway point of the season the firsts languished on two wins. The Brighton game featured a mysterious disappearance of flighty but uninjured half-forward Ken Allison, replaced by Alan Dow at half-time.

The club’s finances progressed steadily under diligent Treasurer Murray Ponsford. By mid-June over \$500 was in the bank, the equivalent of one hundred player subscriptions, helped by the 20c per ticket raffle for the \$110 General Electric television.⁴² Mrs Augustine’s ladies’ committee acquired a pie warmer and suggested that the “club might look at the Dendy Street ovals, or consider a paid trainer in 1967”.⁴³ Germaine Greer and the women’s liberation movement were gathering momentum, so they probably had few qualms in directing the gentlemen of the club.



The lads return again to the Prince of Wales in 1966. Note the fashionably thin ties in this elegant and happy group of first eighteen players.

Back row: Peter Bowring, Keith Nance, Andrew Kelsey, Russell Hare, John Rigby, Ric Mulvey in contrasting jacket, Daryl Regan, Adrian Bode, Peter Reed, Norm Edwards, Ross Bannon, Peter McCready, Brian Henderson, John Herbert, Bruce Langford-Jones, Peter MacFarlane.

Front row: Alan Ross, Don Lord, Andrew Home, Max Lyon (captain-coach), Gil Urquhart, John Armitage, David Norton.

PETER IAN MCCREADY

Look for the man behind the mask in the club’s photos of the early 1960s. He is Peter McCready, a tear-in rover/wingman who knew no fear. McCready’s nose was broken so often it was “putty-like”, hence the plaster-of-Paris protector he became so well known for in the VAFA.

McCready performed particularly well in heavy conditions, and like brother Jon, aka “Jungles”, was a determined character. “Macca” could be surprisingly undiplomatic on the field for one who spent much of his career with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and ASIO. A knack for languages saw him stationed in places such as Bangkok and Lisbon.

*102 games (52 1sts, 50 Reserves),
64 goals (22 1sts, 42 Reserves), 1961-72*

Member 1963 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 27

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1965 (11 goals)

Vice-captain Reserves 1967

³⁹ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 7 May 1966

⁴⁰ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 May 1966

⁴¹ The Amateur Footballer 1966 (Vol 66, No 6) p13

⁴² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 June 1966

⁴³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 July 1966

Rev Boag had his problems with falling social function profits, “due to a reduced margin on beer cans”.⁴⁴ Nonetheless the Dinner Dance at “Stardust” was a success, and the trip away to Portsea (including a golf day at Rosebud) prior to the usual Prince of Wales Dinner was a fine concept.

The late season was more desperate, and the firsts won five of their remaining nine matches; apparently to the detriment of the reserves who won only one. The recovery began on a wet, sloppy day at St Bernards, and “a fierce desire to win the ball”⁴⁵ enabled the Bloods to inflict a second defeat on the ladder leaders; Alan Ross kicked a famous winning goal. Despite the conditions, big men Eagle and Urquhart dominated.

The largest win for the season followed against Preston where, as was not unusual, “spite crept into the game”. In the reserves match, Nigel Murch, temperamental State fast bowler and equally fiery footballer, was reported and later suspended for a club record “holiday” of eighteen months for “adopting a threatening attitude towards the umpire”. Don Lord was also suspended for 18 matches on the same charge. Haileybury Vice-Principal Frank Northcott officiated as Tribunal chairman and showed no favours.

Full-back, press correspondent and future umpire “Pom” Burke blamed “three glaring decisions”⁴⁶ for the narrow loss against Monash, in a game where Max Lyon’s play led arguably the better side on the day. A two-point last half against Power House was partially redressed by a second one point win for the season, against Hampton Rovers. Relegation was averted in the last round against Old Brighton, when a three-point win (after a four-goal lead at three-quarter time) was all that kept the Old Haileyburians from D Grade. The full-back line of Brian Henderson, Peter Burke and Alan Ross was outstanding, particularly in the final quarter.



1966's second eighteen team photo.

Back row: David Norton, Brian Sprague, Adrian Bode, Graham Neville, Ken Oaten, Don Lord, Tony Kellock, Andrew Kelsey, John Herbert, David Cox, Ian Cole, Rodger Moore.

Front row: Russell Hare, Steve Thistlethwaite, Geoff Augustine, Tony Clarke (captain-coach), John Rigby, Bob Bean, Barry Connolly, Grant McConchie.

PETER GEOFFREY ARTHUR BOWRING

Quite simply, Peter Bowring was the goal-kicking champion of Old Haileyburians and perhaps the easiest selection in the OHAFC Team of the Century as full-forward. His 551 goals in the firsts are comfortably ahead of the next best tally (Andrew Walden's 381), and when he kicked the last of these goals in the firsts in 1975 the closest team mate was Andy Home with 182. The only years he missed leading the goal kicking were in 1966, when he played a cameo utility role while winning the Best and Fairest, in 1970 when overseas, and in two years of football twilight at full-back.

Also known as “The Bear”, “Golden” or “Ringa”, Bowring was from the classic Doug Wade school of full-forwards. He could be heavily built, and suffered from the dreaded chafe, particularly when David Young coached. His main attributes were a beautiful pair of hands and the kicking of glorious drop-kicks and torpedo-punts of Pythagorean arc; these made him a spectacular player. He preferred his right foot, but was similarly adept with the left.

Bowring's kicking ability was well illustrated in the drawn match against National Bank at its gusty Albert Park home in 1971. His goal to tie the scores was a right-foot drop-kick from the right forward-pocket, boundary-line brushing his unerring boot, speared through a gale blowing straight to the opposite goal.

An angelic and fresh-faced schoolboy when he joined the club late in its first year, Bowring grew up quickly under the “guidance” of Peter Davies and Andrew Home. Ten years later, the “Bear” became grizzly, as his two-man wars involving St Kilda CBC's Vic Collegia testified.

A natural games player, Bowring was a useful high jumper at school, and also excelled at cricket and tennis. By the 1980s he shed his apparent dislike of training, cured both the chafe and the constant hamstring trouble, was fitter than ever before, and competed successfully in the Brighton Pentathlon. As the club's athletic runner in his forties he became familiar as the man responsible for controlling coach Langford-Jones' outbursts and behaviour from the bench, no easy task.

After his playing days Bowring continued to serve on committee and match selection panels. In 1991 he was elected President for the club's first year in A Grade. With Peter came the bonus of his wife Kristina's culinary and organisational expertise, as she also became very active in the club's social events. Through thick and thin Bowring remained one of the most positive of people.

Continued over page...

⁴⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 July 1966

⁴⁵ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 June 1966

⁴⁶ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 9 July 1966

The reserves completed a disappointing year, despite the success of John Augustine in the VAFA Reserve Grade Best and Fairest voting. Their final line-up for the season was as follows:

Backs: Michael Sibley, John Rigby, Steve Thistlethwaite
Half-backs: Tony Clarke (captain), John Mears, Barry Connolly
Centres: Graham Neville, Geoff Augustine, Grant McConchie
Forwards: John Stahmer, Andrew Kelsey, Jon McCready
Followers: Tony Elsom, Phillip Marshall
Rover: Tony Kellock
Interchange: David Allen, David Hales

The bespectacled Augustine finished second to John Herbert in the club's reserves Best and Fairest. Andrew Home and Max Lyon shared the Runner-up award in the firsts, behind Peter Bowring who played a particularly fine first half of the season in a variety of positions including the ruck, ruck-roving and all over the forward line. Almost by habit he again led the goal kicking. Daryl Regan's and Ross Bannon's promise was reflected in their joint win of the Best First-year Player trophy.

The dapper and industrious Tom Fisher retired as President, although no one knew he would be thrust back in the chair less than two years later. The committee expressed their thanks for his outstanding services to the club "and the refreshments provided for the (last) meeting".⁴⁷ Despite Tom's hard work, the club would continue on its downward slide and harder times lay ahead.



Peter Bowring won the 1966 Best and Fairest and kicked a mountain of goals over his career despite the holes in his sock! Here he practices his kicking at Halifax Street.

Peter Geoffrey Arthur Bowring continued...

Like so many of the club's players with their roots at the Brighton school, Bowring settled in the district. His youngest daughter Jessica became a third-generation Bowring at Haileybury. Peter's father Geoff was a staunch supporter of the club in its early years, and hosted many a function. He was well known to enjoy Khyat's comforts with Russell Hare's father, Mac Arnold, Judge Dethridge and Co.

218 games (214 1sts, 4 Reserves), 555 goals
(551 1sts, 4 Reserves), 1961-78

Member 1963 & 1969 1sts Premiership teams &
OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper numbers 35 & 7

Best & Fairest 1sts 1966;

Competition leading goal-kicker 1968 (D Grade, 51 goals), 1969 (D, 78); Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1962 (63 goals), 1963 (49), 1964 (47), 1965 (39), 1966 (31), 1968 (51), 1969 (83*), 1971 (69), 1972 (45), 1975 (33) - leading goal-kicker in 10 of the 13 seasons he played!

Kicked equal most goals in a season (83 in 1969), kicked most goals in a career for the 1sts and in total, kicked seven or more goals on eleven occasions.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1976

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1969, 1972-73

President 1991-92

Vice-President 1975-76, 1990

Committee 1962-63, 1968-69, 1973-76, 1981, 1990-93

* including finals

⁴⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 August 1966

1967 - The Return of Zeke

The legendary Zeke Davies returned from the UK to captain-coach again in 1967, but far less successfully. By September the club was back to where it been for the big man's earlier triumph, despite the enthusiasm of new President, Barrie Berggy, and the four men who ran most of the club's early affairs in Tom Fisher, Tony Kellock, Graham Harwood and Murray Ponsford. Considering Davies' previous coaching methods, incredibly training commenced on February 26th and was "for one hour or more per session".⁴⁸

The Haileyburians suffered significant player losses, including Brian Henderson, Geoff Augustine, Tony Kellock, John Armitage, Nigel Murch, Robin Boag, Andrew Kelsey, Tony Clarke, David Eagle and Ian Cole. Daryl Regan missed most of the season and Don Lord's suspension ran to round 11, so nearly half a first eighteen were missing.

Even worse, in the last quarter of the opening game at Monash the dashing Alan Ross suffered a terrible knee injury, which no one at the ground will ever forget. Ross was able to play only the last three matches of the season (in the reserves), that being it for the year and forever. With Peter Burke and Gil Urquhart he had been the best player for the Bloods where misuse of the University wind proved crucial. The reserves played "dispiritedly".⁴⁹



Ken Allison leads the Bloods out with Andy Home at Elsternwick Park in 1967, "KA's" second year at the club. Following them are Peter Davies (obscured) and Peter Burke. Spectators Steve Thistlethwaite and Peter Loh also appear in the photograph.

IVOR ROSS BANNON

Football nomad Ross Bannon captained Haileybury's first APS premiership team in 1965, when by legend he kicked a fabulous seventy-yard goal to seal the flag. He had already played open age football in the reserves for the Old Boys the year before, was relatively ambidextrous for his time and noted for his touch.

With a wispy beard or moustache dropping from his top lip, "Rosscoe" sometimes broke into a soft lisp to become "Wosscoe". His shape fluctuated wildly after winning the Best and Fairest in 1967, when his duties as a stock and station agent saw him fall victim to country hospitality from Leongatha to Deniliquin and Numurkah and peak at fifteen stone. These absences forced Rosscoe to wait until 1976 to play his fiftieth game, twelve years after his debut.

The weight of country life fell off that wiry frame and by the time Bannon played a prominent role when marshalling the defence in Don McQueen's "Dad's Army" team of 1980, socks would no longer stay up on Rosscoe's lean legs as he also competed in triathlons and the like. After a spell in Western Australia Bannon returned in the late 1980s to sit on the match committee and coach the reserves. In summer he loved nothing better than playing for the Old Boys cricket club with his great mates Peter Mason and Andy Williams, bowling all day, first "pace" then off-spin.

74 games (38 1sts, 36 Reserves),
82 goals (46 1sts, 36 Reserves), 1964-87

Best & Fairest 1sts 1967

Coach Reserves 1987

Vice-captain Reserves 1980

Committee 1988

⁴⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 February 1967

⁴⁹ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 April 1967

Against West Brunswick the following week, the reserves notched the first of only three wins for the year, inspired by captain Peter McCready. By round six he too was lost to injury for the remainder of the year. The firsts won against Old Geelong Grammarians at a muddy Como Park, despite “playing in patches”.⁵⁰ They surrendered a half-time lead of five goals against Old Brighton and three-quarter-time ascendancy over St Kevins. They even kept within striking distance for most of the game against the highly rated Alphington before it escaped with the points. A small group of players such as Ross Bannon, Gil Urquhart, Peter Burke, John Augustine and Keith MacFarlane carried the side.

The committee’s morale was further sapped by a dispute with the school, not the last time relations would be strained. Although the minutes record a mid-February offer to use the school gymnasium from sports master Jim Wilkinson,⁵¹ by May the relationship was being discussed at committee level although no specific issues seemed to have emerged.

Barrie Berggy, ever conscious of good relationships with school and local Council reacted to the contents of the Headmaster’s reply to a recruiting letter, which implied “the club was, in certain respects, not operating to its best advantage”.⁵² The committee felt “the club was being undermined by unwarranted criticism from various staff members”,⁵³ and “small incidents were being grossly exaggerated”.⁵⁴ Also, “the basis for many of the accusations from the school were being influenced by an incident against Preston”⁵⁵ in 1966 (which involved Graham Harwood).

BARRIE THOMAS BERGGY

Barrie Berggy was a tremendous enthusiast for the Old Haileyburians’ Association and especially its football club. Of similar nature and a close friend of Tom Fisher, he died of a heart attack in 1968 while President of both. His passing was mourned by the whole Haileybury community at a packed Were Street funeral service.

Berggy attended Haileybury from 1913 to 1920, was President of the OHA from 1962, officially opened the gates at the new Keysborough school and initiated Founders’ Day. He was particularly conscious of the need for good relations with the school, the OHA and the local (Brighton) Council, where his influence was important in securing the use of the Halifax Street ground. Most convenient given his habit of adjourning to Khyat’s Hotel at half-time with a small circle of disciples such as Mac Arnold!

Murray Ponsford recalled Berggy complained of feeling “tired” on the night of his death, after attending football training and an OHA meeting. He died alone at home having been widowed for many years. Barrie Berggy drew many people to the OHAFC and it was fitting that from 1968 the club’s premier service award was named after him.

President 1967-68; Vice-President 1965-66



Action at Elsternwick Park in 1967, when the Bloods went down convincingly to St Bernards. Included in the picture, from left to right are Bruce Langford-Jones, Keith MacFarlane, John Rigby, Peter Burke, Daryl Regan, Gil Urquhart, Ross Bannon and Peter Davies.

⁵⁰ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 6 May 1967

⁵¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 1 February 1967

⁵² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 May 1967

⁵³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 May 1967

⁵⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 28 June 1967

⁵⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 28 June 1967

Berggy met the headmaster and various members of staff, discussing a number of matters “which related to the poor image of the OHAFC in the school”.⁵⁶ A second letter (from the school) followed the meeting, and “appeared more derogatory than the original indictment”!⁵⁷ The indefatigable Berggy met again with Bradshaw, this time in camera, which seemed to clear the air at least temporarily.

The club made a major effort to improve its image following one of John Augustine’s many suggestions, that being to cease the serving of refreshments after Saturday’s matches by 6.30pm;⁵⁸ it would never have done in the Cookie Game years! More soft drinks were served after the game too, but perhaps the reputation acquired in these times remained, even to the time of the club’s departure from Keysborough nearly twenty years later.

The club’s other major problem was that the Halifax Street oval really was too small for senior football. Again the President was all set to be heavily involved in negotiations, this time with the Brighton City Council and its engineer.⁵⁹ Fearing the VAFA might rule the ground unsuitable for amateur football, it resolved not to enter into discussions with the Council until official notification was received from the VAFA. The threat did not materialise in 1967 but remained in the back of the committee’s mind and would return on a fairly regular basis in later years.



Pastoral scenes from the club BBQ at David Bremer’s Kallista property in the summer of 1966-67.

DONALD EDWARD LORD

Don Lord has been one of the strongest and longest-standing pillars of the Old Haileyburians’ Amateur Football Club. Since retiring as a player, more than anyone it has been Don’s fund-raising efforts that have kept the club financially afloat.

Lord started as a lean youth straight out of school and experienced the heady success of the Davies era in the early 1960s. At full-back he was a straight-ahead player and particularly good spoiler. Don’s style might have been unspectacular and he was not one to leave the ground, but his judgement was sound and he kicked long torpedoes to clear the ball from defence.

Easy-going off the ground, it was a different story on, and Lord was reported as a player, runner and goal umpire! Farcically he received a twelve-month suspension for “adopting a threatening attitude to the umpire” after a frustrating reserves match against Preston in 1966. Having abused the Man in White most of the day, at the end of the game Lord put his arm around the umpire’s shoulder and light-heartedly reviewed his performance. Team mate Nigel Murch copped eighteen months for the same offence.

Even spectators felt the wrath of Don’s tongue, notable Ivanhoe’s famously vociferous “Dame Ida” who for once was speechless after telling Lord, “If you were my son I’d give you poison” and his response of “If I was your son I’d take it!”

Don suffered another major interruption to his career when he broke both tibia and fibula at Halifax Street with a gunshot crack. It was a credit to his determination and love of the game that he was able to resume playing and reach 200 games.

Continued over page...

⁵⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 July 1967

⁵⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 July 1967

⁵⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 July 1967

⁵⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 July 1967

The firsts' last win for the season was against Old Carey in round nine. The club's press correspondent concluded that being "first to the ball we can beat any team".⁶⁰ The skipper starred in this rare triumph.

Positions in the firsts rotated as success eluded the team in the second half, and altogether forty-five players were tried. Four drubbings in five weeks followed the Carey game, despite a fine effort against Alphington. The final three matches were relatively close-fought losing affairs for the Bloods, but nevertheless there were "signs of improvement which augured well for next year".⁶¹

The highlight of the reserves' season was an 86-point win over St Kevins, an extraordinary achievement for a fairly unsuccessful team. Alan Ross, despite his bad knee, kicked four goals, as did Colin "Flame" Davies while the younger Langford-Jones notched three. Two other raw recruits made their debuts in this game, the skin and bones Rob Pollock and that year's school captain of football, Rob "Mordy Mac" Mackay.



A svelte Don Lord in front of the Gadsden Pavilion prior to his 200th game in 1976. Michael Troup in the background.

Donald Edward Lord continued...

Discussion of Don Lord is not complete without mention of his role as the guardian of Brian "Johnny Splash" Sprague, famed as non-playing captain of the reserves. Splash would change for the toss, perform his skipper's duties and revert to civvies for the game. Splash went on to greater notoriety wailing in song and playing the guitar at the Grand Final Breakfast. "Lordy" ran these functions, the club's biggest fundraiser, for a decade from the mid-1990s and rarely if ever missed a Breakfast from its inception in 1977.

As if helping out one football club wasn't enough, Lord's other great love, the Tigers, saw him appointed as a Director at Richmond in 2001, a position he still holds.

*205 games (170 1sts, 35 Reserves), 3
2 goals (24 1sts, 8 Reserves), 1962-78*

Member 1963 & 1969 1sts premiership teams

Jumper number 3

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1976

Coach Reserves 1978

President 1977

Vice-President 1984

Treasurer 1980-81

Committee 1975-81, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2002-03

⁶⁰ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 June 1967

⁶¹ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 19 August 1967

It had been an unhappy year, and at the Annual General Meeting the President “indicated that there would be a tougher policy in the club in 1968 to ensure payment of subscriptions and general discipline within the club”.⁶² The club ran at a loss, largely due to a failure to run the raffle and despite the notable success of the ladies’ committee. Socially the year was very quiet, although a “pleasant Sunday morning” was held at David Bremer’s Menzies Creek country estate. Rick Horne’s laundry was the venue for a notable night of extra-nuptial activities. For the last time the Annual Dinner was a buck’s night, held at Sierakowski’s Hotel, now a massive Dan Murphy’s liquor outlet.

Perhaps the team most representative of the year played at West Brunswick in round eleven. Its members were:

Backs: Graham Currie, John Rigby, Gil Urquhart
Half-backs: Peter Burke, Peter Davies (captain), Dennis Caddy
Centres: Norm Edwards, Andrew Home, David Young
Half-forwards: Russell Hare, Max Lyon, Ross Bannon
Forwards: John Lambert, Tony Elsom, Adrian Bode
Followers: John Stahmer, Peter Bowring
Rover: Peter MacFarlane
Reserves: Dick Metherall, Keith MacFarlane

So despite Davies’ return, 1967 was extremely disappointing, the firsts winning only two games and the reserves three. Few goals were kicked, Tony Elsom leading the firsts with only 26. The relationship with the school had been a major concern, and the struggle to remain in C Grade had been lost. The club was clearly “Still a Child”.



The last home game of 1967, and the first eighteen were defeated by Power House in an entertaining struggle that ensured their relegation from C Grade. Despite the gravity of the situation, the team could still manage a few smiles. The big mystery of this photograph is how Dicky Metherall managed to squeeze between Peter MacFarlane and the team mascot!

Back row: David Cox (trainer), Ian Rankine, Ross Bannon, Colin Quick, Dennis Caddy, Gil Urquhart, Tony Elsom, John Lambert, Max Lyon, David Metherall.

Centre row: Peter Bowring, Keith MacFarlane, John Rigby, Peter Davies (captain-coach), Andrew Home, Peter Burke, Don Lord.

Front row: Ross Wilson, Paul Godfree, Adrian Bode, “The Little Princess”, Dick Metherall, Peter MacFarlane, Andrew Langford-Jones.

⁶² Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 4 December 1967



Against Power House the reserves went even closer than the firsts, losing by three points with the addition of a few enthusiastic schoolboys.
Back row: John Latrielle, Roger Johnson, Russell Hare, Peter Reed, Alan Ross, Peter Horne, Peter Hayes, Lex Lasry, David Metherall.
Center row: Norm Edwards, Ken Allison, Jon McCready, Daryl Smith (coach), Brian Sprague (non-playing captain), Dennis Smith, Rob Mackay.
Front row: Ric Mulvey, Graham Currie, Rob Pollock, Rick Horne, Graham Neville, Colin Davies.

CHAPTER 3

VIBRANT ADOLESCENT 1968-74



1968 - The Young Ones

In 1968 the Old Haileyburians underwent landmark change and their fortunes turned after four years of struggle. Many outstanding young players joined, tough as well as talented. One of these, Peter Mason, claimed they decided to play for the club pretty much of their own accord. It is not clear how much the sub-committee of Peter Bowring and the recently-matriculated Rob Pollock had to do with the recruiting of Mason and his brother Jim, Andrew Williams, Garry Marshall, Jim Bonwick, Barry Gartner, Garry "Grin" Miller and, later in the season, John Trapp. Relations with the school had improved to the extent that Rob Pollock noted in his report to the committee "the excellent recruiting by the Headmaster at the (school's) Honours assembly."¹

Darrell Cranch was appointed coach and despite some difficulties with his younger players, particularly at training, Cranch's dedication and enthusiasm for the game would help the team's improvement. Cranch instigated training with weights and medicine balls pre-season,² an advanced development for an amateur club in 1968. Meanwhile the social committee organised a replay of the Menzies Creek barbeque in February and their efforts were well rewarded by over a hundred attendees.³ Even more successfully, David Young was appointed playing coach of the reserves, despite his leg injury.



John Masters in conversation with Tom Fisher at Presentation Night, 1965, the year he first coached the school team to an APS premiership. As Old Haileyburians' coach a decade later, his facial features and nasal intonation were little different.

FRANCIS NORMAN NORTHCOTT

A legend in his own considerable life-time at Haileybury College (forty-eight years, the last twenty-two as vice principal), Frank Northcott has been one of the Old Haileyburians' most loyal supporters. The only time Frank's involvement with the Club was ever less than agreeable was when he acted as a most impartial chairman of the VAFA tribunal. He also chaired the VFA's independent Umpires' Board.

Through the 1960s and 1970s, rare was the Old Haileyburian footballer who had not had some form of contact with Frank at school, even if some of it had involved the whippy end of a cane and a nervous rump. He brought the same dry, characteristic humour he exhibited at school along with an extraordinary memory for faces and names of old students which often extended to their fathers. A gruff exterior concealed his genuine affection for boys he taught, especially after they left, and even more so if they had been boarders in "good old Rendall", where he was the first resident house-master.

As compère of quiz nights at McKinnon, Frank would preside imperiously over proceedings, resplendent in his red jacket. Famous as an accounting master, he was a stabilising influence, loyal spectator, and generous unsung benefactor. Like any good accountant his credits far outweighed any debits. On his retirement from teaching in 1982 he attracted a record attendance to the Old Boys' Dinner, and reminisced to a captive audience for well over an hour.

The initials FNN suggested Frank's well-known nick-name and he was a familiar sight sitting up straight behind the wheel of that old grey Humber. The Runner-up for the Best and Fairest in the First Eighteen receives the FN Northcott Trophy.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1974

VAFA Certificate of Merit 1982

¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 March 1968

² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 December 1967

³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 February 1968

Just before the start of the season the Haileybury community and the club was shocked by the passing of its much-loved President Barry Berggy. The committee observed a minute's silence at its next meeting and appropriately it was Tom Fisher who took over his lost mate's duties of office.

The season began at Halifax Street against National Bank, a future chopping block for the Bloods. Over four goals down after kicking 3.11 (29) in the first half, "a major milestone was passed when the famous third-quarter-it-is was discarded forever with a great six-goal burst against the wind".⁴ Eight more goals with the wind easily sealed the match. The reserves set the scene for a successful season too, winning by nearly fifteen goals, and completed the day as the first in which both Haileyburian sides had kicked over one hundred points.

Two particularly close matches were played on opposite sides of the Yarra. Parkside goaled to win in the last fifteen seconds in the "northern" game and the lucky Bloods teased Fairfield to do the same with under a minute remaining at Halifax Street. The reserves began to win as they pleased, despite having to "literally beat nineteen men to beat Parkside as the "umpire" gave an appalling display and inexplicably murdered us".⁵ The reserves endured the second of their three losses for the season, at the hands of State Savings Bank and, not for the first time, David Young's absence was crucial.

A newsletter was established, and "sent to all supporter members, including Mrs Bannon".⁶ Why she received special mention is unknown, although her son Ross, the previous year's Best and Fairest, was enjoying himself in far-away Numurkah growing bigger if not taller. The retired Rev Boag was again responsible for a successful Mid-season Ball, this time for over two hundred guests at Sergio's Rendezvous.⁷

Pie nights and barbeques were popular social functions, and over the year the club attracted speaking stars such as "Bluey" Adams, Barry Pascoe, Frank Davis and Verdun Howell.⁸

The school gave its permission to a match with the Old Boys on the condition that it be "confined to players leaving school within the last three years",⁹ possibly not thinking that footballers might mellow with age. The game was played on the Queen's Birthday weekend, the school team won by three points, and "several incidents marred the day, but from the club's point of view the match was a success".¹⁰

The firsts tended to win and lose in runs of three, while the reserves just won. Coach Cranch explained this as due to a lack of experience, and pointed out the encouraging features of the club's depth and asset of having most players of above reserve grade standard. The reserves' win against Tooronga-Malvern, and the firsts' success against West Brunswick (following a Friday night team meeting and Peter Bowring's ten goal burst)¹¹ were particularly fine efforts.

The firsts also survived "Zeke's turn" after the AJAX game to score a great win against Assumption, "one of Old Haileyburians' best wins ever – under difficulty".¹² They survived the dual traumas of terrible goal-umpiring and playing with only sixteen fit men for the last

IAN CHARLES NICHOLS

One of the most loyal supporters of the Old Haileyburians' Association and the football club in its first fifty years, Ian "Nic" Nichols was a fixture in the Haileybury community from his return from the Second World War until his death in September 2005.

Nic was a long-serving OHA Councillor and educated all five sons at the school. He maintained an active interest in all aspects of Haileybury life, but none more so than the Bloods, attending almost all games as well as lunches, Quiz Nights and Presentation Nights. He did so when the club was strong and successful but, more importantly, also in years when it was struggling. Raffle prizes invariably included magnificent foliage from his Berna Park Nursery.

It was rare for Nic not to be accompanied by his wife Bette and the legendary Frank Northcott as they watched the Bloods play. Nic richly deserved the honour of Life Membership, and it was one he was extremely proud of.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1985

Committee 1970-72, 1975

⁴ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 April 1968

⁵ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 11 May 1968

⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 April 1968

⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 May 1968

⁸ OHAFC 1968 Annual Report (submitted 17 February 1969)

⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 April 1968

¹⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 14 June 1968

¹¹ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 June 1968

¹² Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 6 July 1968

fifteen minutes. David "Wedge" Eagle's marking and Don "Ducky" Dowling's impressive debut in the Big Time complimented Peter Davies' performance at centre-half back. On the same day at Royal Park the reserves "recorded a really good win against what must be the dirtiest team ever to grace a football field".¹³ Press correspondent Max Lyon was not referring to the performance of the Kilmore team's launderers.

Old Haileyburians' senior finals prospects effectively ended with the loss against National Bank, but the firsts still finished the year well to settle for fifth position. This included a Bonwick-inspired victory against St Kevins in which the curly-haired rover dominated; "in his first full senior game ... after a nasty gash over the eye (three stitches) in the first quarter ... he tore fearlessly into the play all day".¹⁴

The obviously flush club acquired an honour board, and gold leaf letters were emblazoned on the board at a cost of eight cents each.¹⁵ It was supplied by former Australian Test cricketer Ern McCormick, the man who made the Sir Frank Worrell Trophy for series between Australia and the West Indies.

Just prior to the reserves' forthcoming finals matches Darrell Cranch "criticised the lack of dedication by some players in taking snow trips during the season".¹⁶ This before the days of Gadsden! For those who stayed at home there was Marshalls' warming barbecue.



John Rigby in reflective mood as he poses for the camera.

JOHN FARQUAR RIGBY

The popular John Rigby was a self-effacing and unsung character who contributed much to club life. For many years he held down the key defensive posts in the reserves, but tended to play on the flanks and pockets in the seniors. His size and leap enabled him to ruck occasionally. A very solid player, Rigby was faster with his mouth than his feet and talked constantly on the field.

Usually a mild-mannered, bespectacled accountant, "Ruggles" occasionally displayed a temper that matched the fire in his neat ginger hair. He unfortunately featured in incidents such as "protecting" goal umpire Graham Harwood as a spectator in a 1966 Preston game, and was king-hit by a spectator when playing against Old Brighton. He was felled very early in the reserves' semi-final replay against Fairfield in 1973, his last ever game.

Then there was the day Rigby took what he thought was a mark in the goal square against Power House, whose goal umpire Lindsay Worledge had played for the OHAFC and happened to be a work colleague of Rigby's. When Worledge paid a goal, Rigby pushed his workmate in the chest, dislodged his spectacles and found himself the first Old Haileyburian to face Frank Northcott at the tribunal.

John Rigby's other contributions to the club included a three-year stint as Treasurer and, only slightly less valuably, acting as one of Brian Sprague's guardians.

*158 games (68 1sts, 90 Reserves),
21 goals (5 1sts, 16 Reserves), 1965-73*

Jumper number 20

Vice-captain Reserves 1973

Treasurer 1974-76

Committee 1966, 1974-76

¹³ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 6 July 1968

¹⁴ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 July 1968

¹⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 14 July 1968

¹⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 August 1968

A nervous reserves team played their worst football for the year in their second semi-final against Parkside. But captain-coach Young's stabilising influence, along with the manifest talent of Dowling, the determination of Pollock, Colin "Harry" Quick's five goals and the nous of Rod Home (returned from the United States) saw them through, despite Parkside's "famous softening-up tactics".¹⁷ Rob Mackay and Barry Gartner replaced what must have been a disappointed Rick Horne and Phil Marshall for the Grand Final, which left a team of:

Backs: Ian Fraser, Russell Hare, Steve Thistlethwaite

Half-backs: Dennis Roberts, Ross Wilson, Barry Gartner

Centres: Rob Pollock, David Young (captain), Graham Neville

Half-forwards: John Trapp, Ken Allison, Dick Metherall

Forwards: Don Dowling, Colin Quick, Jim Bonwick

Followers: Rod Home, Peter Reed

Rover: Peter MacFarlane

Reserves: Rob Mackay, Michael Bowden

That back line was the meanest in the club's history, and conceded only 800 points for the entire season, including the finals.

The Bloods nearly wasted a year's work in the first quarter, when they notched only 1.2 (8) with the aid of a strong breeze. However, a magnificent second quarter against the wind gave them a small lead at half time. Wasted opportunities on the forward line during the third quarter left them with a very unsafe lead at three-quarter time.



Gil Urquhart at the end of his 162-game career in 1975.

GILBERT OWEN URQUHART

Quiet and gentlemanly, Gil Urquhart was a school high jump champion and showed this ability on the football field with some prodigious leaps before his thirteen or fourteen stone frame stayed closer to the turf later in his career. Another Alan Morrow style "Collingwood six-footer", Gil was possibly a little undersized for the ruck.

"Urq" or "Gilberto" preferred not to wear his spectacles on the field but this seemed to cause little difficulty when marking. He was strong and steady, an awkward but long kick, rarely angered and never violent. Murray Ponsford remembered a St Patricks Ballarat player clumsily treading on Urquhart's neck and the big fellow merely rubbing the offended part.

Urquhart taught at Rusden and played for the Old Haileyburians' Cricket Club in its early days in the Federal League, protecting more volatile team mates such as John Rigby. He was always good when the chips were down.

*162 games (107 1sts, 55 Reserves),
73 goals (36 1sts, 37 Reserves), 1964-75*

*Member 1969 1sts & 1973
Reserves Premiership teams*

Jumper number 18

Best & Fairest Reserves 1972

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1973

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1973 (19 goals)

Committee 1965-66

¹⁷ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 31 August 1968

The last quarter saw Old Haileyburians' best team effort for the year when they put in a one hundred percent effort to notch two good goals against the wind to seal the game. AJAX only scored heavily in the time-on period as the Bloods tired and had the game gone another five minutes the result might have been different.

This was a particularly good team effort, as for the only time this season, captain-coach Dave Young had a quiet day. Thistlethwaite and Wilson played the games of their lives on the backline – the courage and determination of small players Bonwick and Pollock inspired their teammates – and the class of Dowling and MacFarlane gave great drive. Many others contributed to a great team effort due to the tremendous team spirit instilled by Captain-coach Dave Young throughout the season.

1968 D Reserve Section Grand Final at Albert Park, 14 September 1968

Old Haileyburians	1.2	3.8	6.11	8.13 (61)
AJAX	0.0	3.1	4.3	8.4 (52)

Goals: Allison 2, Quick 2, Young 2, Bonwick, Dowling

Best players: Dowling, MacFarlane, Wilson, Pollock, Thistlethwaite, Bonwick

The boys followed this mighty win, the club's second premiership, with a famous night at Russell Hare's. The skipper's attire of Al Capone suit and red-painted desert boots complemented the entertainment provided by Johnny Beshara and his band of renown.

For the first time the Presentation Dinner was held at the Sandringham Yacht Club, which hosted 230 guests including parents, members of the OHA Council and supporters. Mrs Augustine presented the new honour board on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary.¹⁹ The Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Service donated by the deceased President's son, John, was presented for the first time, to Tony Kellock.

"Doctor" Ric Mulvey, despite playing in only twelve games, took off the Best and Fairest. Runner-up Dave Eagle impressed the umpires more than Old Haileyburians' judges, as he also finished second in the competition voting. Eagle only played in thirteen matches, and his marking attracted plenty of attention. Reserves captain-coach David Young capped off an almost perfect season to win the D Reserve Grade Best and Fairest; naturally enough he won the club's award too, having led the premiership team and its goal kicking. What more could one man do?

Out of the ashes of relegation had come heart-warming success. Perhaps the consolidation of the first eighteen had been overlooked in the flush of the reserves' success, but long-term it was of as much importance to the club as the morale boost of a reserves premiership. A platform for the following season's endeavours was built.

¹⁸ Max Lyon, Match report in OHAFC archives, 14 September 1968
¹⁹ OHAFC 1968 Annual Report (submitted 17 February 1969)

1969 - New Legends

President for four of the previous five years, Tom Fisher finally stepped down for a well-earned rest, and retired to the less demanding tasks of selling *The Amateur Footballer* and collecting players' valuables. The stability of the club's leaders was evident in that the new incumbent, Ross Venn, was only its fourth President. Twelve seasons passed under these first four leaders.

Venn's return to the fold was accompanied by the appointment of outstanding Haileybury football personality Rodger Head as assistant to the meticulous Cranch.²⁰ Considering Head's distinguished football background, Cranch surely must have felt a little as if he was in the hot seat. If so, it didn't affect his performance in 1969.

The enthusiasm of the previous year continued, and several players began training before the first official sessions in late February. Debate on the merits of the Halifax Street Reserve continued, and the Sandringham Council granted the club the use of the Beaumaris Community Centre Oval in February,²¹ but this ground was not ready for the start of the season. The club remained at Brighton, no doubt to the relief of Khyat's proprietors.

Old Boy activist David Bremer again hosted the March barbeque, and the season was under way. Recruiting was perhaps disappointing; Peter Gadsden and Peter Atkinson were the prize captures, but numbers were noted as being "quite satisfactory".²² According to the February minutes, absences were reasons such as training at St Bernards and visiting America (Dowling), the removal of fingers (Brearley) and, of course, skiing (Gadsden).



The club's second premierships team, the 1968 reserves, before their grand final against AJAX at Albert Park. A few nervous grins, but mainly grimaces here.

Back row: Ken Allison, Ross Wilson, Steve Thistlethwaite, Don Dowling, Peter Reed, Rod Home, Dennis Roberts, Russell Hare and Colin Quick.

Centre row: Peter MacFarlane, John Trapp, Barry Gartner, Rob Mackay, Peter Hayes and Graham Neville.

Front row: Jim Bonwick, Ian Fraser, Dick Metherall, captain-coach David Young, Rob Pollock, Michael Bowden and Malcolm Faul.

DARRELL OSWALD HAMILTON CRANCH

Opinions varied widely on the merits of Darrell "Cruncher" Cranch, from one of the club's best ever coaches to less flattering assessments from some of his younger players. There was an aspect of generational gap in that the meticulous tactician coached the seniors when himself in his fifties.

Cranch's fascinating football career included stints as a player for the Richmond reserves, and as a VFL boundary and goal umpire in the 1940s and 1950s. In the latter role he officiated in eleven VFL finals games, including the 1955 ("Healey/Adams") and 1959 Grand Finals, as well as Interstate matches and Australian Football Carnivals. Later he served as a Richmond talent scout.

Old Haileyburians first appealed to Cranch as a team of potential when he coached East Malvern in the mid-1960s. He took the Bloods to the 1969 premiership in his second year but was deposed for Rodger Head after losing the 1970 C Grade preliminary final. Cranch was particularly unhappy with the decision. He had disagreed with the selection panel over the use of taggers for this game.

Cranch's characteristics and passions included the ability to talk the proverbial legs off a table; a thirst for research that extended to knowing where the sprinklers were and phoning the weather bureau; lengthy blackboard talks; rubber-band reminders for players to wear on their fingers; and displeasure at Thursday night pilgrimages to Khyat's. He was well-known for kicking "toers", drop-kicks executed with the hard toe of the boot that would travel thirty yards over the ground and sixty up in the air.

Clearly a football tragic, Darrell Cranch coached Old Brighton, Old Melburnians, Noble Park, State Bank and Monash after Old Haileyburians. Before Michael Porter departed in 1979, Cranch was almost appointed his assistant, but he eventually returned to coach the under-nineteens for a year in the mid-1980s.

Coach 1sts Premiership team 1969

Coach 1sts 1968-70; Coach U19s 1985

²⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 11 February 1969

²¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 26 February 1969

²² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 2 April 1969

Peter Burke returned from England to resume as Press Correspondent and his familiar role in the Bloods' backline. Coach Cranch reinforced the effects of talking back to umpires and bad language to the players and committee, following "several incidents in practice matches (which) had been unnecessary".²³

Tom Fisher had to wait until the second round against Old Trinity to unfurl the reserves' premiership flag. This was perhaps just as well, because the team lost their opening match by three points. The firsts started the season well with a second-half demolition of AMP, after Peter Bowring had been moved to full-forward and obliged the coach by threading six majors. The unfurling was more successful, as the reserves pipped Old Trinity by a point in the wind after being well down. This was Old Trinity reserves' first loss for two seasons. Bowring, on a bet and a goal-kicking spree, kicked six more goals in the firsts' strong win.

After a third round defeat against St Kevins, the reserves set a new club record with an undefeated run of twelve matches. The firsts began a sequence of equal length the following round (although one of these matches was drawn), so for eleven weeks the club went undefeated. Both teams survived Parkside early in their runs of success to rendezvous at Sergio's again. The committee discussed an incident involving one Ian Hutchison, who was "barred from future activities of the club at the discretion of the committee";²⁴ he later apologised for his behaviour.



A characteristic shot of the uber-casual Ric Mulvey, all baggy shorts, ripped sleeves and wispy hair. If only he could turn around to show half his number tucked into the back of his trunks.

ERIC JAMES MULVEY

"Ric" Mulvey was an even less likely looking footballer than Andy Home, and resembled Kevin Bartlett in the hair stakes. Mulvey's socks were never pulled up, half his over-sized jumper number was hidden, tucked into baggy shorts accentuated by a slender frame and exceptionally white skin. Under the shorts would frequently be boxer-short pyjamas.

Appearances were deceptive, however. In his lackadaisical way Mulvey retained a keen sense of where the ball was, and his courage was never in doubt. His tenacity made up for his poor kicking.

As a doctor at Box Hill Hospital, Mulvey was the club's resident expert on social health problems. He was regularly seen to drive home in his football gear, or to hospital with his white coat over the top. "Mulv" enjoyed his drink after the game and was considered fine company. Mulvey's medical career eventually took him to faraway locations in New South Wales such as Wee Waa and Coffs Harbour.

*72 games (62 1sts, 10 Reserves),
37 goals (35 1sts, 2 Reserves), 1965-71*

Jumper number 57

Best & Fairest 1sts 1968

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1965

²³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 2 April 1969

²⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 25 June 1969

The early rounds of 1969 were marked by wet and windy conditions. The club newsletter made some colourful observations. Against AJAX in round seven, "after a brilliant first quarter resulting in a lead of nine goals, the game degenerated into mud-pie slapstick with a water fight encore".²⁵ The reserves had "another grand win, thanks to a watertight defence and a punishing second half, precipitated by Ripples' vehement harangue during intermission".²⁶ Andrew Home became the first player to play 150 games for the club on this extremely wet day, having missed only five along the way. So poor were the conditions this day that the VFL took the rare step of cancelling their round, much to the Amateurs' unconcealed delight.

The newsletter also welcomed three new recruits, "all good blokes",²⁷ Bruce Healey, Lou Irving and Keith Ryall, a member of the school staff. In round nine against St Patricks, reserves' full-forward Peter Atkinson kicked a then-record ten goals and Peter Bowring kicked eight in the corresponding senior game. Atkinson was unfortunate to play few games in the firsts, but Bowring's presence made his inclusion difficult. "Atko" and Phil Marshall were both involved in car accidents during the year, but more spectacular and bizarre efforts from the club's motorists were yet to come. By round eleven the club headed both ladders. Brilliant opening and closing quarters won the firsts' return match against Assumption, the side having been a point down at three quarter time.



David Young won two senior Best and Fairests, captain-coached the reserves to a premiership and in 1973 coached the senior team.

DAVID WILLIAM YOUNG

Continual knee problems to brilliant little rover David Young were perhaps a blessing in disguise for the Bloods. "Youngy" stepped down a level, and captain-coached the reserves to their first premiership. Nick-named "Ripples" after his wiry, almost boyish physique, in his first year Young won the first of two senior Best and Fairests.

Fast, strong, smart and very competitive, Young has claims to being the Bloods' best ever rover. For his size he was an exceptional player, especially tenacious, overcoming injuries including a dislocated shoulder and those wonky knees. In the club's early days "Youngster" was part of the Smith/Home/Young half-forward line that bothered opponents so much in E and D grade.

Once concerned he was not attacking the ball hard enough, Ripples decided the cure was a few beers before the game for a bit of "Dutch courage". But he overdid the strategy and giggled his way through the coach's pre-match address.

As captain-coach, Young led the 1968 reserves premiership team by example. However, if he failed on his one good leg, then frequently so did the team. Senior coach in 1973, Young ground them into the dirt at training, and made the survivors continually sprint up and down the ground. Peter Bowring's chafe flared to new levels.

David Young has continued his keen interest in the Club more or less uninterrupted. The astute little man has been highly valued as a selector, talent scout and advisor by many coaches and team leaders for decades.

134 games (86 1sts, 48 Reserves),
197 goals (116 1sts, 81 Reserves), 1962-74

Member 1963 1sts & 1968 Reserves
(Captain-coach) Premiership teams

Jumper number 31

Best & Fairest 1sts 1962, 1964

Best & Fairest Reserves 1968, 1969

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1968 (30 goals)

Coach 1sts 1973; Captain-coach Reserves
1968-69; Coach Reserves 1972

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1994

Committee 1995-96

VAFA D Reserve Grade Best & Fairest 1968, 1969

²⁵ OHAFC Newsletter 14 June 1969

²⁶ OHAFC Newsletter 14 June 1969

²⁷ OHAFC Newsletter 14 June 1969

Towards the tail end of the season the teams began to stagnate. Some variety to the grind of training was introduced by a visit to “Squashways”, where President Ross Venn, Bill Neville, David Robertson and convivial nurseryman Ian Nichols starred.²⁸ Against the lowly State Savings Bank, “after coagulating for three quarters the Bloods warmed to the task of balancing a seven-goal deficit in the space of thirty minutes. The tattered tellers looked on incredulously as the lads, firing impudently from the hip, peppered the timber with awesome aplomb (Bowring eight goals)”.²⁹

Against Parkside the warning bells continued to ring, as the Bloods scraped in for a draw and both teams did little more than to go through the motions in typically lethargic and disconcerting displays. Apparently the “sway” at Bolton Mansions following this game was a great success; the Metropolitan Fire Brigade contributed to the evening’s entertainment.³⁰

The reserves’ run came to an end with a weakened side on a particularly windy day against AJAX, and the firsts finally relaxed enough for a shock defeat against West Brunswick which may well have done more good than harm. Their response was to crush St Patricks in the final home and away game, Bowring adding another eleven goals to his imposing tally.

Both teams qualified for the second semi-final for the only time in the club’s history, both games being played at Albert Park Number Twenty oval. The reserves, without the injured David Young, were walloped by a bigger AMP side strengthened by senior players. The efforts of Colin Quick in kicking three goals (of the team’s four), Gil Urquhart and John Rigby were to little avail.

In the main game Assumption took control after a fine opening by the Bloods. Many players were down on form; Assumption won well in the air and eventually on the scoreboard. Haileyburians’ best were Peter Gadsden, Rob Pollock and Andrew Langford-Jones.



Ross Venn surveys proceedings in his days as President in 1970. On his right is Rod Home. On his left is future VAFA President Alex Johnson, Tom Fisher and an unusually grim-looking Ian Nichols.

ROSS BEAUMONT VENN

The hard-working Ross Venn was the first man to serve a four-year term as the Old Haileyburians’ President. Venn also coached the team for most of its first year in 1961, when Cookie Games made domestic harmony difficult for the man known as “Chalky”, “Rosscoe” or “Venny”.

A great schoolboy sportsman and noted for his “showy” style, Venn arrived at the Old Haileyburians via Collegians and after captaining the 1960 Old Brighton reserves.

Venn’s presidency came at a nomadic time for the club, which played at Halifax Street, then Beaumaris, back to Brighton and then prepared to move to Keysborough. Venn and his wife Patsy were frequently great hosts to the club before he quietly slipped away to concentrate on his profession as an accountant.

2 games (both 1sts), no goals, 1961

Coach 1sts 1961

President 1969-72

Committee 1979

²⁸ OHAFC Newsletter 14 June 1969

²⁹ OHAFC Newsletter 14 June 1969

³⁰ OHAFC Newsletter 9 August 1969

The story of the second semi-final was not complete with the final siren however. Future VFL ruckman Peter "Crackers" Keenan, had played a wonderful game, but over an after-match beer with his vanquished opponent blurted out how much he had also enjoyed his footy "up the bush" in Yarrawonga that year.

Of all the people to confess his sins to, Keenan chose a very attentive Zeke Davies. A protest was lodged, upheld and Assumption forfeited the match for playing the unregistered ruckman. Zeke's detective work had seen Old Haileyburians through to the Grand Final and C Grade.

Old Trinity ended the reserves' season in a close Preliminary final, wearing down the smaller and physically weaker Old Haileyburians side. Jim Bonwick, Barry Gartner and "Hot" MacFarlane tried hard in a team that lined up as:

Backs: Barry Gartner, Russell Hare, Rod Home

Half-backs: Keith MacFarlane, John Rigby, Ross Wilson

Centres: Brodie Cross, Peter MacFarlane, Graham Neville

Half-forwards: Nigel Sawyer, Peter Burke, Dick Metherall

Forwards: Robert Jackson, Peter Atkinson, Peter McCready

Followers: John Lambert, Steve Thistlethwaite

Rover: Jim Bonwick

Reserves: David Young (captain), Peter Dawson



David Young's reserves team were unable to repeat their previous year's success, and despite finishing on top of the table lost both their finals games in 1969. The firsts' win was fair compensation though.

Back row: Peter Burke, Ross Wilson, Rob Jackson, Rod Home, John Rigby, Peter Atkinson and Dennis Caddy.

Centre row: Bruce Langford-Jones, Peter MacFarlane, Nigel Sawyer, Barry Gartner and Garry Miller.

Front row: Mike Travis, Dicky Metherall, captain-coach David Young, Jim Bonwick, Michael Bowden and Graham Neville.

Not unnaturally a great deal of feeling was expected in the Grand Final when Assumption qualified by winning the Preliminary final. Selection dramas included the replacement of Dick Metherall, injured in the reserves' Preliminary final, previous premiers captain-coach Peter Davies, and Jim Bonwick. Garry Miller, Bruce Langford-Jones and Gil Urquhart took their places, although the latter two had not played a senior game since rounds fourteen and twelve respectively. The final selected team was:

Backs: Bruce Langford-Jones, Don Lord, Daryl Regan

Half-backs: Garry Marshall, Peter Gadsden, Max Lyon

Centres: Peter MacFarlane, Andrew Williams, Rob Pollock

Half-forwards: Peter Mason, Andrew Langford-Jones, Andrew Home (captain)

Forwards: Gil Urquhart, Peter Bowring, Jim Mason

Followers: John Lambert, Dave Eagle

Rover: Adrian Bode

Reserves: Peter Burke, Garry Miller



The 1969 First Eighteen, the club's last senior premiers team for twenty years. In general there are quiet smiles of proud contentment, from the veterans to the recruits. Unfortunately the skipper, Andrew Home, and prime mover Peter Mason were absent.

Back row: Max Lyon, Peter Burke, Peter Gadsden, Gil Urquhart, John Lambert, Dennis Caddy, Garry Marshall and Peter Bowring.

Center row: are Bruce Langford-Jones, Andrew Williams, David Eagle, coach Darrell Cranch, Don Lord, Andrew Langford-Jones and Garry Miller.

First row: Dicky Metherall, Peter MacFarlane, Rob Pollock, Jim Bonwick and Jim Mason.

Only Don Lord, Andrew Home, Peter MacFarlane, Peter Bowring and Peter Burke remained of 1963's premiership team. At Albert Park's Harry Trott Oval, Assumption won the toss and kicked with a slight wind. It was an even first quarter with neither side scoring a goal until the bell when Assumption scored (0-2-2 to 1-2-8). However in the second quarter Old Haileyburians were unable to capitalise on many forward moves whereas Assumption scored two goals against the breeze on their rare occasions up forward. The situation looked desperate at half-time with the side three goals down but in a position where they hadn't scored a goal.

In the third quarter the wind faded and Peter Mason kicked two quick goals which put the side back into the hunt. It also had the effect of lifting the side's confidence and at three-quarter time the team was only four points down 3.2 (20) to 3.6 (24). In this particular quarter the defence was magnificent with Garry Marshall brilliant on many occasions.

The final quarter saw an avalanche of goals, with skipper Andrew Home leading the way kicking an "impossible" goal from the boundary-line. Assumption were rattled and tired as Old Haileyburians bombarded the goals to win comfortably by twenty-six points 10.3 (63) to 5.7 (37).³¹

Daryl Regan slotted three goals, having previously kicked only two for the season, while Bowring, Mason and Home each kicked two goals and Dave Eagle one. Bruce Langford-Jones justified his selection with a fine performance; Garry Marshall, Peter Gadsden, Andrew Home, Andrew Williams and John "Rev" Lambert made up the best six.

1969 D Section Grand Final at Harry Trott Oval, 6 September 1969

Old Haileyburians	0.2	0.2	3.2	10.3 (63)
Assumption Old Collegians	1.2	3.2	3.6	5.7 (37)

Goals: Regan 3, Bowring 2, Home 2, P Mason 2, Eagle

Best players: B Langford-Jones, Marshall, Gadsden, Home, Williams, Lambert

Garry and Phil Marshall's parents, always enthusiastic supporters, hosted the post-match celebrations with a barbeque. The attendance of parents was a feature of the night, as it had been of the year and was a major strength of the club in this era. Bruce Marshall himself, Frank Jackson, Geoff Bowring, Mervyn Langford-Jones, Harry Metherall and Bob MacFarlane were always conspicuous for the interest they held in their sons' footballing endeavours.

As became a popular habit, the Presentation Dinner was held at the Sandringham Yacht Club for a capacity crowd of 230 people at the very reasonable price of eight dollars a double.³² The days of this function being a gentlemen's night were well and truly over, and the ladies were an integral part of the scene.

Fittingly, Tom Fisher was awarded the Barrie Berggy trophy in this most successful of years. The robust Andrew Williams' efforts in the pivot and on the wing gave him the cherished honour of Best and Fairest in a premiership team. Dave Eagle's aerial skills (was there ever such an

DARYL FREDERICK REGAN

With fellow high flyer Dave Eagle, "Dazzling" Daryl Regan turned in some spectacular aeronautics for the Bloods. Primarily a tall back-pocket or full-back, he arrived a gangly schoolboy and such was his height and leap Regan would take even high marks on his chest. Later he learnt to take enormous grabs with outstretched hands.

Regan did not always move elegantly, taking loping Gulliver-like strides as he "hoovered" over the ground. At six feet three he was unbeatable in the air on his day, helped by great judgement, confidence and a willingness to punch the ball defensively rather than mark when necessary.

Another of the pale-skinned brigade, Regan fitted in with eccentric dressers such as Andy Home and Ric Mulvey. He would customarily arrive with desert boots and a rollicking gait. Regan warmed the number sixty-nine guernsey for a later famous wearer in Geoff Sincock; his posture on landing was unimportant as the number appeared the same to spectators upside-down or right-side-up. Most famous, however, were Regan's baggy shorts complete with pockets for the tennis matches they were designed for. Sometimes a handkerchief trailed from one of the cavernous pouches of these "Bombay Bloomers", which were thought to act as a parachute on Daryl's frequent downward journeys.

As Secretary, Regan showed the ability to précis a hotly-debated three hour meeting to half a page. After football he took up an appointment as Personnel Manager for retailing giant Target in Adelaide.

*104 games (99 1sts, 5 Reserves),
21 goals (15 1sts, 6 Reserves), 1966-72*

Member 1969 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 69

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1971

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1970

Secretary 1970-72

Committee 1969-73

³¹ Peter Burke, Match report in OHAFC archives, 6 September 1969

³² OHAFC Newsletter 23 August 1969

appropriate name?) were again popular with the D Grade umpires, who voted him third in the competition, just ahead of Peter Gadsden, the recruiting success of the year.

So ended the club's second premiership year, the major triumph of an era that held a few more before its time ran out. A more successful ascent into C Grade followed.



Players gather for the unfurling of the 1969 premiership at the club's first game at Beaumaris. Playing Hampton Rovers, the Bloods won by 11 points. The date is April 11, 1970. Players, left to right, are Max Lyon, Jim Bonwick, Rob Jackson, John Rigby, Ian Fraser, Andrew Williams (with socks up!), Rob Pollock (complete with ankle bandages), Jim Mason, Adrian Bode and John Lambert.

1970 - Beaumaris Bound

Old Haileyburians began the era of handball at a new base, the Beaumaris Community Centre Reserve. No doubt the constant threat of Halifax Street's unsuitability with the VAFA proved unpalatable to the committee, who would have moved the previous year were it possible. On pre-season inspection, however, the committee were "disgusted" with the state of Beaumaris and particularly the pavilion; "no hot water, no power points, no pegs, toilets filthy".³³ Nonetheless, the playing surface was one of the best ever used by the club.

There was a shuffling of positions on the committee. Tony Kellock relinquished the secretary's pen to the gangly Daryl Regan after five industrious years. The committee took on a decidedly more Old Haileyburians' Association Council flavour with the addition of Bill Butters and Ian Nicholls.



Andrew Williams shapes up for his Best and Fairest photo in 1969. Just a boy in his second year at the club.

ANDREW JOHN LAURIE WILLIAMS

Andrew Williams was perhaps an atypical Old Haileyburian footballer for his era, one who loved the physical side of the game. Exceptionally strong, he used his body and weight to advantage, playing in the centre or on some unfortunate wingman. Best and Fairest in a premiership team, later in his career Andy moved to the forward line with considerable success, especially when the winds howled down towards the market garden end of the Fisher Oval. He generally concealed a genuine affection for the game, succeeding conspicuously so in the late-1970s.

Williams was well-endowed with pace, obviously blessed with a predominance of fast-twitch muscle fibres. Motions, whether made by arm or leg, were rapid. A beautiful drop-kick, he torpedoed well too when distance was demanded; sometimes the two were combined in the Williams torpedo-drop. His hirsuteness had some teammates questioning whether he had completed the evolutionary cycle!

"Andy Will" was invariably, almost superstitiously, last onto the ground by a comfortable margin, cigarette dangling from fingers. One of the few times he did run out first was for his hundredth game, at Halifax Street. Not wishing to make a big occasion of the event, he slipped down the race. An expert at kick to kick during training, Williams also became well known for his canine fan clubs.

Andy was a useful "Enforcer", clever rather than direct; very occasionally he would reveal an errant elbow or a mean streak. Most of this protection was carried out on behalf of the team and Andy was a great team player. He was never reported, and altercations seemed not to affect his game.

In retirement Andy became an inveterate spectator, ever-willing to dish out a dry one-liner to an opposition player or supporter that always had them wondering whether or not he was serious. Inseparable from Peter Mason and David Young during and especially after most games, he just loved a decent post-mortem.

*213 games (142 1sts, 71 Reserves),
241 goals (134 1sts, 107 Reserves), 1968-85*

*Member 1969 1sts & 1973 Reserves
Premiership teams*

Jumper numbers 17 & 40

Best & Fairest 1sts 1969

*Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1979 (33 goals),
1980 (37)*

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1980

Committee 1976-78

³³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 1 April 1970

PETER BRUCE GADSDEN

Training began slowly following the previous year's success, and eighteen players missed the first practice match against ANZ.³⁴ The lethargic attitude was reflected in the team's members often arriving for the game after the coach's appointed hour of 1:15pm.³⁵ The team hierarchy appointed for the year consisted of the youthful exuberance of third-year player Garry Marshall and second-year player Peter Gadsden, both of whom complemented thinning veteran skipper Andy Home. The club newsletter reported that "Andy Home after comparing last year's looks to this years is thinking of doing a Harry Beitzel".³⁶

Premiership success attracted twenty-one new players to the club, including stocky forward David Young (who topped the firsts' goal kicking), handball expert Grant Hattam, school captain Peter Kane, Bobby Mehegan, Geoff Abbott and budding sports reporter Stephen Phillips, a growing, strong, useful forward. Best and Fairest winner Ric Mulvey returned too. Playing losses included the customary "premiership retirements" of Bruce Langford-Jones (temporarily), Dave Eagle, Garry Miller and, after two games of the new season, Max Lyon. Rod Home also retired. Peter Burke's progress in the physical education field took him to Perth, and he played only one match for the year, the last of his distinguished career. Jim Mason and Ken Allison did not set foot on a football field in 1970.

Round one was played at the new Beaumaris ground. Visitors Hampton Rovers witnessed not only to the flag-unfurling but also fine displays of football by two superior Haileyburian teams on a perfect day for football. New centre half-forward John Curtis proved a fine acquisition in the next match at St Kilda CBC. However, relaxing after a three-quarter-time lead of five goals, the Bloods scored only three points to St Kilda CBC's seven goals and effectively gave away the match; the reserves were trounced.



Peter Gadsden exhibits his considerable marking skills with a strong example in the 1974 Grand Final against Old Marcellin. Rob Pollock's roving skills will not be required. In the background a young Greg Lucas watches his captain take a firm grip on the ball.

But for the attractions of snow and surf, Peter Gadsden could have reached even greater heights. Big, strong and fast for his size, he was a champion APS hurdler, and captain of the school's football and swimming teams. A favourite description of "Gabby" compared him to a Labrador dog - "Big, boofy and friendly".

Gadsden was a very attacking centre half-back. He specialised in thrilling hundred-yard dashes from defence, which made him a damaging player. The sprints were capped off by an unreliable right-foot kick, but Gabby occasionally used the left slipper too. Big hands enabled a vice-like grip on the ball for marks beyond spoiling.

A couple of years at St Kilda before his career with the Bloods may have contributed to Allan Jeans' receding hair-line, as Gadsden's lack of dedication drove "Yabby" to distraction. As a defender Gadsden was the first Old Haileyburian to win a senior competition Best and Fairest and represent the VAFA. Largely at Rodger Head's instigation, Gadsden later played at centre half-forward to great effect, and set the record for most goals in a senior match with thirteen. Drawn up for National Service in the early-1970s, Gabby still found time to win a Best and Fairest for Sandy Bay in Tasmania.

Gadsden's talent extended to other sports. A keen surfer, he pushed for a place in the Victorian surfing team. Later in life he became a fixture with the Brighton Icebergers. Gadsden's balance on snow-skis won a University "Blue", but the penchant sometimes saw him in trouble, notably for the 1970 first semi-final against Assumption. Snowed-in at Mount Buller, he arrived halfway through the match to Darrell Cranch's unrestrained delight and screams of "Gabby's here!" But the Bloods were well in front, replacement player Bobby Mehegan was playing well, and few shared the coach's concerns.

No mention of the Gadsden family is complete without reference to the generous financial support of the club by Peter's father Bruce. The Gadsden Pavilion bears testimony to his commitment.

71 games (all 1sts), 92 goals (all 1sts), 1969-74

Member 1969 1sts Premiership team & OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper numbers 19 & 21

Best & Fairest 1sts 1970 Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1969; Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1974 (52 goals)

Captain 1sts 1974
Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1970

Committee 1977

VAFA C Grade Best & Fairest 1970,
VAFA Representative 1971

Kicked most goals in a 1sts match
(13 v National Bank, 1974)

³⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 1 April 1970

³⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 29 April 1970

³⁶ OHAFC Newsletter May 1970

By this time Old Haileyburians' contemporary answer to Bourke, Barrot and Clay consisted of the pacy Metherall, muscular Williams and not-quite-six-foot-wingman Pollock. It remained unchanged for all but two of the year's twenty matches.

Assumption took minor revenge in the third round replay of the previous year's final, with "lack of height on the forward line the key reason for lack of success"³⁷. A mid-game lapse at University High completed an indifferent start to the season, but at least Bloods had the toughest section of the competition behind them. Team managers Gordan Moore (aka "Gordonis Moronis", and recognised by his pet expression "no wuz") and Peter McDougall were notable for their fine work.

Against Old Carey, the firsts broke through for a win, followed by five more in succession. Andy Williams kicked his first goal for the club in his fortieth game, "left foot too!"³⁸ The newsletter gave a "conservative estimate of forty to fifty behinds before his first major", a marked contrast to Andy's later days in the goal square for the reserves. In the seconds Lou Irving seemed impassable at centre half-back, but inaugural member Bob Bean's playing days at the club ended with his transfer to Portland.



Peter Mason sends a long kick soaring into the forward line, unusually with his right foot, face lined with aggression and competitiveness. He wears the "Arena" brand boots made famous in the VAFA by Lou Zachariah and in great demand around 1974 when this picture was taken.

PETER LESLIE MASON

A prolific kick-winner, great mark and fierce competitor was Peter Mason, who could easily have won a C Grade competition Best and Fairest had it been anyone but the umpires casting the votes. "Mase" or "Spaceman" was only just big enough for the key forward position, and often played in the centre. In later years he made the gentlemanly transition to a half-back flank.

Opinions on his kicking varied from "a polished left-foot delivery" to "erratic and unreliable", particularly when kicking for goal, and Mason tended to literally throw the ball onto the boot. But when contact was made as desired, the resultant torpedo could be awesome.

Persistent ankle problems did not help, and the champion's legs were frequently wrapped in tape. He did however survive the days of "Arty" and the hot towels. Myopic, he played in the days before contact lenses were a viable alternative to spectacles.

Mase suffered neither umpires nor fools well. As captain he preferred to lead by example rather than words. In his last match in the role, the ill-fated 1976 Grand Final, Mason was reported for a "deliberate trip", for which he received an eight-match suspension. Disillusioned, he briefly retired from the game before making as many comebacks as Melba, including for the "Dad's Army" reserves combination in 1980.

After a break from the club for a few years Mason became a highly regular viewer, especially at McKinnon, although he modestly states that the title of the OHAFC's Richie Benaud belongs to his wife Willy, who he estimates would have watched over 700 games. A keen observer and critic, especially of the club's coaches, Mase also had the joy of seeing his son David carve out a 200-game career, captain the firsts and best of all play in the historic 2006 A Grade premiership win.

*164 games (156 1sts, 8 Reserves),
178 goals (166 1sts, 12 Reserves), 1968-85*

*Member 1969 1sts Premiership team
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper number 22

Best & Fairest 1sts 1971

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1972

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1984

Captain 1sts 1975-76

Vice-captain 1sts 1974

Deputy Vice-captain 1sts 1971

Vice-President 1996

Committee 1978, 1995-97, 2010

³⁷ Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 April 1970

³⁸ OHAFC Newsletter May 1970

A highlight of the Tooronga-Malvern win was the goal-sneak effort of “the old Number Six”³⁹ in coaxing a couple of Big Ones through. The “dynamic performance” was of course from the veteran Zeke. Another win against Old Melburnians saw the firsts back into finals calculations, but the reserves were floundering halfway through the season. The first of many Pollock barbeques at McCrae followed the OM’s game, and in mid-July the Dinner Dance was held in the salubrious surrounds of the St Kilda Football Club rooms.⁴⁰

Unfortunately Beaumaris was not the answer to the club’s ground problem. The coach became so frustrated with the line marking that he “refused to mark it (the ground) again”, and bitterly complained about the perpetually unswept changing rooms.

The generally unsuccessful battle with the Sandringham Council to have the facilities upgraded to a suitable standard continued from the initial day of occupation. This despite the fact that the club had a number of benefactors such as Bruce Gadsden willing to finance the addition of social facilities. Committee meetings stagnated on the issue to the extent that secretary Daryl Regan finished the minutes for one such meeting with “meeting closed 10:15 p.m. - AMEN!”⁴²

By mid-year Bill Butters in particular was investigating with the Headmaster the possibility of playing or training at the school grounds. The Committee seemed to have the Castlefield reserve at South Road in mind when it voted to train there for the 1971 season⁴³ (subject to the school’s permission, which was eventually withheld). Beaumaris’ fate was sealed when the Sandringham Public Works Committee rejected the club’s formal enquiries about building at the ground,⁴⁴ leaving no possibility of the Haileyburians establishing a permanent home. Finally the club suffered the ignominy of being ejected from the oval to make way for a women’s hockey team whose members were from fields far away from beachside Sandringham.



The Bloods’ President of the day, Ross Venn, addresses the crowd at Beaumaris in the Haileyburians’ first game back in C Grade. Players and officials from left to right include: A lightweight Andrew Langford-Jones, Don Lord, Peter Gadsden, Garry Marshall, Andrew Home and coach Darrel Cranch. This is a particularly rare photograph, made so by the condition of Andrew Home’s boots and beautiful white laces!

RODGER ARROLL HEAD

Frank Northcott rated Rodger Head as Haileybury’s greatest-ever sporting student. In 1957 Head captained the football, cricket and athletics teams. His football team kicked a record 42-35-287 to the hapless Malvern Grammar’s solitary goal. At the AGS sports, the quiet and unassuming Head had the strength to win the shot put and the speed to win the 100 and 200 yard sprint double at the same meeting. Head opened the bowling at lively pace; swimming was a rare sport in which he lacked finesse.

Head might have looked ungainly but had great determination. Breaking the same leg twice was no obstacle to playing nearly a hundred VFL games for St Kilda, including their famous and only one-point premiership win in 1966. Head was named captain of the Haileybury Football Team of the Century (as distinct from the OHAFC version) in 2002 and one of eight inaugural members of the Haileybury Hall of Fame.

After somewhat controversially succeeding Darrell Cranch as coach in 1970, the team’s results under Head probably didn’t quite meet expectations. Despite his success as a player, Head was a quiet, modest man, not given to extroversion. His strengths as a coach stemmed from his playing experiences and his ability to bring a similar style of training to that employed by St Kilda at the top level.

There was never any doubt about Head’s commitment either. Such was his enthusiasm to play for the Old Haileyburians, he offered to use the small fortune he had quickly amassed as a highly successful stock broker to repay all moneys earned during his League career to be reinstated as an amateur. Head’s offer was turned down, which left the money free to pursue other interests such as the Austrian-style “Waldhof” restaurant in the Dandenongs.

Coach 1sts 1971-72

Committee 1969

³⁹ OHAFC Newsletter May 1970

⁴⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 May 1970

⁴¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 May 1970

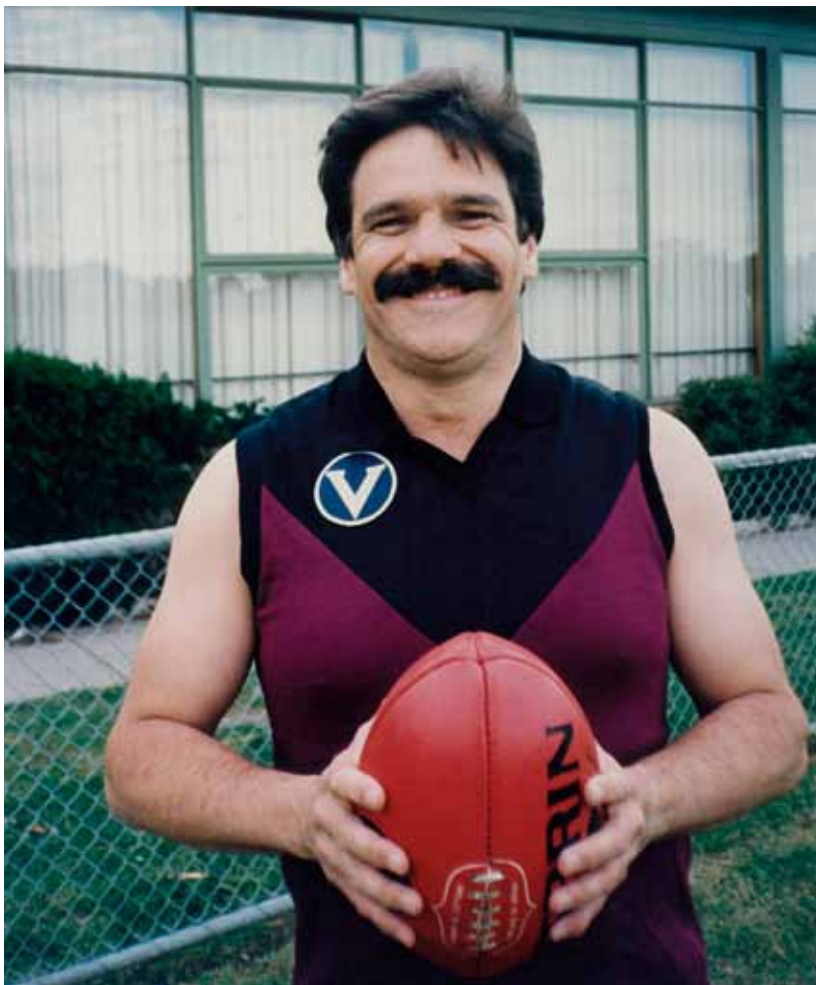
⁴² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 29 April 1970

⁴³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 14 June 1970

⁴⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 3 February 1971

More productive was the establishment of a Finance and Fund-raising committee,⁴⁵ which developed into the Fathers' committee and was eventually known as the Parents' and Supporters' Group or Magenta and Blacks. Bruce Marshall, father of Phil and Garry, was heavily involved in this committee as was Frank Jackson. The search for a permanent home and building made the club realise it required significant fundraising, and this was probably the major catalyst for this committee. Marshall headed the group for its first three years before Lou Irving Senior succeeded him in 1973.

The firsts continued the season in similar fashion to their opening half. Their win at Assumption and near-miss against the multi-cultural University High team were particularly fine efforts. Full-forward Young proved an admirable replacement for the absent Bowring (overseas), while Peter Gadsden's form saw him become the first senior Old Haileyburian player to win a competition Best and Fairest. The following year he was the first to represent the VAFA State team.



The ever-smiling Dicky Metherall flexes that healthy moustache.

RICHARD WILLIAM METHERALL

Schoolboy sprinting champion Dicky Metherall exhibited considerable speed on the wing, despite hamstring trouble responsible for a characteristic way of running short steps on his toes and the nick-name "Toots". Metherall captained the school athletics team in 1963, and arrived at the Bloods with father Harry and brother David, aka "Perce".

"Metha" quickly became known for raking left-foot drop-kicks on the run. On his day he was a most damaging player, capable of destroying oppositions. He needed a large ground to use his pace, however, and Halifax Street never really suited. Dicky took disappointments in his stride, such as missing the 1969 grand final through injury, counter-balanced by two reserves premierships.

As a bonus to the Club's entertainment, the swarthy and heavily-moustached "Metheralli" soon achieved notoriety as a rock and roll vocalist with "The Wanderers Three". In later years he took the microphone at Presentation Nights to enliven the scene.

Towards the end of his career Metherall captain-coached the reserves through thick and thin, especially in 1982 when he gave tremendous support to senior playing coach Roger Paul. He was unquestionably one of the great clubmen.

Metherall's passion for all things Haileybury saw him serve as President of the Old Haileyburians Association from 1989 to 1991. Sadly his latter years were spent fighting a long and very brave battle with cancer that finally ended in 2003, survived by his wife Barb and son Brett. Through all this his enthusiasm for the Bloods never faded.

235 games (68 1sts, 167 Reserves),
120 goals (21 1sts, 99 Reserves), 1964-82

Member 1968 & 1973 Reserves Premiership teams

Jumper number 16

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1964, 1968, 1975

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1977

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1977, 1997

Captain-coach Reserves 1976-77, 1982;

Captain Reserves 1974-75

Committee 1975-79, 1982, 1995

⁴⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 July 1970

Old rivals Assumption were the team's first semi-final opponents, and for the second successive year the Bloods ended the country college's premiership aspirations. This is the game notable for Peter Gadsden's late arrival. Despite the lack of "snow" at the Old Scotch ground, the Old Haileyburians snatched a game that had been even up to the last change by kicking three goals to two points in the last quarter. Peter Mason with four goals, Don Dowling, Gil Urquhart and the centreline were largely responsible for the victory.

Meeting University High in an inaccurate preliminary final, the Bloods were behind all day. Most of the damage was done by the students in the first quarter when they shot to a five-goal lead. Dennis Caddy continued his fine finals form, and found teammates Langford-Jones, Mulvey, Pollock, Regan and Trapp of most assistance. David Young kicked half the team's meagre tally of four goals. The last Old Haileyburians team coached by Darrell Cranch failed by a little over seven goals to enter B Grade. It was:

Backs: Eric Mulvey, Don Lord, Daryl Regan

Half-backs: Garry Marshall, Peter Gadsden, Dennis Caddy

Centres: Dick Metherall, Andrew Williams. Rob Pollock

Half-forwards: Andrew Home (captain), Andrew Langford-Jones, Peter Mason

Forwards: Peter Kane, David Young, Gil Urquhart

Followers: Don Dowling, Crombie Redd

Rover: John Trapp

Reserves: John Curtis, Robert Mehegan

The Marshalls, as ever willing hosts, held the end-of-year party which coincided with the C Grade Grand Final, and although a week late for the Old Haileyburians the function still raised \$275.⁴⁶

Maybe the meticulous "Cruncher" Cranch could have retained his position had the result of the preliminary final been different. One decision the committee made with little difficulty was to re-apply for the use of the Halifax Street Oval,⁴⁷ which meant the club returned closer to its Brighton origins and of course Khyat's Hotel in 1971.

⁴⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 September 1970

⁴⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 September 1970



The definitive picture of a veteran. Old warrior Peter Burke strides out for his final game, against Power House at the Ross Gregory Oval in May 1970. Wearing a black jumper in the background, Murray Ponsford pulls his socks up. Admiring team mates applauding "Pom", from left to right are Barry Gartner, Peter Atkinson, Rob Mackay, Colin Quick, Peter Hayes, Peter Kane, Ian Fraser, Crombie Redd, Bruce Benjamin and (on Burke's other side) Lou Irving, John Rigby, Phil Marshall, Russ Hare and Michael Bowden.



Old Haileyburians return to Halifax Street for the 1970 team photo. Standing are team manager Gordan Moore, Dennis Caddy, Daryl Regan, Rob Mackay, captain Andrew Home, John Lambert, Gil Urquhart, Peter Gadsden, Grant Brearley and John Curtis. Kneeling are Peter Kane, Don Lord, Peter Mason, coach Darrell Cranch, John Trapp, Andrew Langford-Jones, David Young, Nigel Sawyer and Andrew Williams. On the ground are Ric Mulvey, Ian Fraser, Neil Cocks, Adrian Bode, Rob Pollock, Dick Metherall, Jim Bonwick.

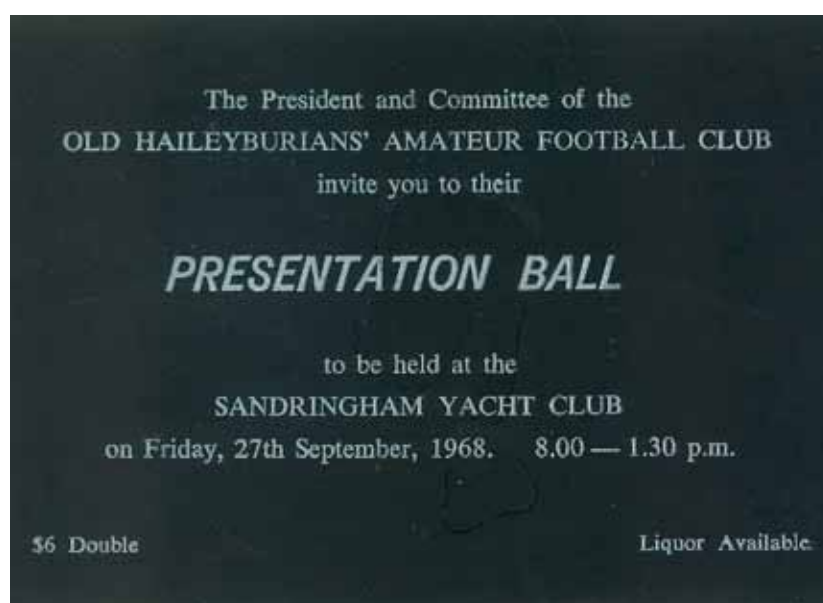
1971 - A Head Start

Less than two months after the 1970 finals series, two significant events marked the OHAFC's life. Firstly, distinguished Haileyburian footballer Rodger Head was named as Darrell Cranch's replacement for the coaching position, with Max Nolan as his deputy.⁴⁸

Secondly, the club's father body, the Old Haileyburians' Association, proposed the school's Keysborough fields as a venue for its affiliated sporting bodies. The club supported the Association in its efforts, in what seemed like the first strides towards a secure future in terms of a home. Despite the application for Halifax Street, Tony Kellock and the Langford-Jones boys' father Mervyn were appointed to scour Brighton and Moorabbin for a suitable home; the unenclosed Dendy Park oval was the only one available for football.⁴⁹ Once again the surveyors' eyes were cast over Halifax Street with an eye to extending the pocket-sized ground. Late in the year Phil Marshall presented a report to the committee detailing a twenty-yard enlargement at a cost of \$127.⁵⁰

For playing and social members of the club the year began with what became the traditional opening barbeque at the hospitality of Peter Kane's father David. New faces included Don McQueen, Peter "Wiry" Collins, Adrian MacQuarrie and Ross Passalaqua.

Previous year's school captain Tim Parkes joined the club, and made a significant contribution over the next decade in his ninety games and particularly off-field in conjunction with brother Peter, nick-named "Cool", possibly due to his photochromic spectacles. Tim was perhaps unfortunate not to have played more in the seniors but uncomplainingly plugged away. The Parkes brothers and their father Phil were responsible for many of the photographs recording the club's activities in the early and mid-seventies. Another recruit and popular clubman of the period was the slender Mike Pritchard.



Invitation for Presentation Night, 1968.

HARRY WILLIAM METHERALL

Dicky Metherall's father Harry was a keen and vocal supporter of the Bloods for many years. Not only would "H" rarely miss a match, but he was one of the few regularly present for the start of the reserves. No one ever suspected Harry of running a citrus farm on the side, something of a surprise given the regularity with which he handed out the three-quarter time oranges.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1985

⁴⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 16 October 1970

⁴⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 3 February 1971

⁵⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 September 1971

The prodigal son's return to Halifax Street for the opening match against Old Trinity was disastrous as "much-weakened"⁵¹ teams were trounced by over fourteen goals. At Old Melburnians' Fawcner Park the firsts' following match was similar, but a spirited last quarter showed a glimmer of hope. Goal kicking ace Peter Atkinson headed the reserves' win the same day, but after two rounds the club's main team was bottom of the ladder.

Peter Bowring's 400th goal for the club, one of seven for the day, was a highlight of the Bloods' magnificent display of football at Fairfield in which they won by 103 points. Big men Gadsden and McQueen also proved active and accurate on the forward line with four goals each. Bowring's feat was remarkable in that the firsts' aggregate goals kicked since 1961 was still less than 2,000, so the "Bear" had kicked over a fifth of them.

Another exciting display followed, this time against old rivals Assumption. Neil Cocks proved blond and brilliant on his wing, and the firsts rocketed to fifth position. At Alphington, they kicked half their fourteen goals for the game in the first fifteen minutes of the third quarter.⁵² Despite John Rigby's efforts on the half-back flank, this was an indifferent performance, and the Bloods were perhaps lucky to escape with an exciting draw having led by ten points at the last change. The reserves, boosted by "Hawk-eye" Travis having "resumed chundering around the arena",⁵³ were still suffering from losses in concentration and paying the penalty.

Trailing National Bank by eleven points at half-time at Halifax Street, the unpredictable Bloods kicked a remarkable 15.1 (91) in the third term. Ruckman Don McQueen and, in the absence of a crack roving division, Peter Mason, were largely instrumental in clearing the ball at the centre bounces that year, and in this quarter the system functioned at its best. Peter Bowring extended his record for individual goal-kicking efforts to twelve, and the final score of 28.18 (186) was a new club record. The reserves proved they were no slouches either, on a day that the two clubs kicked eighty-one goals from 124 scoring shots.

In May the Parents' and Supporters Group or Magenta and Blacks was formally conceived at the home of Bruce Marshall, the inaugural president.⁵⁴

Against the rugged and allegedly semi-professional Tooronga-Malvern the firsts put up one of their worst-ever displays, but returned to the winning list in a high-standard game against St Kilda CBC, after which followed the Gardenvale "Chinese Dinner". It seems the players of the era were a hungry lot, as a later progressive Dinner attracted over 200 diners. The mid-year Ball was held at St Kilda again, and an outstanding success was the "TV Fight Night", which raised \$162.⁵⁵ The Gadsden barbeque and coach Head's party were also compelling attractions.

The players' fitness caused concern, as the Old Melburnians and Assumption games were lost in disappointing last quarters, and an eleven goal lead against Fairfield was reduced to seven. Colin "Harry" Quick returned to the team for the first time in two years in the Fairfield match, and in an excellent display at full forward scored nine goals, which he followed with six more a week later.

GARRY BRUCE MARSHALL

Strong, rugged and attacking, Garry Marshall's solid frame was invariably enveloped in a long-sleeved jumper that accentuated his build. In the 1969 Grand Final he played the game of his life on the half-back flank, but he occasionally played as a ruck-rover. Generally a long right-foot kick, he occasionally miscued. Marshall's movements were predominantly in a straight line and "Gazza" was not known for his turning abilities.

Marshall's playing days ended when he moved to Sweden for a few years in the mid-1970s. An architect, like his father Bruce, the two helped design the Gadsden Pavilion. Bruce was a wonderful supporter of the club, hosting many functions and along with Frank Jackson running the bar at Bonwicks' Passchendale Street home. He and other son Phil were vocal supporters, with Phil possessing a special talent for upsetting a crowd.

*114 games (110 1sts, 4 Reserves),
2 goals (both 1sts), 1968-75*

Member 1969 1sts Premiership team

Jumper numbers 41 & 2

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1973

Vice-captain 1sts 1970-73

⁵¹ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 April 1971

⁵² Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 May 1971

⁵³ OHAFC Newsletter 22 May 1971

⁵⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 26 May 1971

⁵⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 30 June 1971

ROBERT JAMES POLLOCK

Shocking weather at Alphington did not prevent a “brilliant display of wet-weather football”,⁵⁶ particularly by the earth-bound figures of the Langford-Jones’ boys. The reserves match was notable for a “cheeky” display by Steve Lucas in the final quarter, and “for the first time in living memory Zeke playing in a sleeveless jumper, and wearing his new boots too!”⁵⁷ The firsts’ best performance to date followed in an unlucky but glorious defeat against Old Trinity, the top side, at Greythorn Park. They negated Trinity’s play-on style for most of the day, but the hosts kicked the winning goal with one minute remaining in a quarter where the lead changed three times. John Curtis’ performance at half-back was magnificent.⁵⁸

On a windy afternoon at National Bank’s Albert Park headquarters, an apparent penchant for close finishes was accommodated by the season’s second tie. At three-quarter time the Bank was set to win, but tight football from the Bloods prevented the tellers withdrawing all four premiership points. Peter Mason kept the pressure on statistician Richard “Noodle” Evans with an amazing twenty-two marks, and another fifteen kicks in general play along with countless handballs.⁵⁹ Unfortunately the umpire noticed that his mouth was also busy and “Mase” received no votes despite his prolific afternoon.

Still at school, John Houghton made his debut in the Footscray Tech game, changing with the old warrior Don McQueen in the back pocket and delighting the rovers with his palming, although the back line was less than agile with Don Lord minding the rovers, and Daryl Regan the spearhead. A rare win at North Road against St Kilda CBC secured a place in the finals, the match sealed in another tense, windy last quarter. Peter Gadsden’s six goals was the difference, and Terry Lyons turned on another whirlwind goal scoring performance from the bench.⁶⁰ Peter Atkinson kicked all the reserves’ four goals.



Immaculate apart from socks turned down, Rob Pollock delivers the ball in his own self-fashioned and determined style. Roger Paul, just out of school but ready to protect his smaller team mate, looks on in disbelief.

Rob Pollock was one of a trinity of great clubmen with Jim Bonwick and Dicky Metherall, all small in physique but great in stature. Not well-equipped physically despite pride in his lean as sirloin frame, Pollock taught himself to kick awkwardly left-footed after a knee injury and a spell in callipers. This style saw a famous goal against Collegians that travelled forty yards horizontally and fifty yards in the air. Poll lacked little in speed and determination, and his application won many fans, including his first senior coach Darrell Cranch, with whom Pollock would travel home after training.

Poll always looked the part and for a time fancied the white ankle bandages. Cheeky, fearless, yapping incessantly and always prepared to share his knowledge, he instigated regular conflicts in his role as an “angry ant”. He even carried out Cranch’s instructions to shirt-front ruckmen with the intention of burying that bony shoulder into their ribs.

More suited to the larger grounds by his mobility, the spaces did not always enable Pollock to escape avoid injury. Whether it was cheaper for the club to hire cabbie Artie Goodwin than pay the little fellow’s medical bills is debatable, but hot towels did little for a dislocated shoulder after an Alphington “pile-driver”. A favourite habit of touching the ball on the ground as a means of evasion failed in the 1976 semi-final against Fawkner, when a crude tackle smashed Poll’s cheekbone to effectively end his career.

Pollock played his part as a hard-working secretary, and as a supporter he regularly surprised with a loud booming voice for such a small man. His skills did not include playing cards or driving motor vehicles. Team-mates ridiculed him for playing “fighter pilots”, peering through the aperture between the steering wheel rim and the dashboard in his “headless Charger”.

After a career with AMP then running a CBD coffee lounge, Pollock took over a Mexican restaurant at Bodalla, where he soon made his presence as Deputy Mayor and Chairman of NSW South Coast Tourism. In 1990 he just failed to win the Federal seat of Eden-Monaro for the Liberals. Poll continued to ride his favourite surf-ski with the same nerve with which he played football and drove cars.

160 games (109 1sts, 51 Reserves),
54 goals (39 1sts, 15 Reserves), 1967-79

Member 1969 1sts, 1968 & 1973 Reserves
Premiership teams

Jumper number 12

Awarded Life Membership 1978

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1979

Secretary 1975-76, 1978-79

Vice-President 1977

Committee 1968-72, 1975-79

⁵⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 July 1971

⁵⁷ The Amateur Footballer 1971 (Vol 71, No 13)

⁵⁸ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 24 July 1971

⁵⁹ OHAFC Newsletter 7 August 1971

⁶⁰ OHAFC Newsletter 21 August 1971

Old Haileyburians faced Old Melburnians in the first semi-final, after a demoralising loss to Tooronga-Malvern in the last round. The Royal Park match was Andrew Home's 200th, and "his play contributed greatly to the win".⁶¹ The first quarter was decisive when, against a stiff breeze, the Bloods prevented OMs from taking a lead. John Houghton, on special delivery from the rigours of a Puckapunyal cadet camp, justified the petrol money and starred in the forty-point win.

Tooronga-Malvern, the old nemesis, confronted the Bloods in the preliminary final, also played at Albert Park's Number Twenty oval. Physical strength and systematic play-on football netted Tooronga ten goals in the second quarter and effectively settled the game. But the Haileyburians' performance to lose by thirty points, and finish in the same position as 1970, was a reasonably creditable one. Skipper Home, spearhead Bowring (six goals), Kane, Mason, McQueen and Regan were the best in the twenty of:

Backs: Don Lord, Daryl Regan, John Rigby

Half-backs: Peter Kane, John Curtis, Garry Marshall

Centres: Neil Cocks, Peter Mason, Andrew Williams

Half-forwards: Andrew Langford-Jones, Peter Bowring, Barry Gartner

Forwards: Adrian Bode, Colin Quick, John Houghton

Followers: Don McQueen, Andrew Home (captain)

Rover: Rob Pollock

Reserves: Dick Metherall, Gil Urquhart

At the last Sandringham Yacht Club presentation Dinner for some dozen years, Graham Harwood received the Barrie Berggy trophy, helped no doubt by his fine work behind the goal-square! Daryl Regan was the first recipient of the Magenta and Blacks' Best Clubman award, and Peter Mason collected his Best and Fairest trophy. Mason was also beaten on a count back for the competition award, which shows how dearly he paid for his discussions with the umpire in the National Bank game. The most important award however was that of the club's first Life Membership, to Tom Fisher.

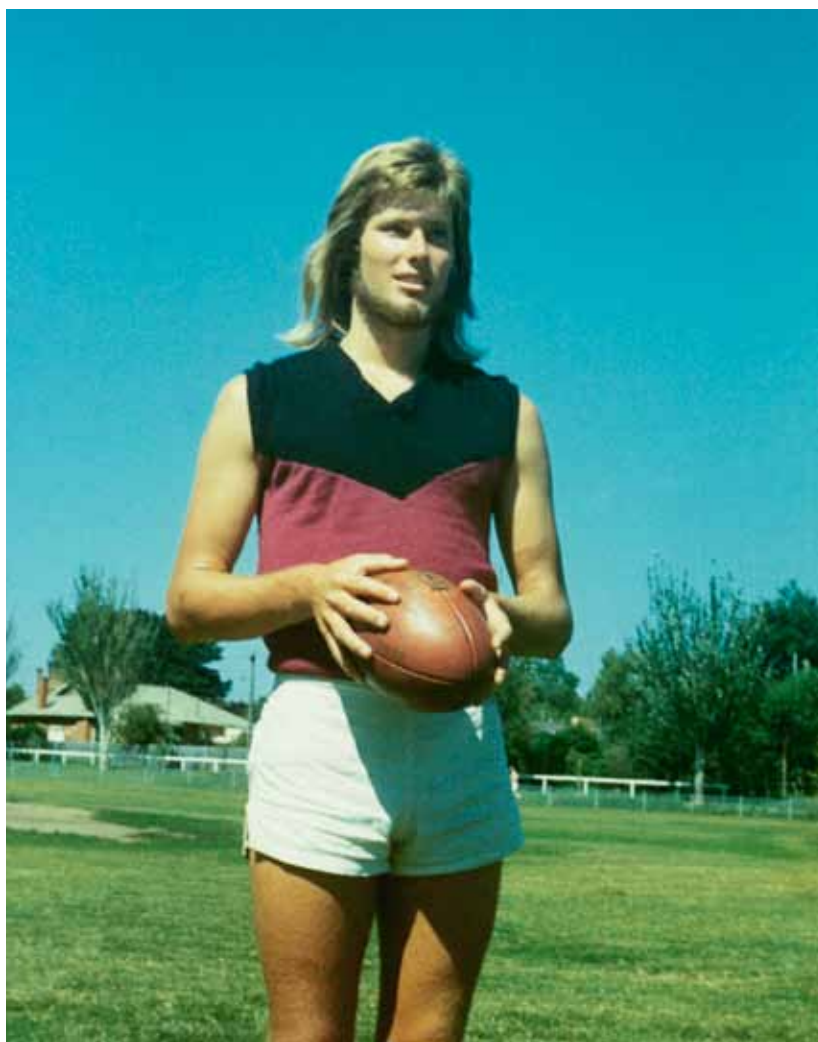
All in all 1971 had been a solid season. The club finished third in C Grade, its highest-ever position. Old Haileyburians' "social" team had also consolidated in the "Club Eighteen" competition, although in hindsight this development failed to benefit the club as a whole. Rather it eventually held the mainstream team back.

⁶¹ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 28 August 1971

1972 - Last Drinks at Khyat's

Haileybury College "lost" its traditional sister school across South Road when St Leonards turned co-educational in 1972. As a consequence the Headmaster and College Council requested the club not play any Old Boys of St Leonards. School politics ran deep enough for the Old Haileyburians' Association to refuse membership to any boys enrolled under its wayward former sister's skirts. The football club for its part agreed "in principle not to extend membership to boys at St Leonards", but retained the right to admit pupils from other schools under its Constitution.⁶²

The ground saga continued and the pressure for a move to Keysborough increased, particularly from Don McQueen and Bill Butterss, assisted by the school's legendary Vice-Principal Frank Northcott. Formal applications were made to the Brighton Council for extending the ground and obtaining a long-term lease, neither of which was granted.⁶³ Clearly Halifax Street's days were numbered.



In 1972 John Houghton emerged as the club's major ruckman, and he won the first of three Best and Fairests. Here he appears a slender, almost gentle youth only just out of school.

⁶² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 April 1972

⁶³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 April 1972

Kane's early-season barbecue in February was followed by a similar, but disappointing function at McDougall's property set in the wilds of Airey's Inlet. David Young was appointed Rodger Head's assistant coach. Andy Home's reign as captain, spanning the club's lifetime and interrupted only by playing coaches, was over and the enthusiastic Don McQueen took up the reins in only his second season at the club.

Youth was taking over. The new push led by Mike Pritchard and Tim Parkes was bolstered by Dean Lovig, David Browne, "Rags" Campbell, John Cracknell and goal square specialist Rob Forbes. Bruce Langford-Jones, John Augustine, Jon McCready and Jim Mason had all pulled on the boots for the last time, but there were no major losses to the club's playing personnel. Murray Ponsford's and "Boof" Harwood's retirements from the committee were more difficult to cover.

A high standard game at Power House's Ross Gregory Oval opened the season; the Bloods lost a match which was always a little out of their grasp, although they briefly snatched a small lead in the last quarter. Peter Atkinson contributed another solo goal-kicking performance for the reserves, booting five of their six majors. A fortnight later the reserves demolished a hapless Commonwealth Bank team; it was more violent armed robbery than pick-pocketing.

Reservoir Old Boys tended to emphasise the physical aspects of the game. Before being dismissed from the Association they put fear into the hearts of many opponents. One unkind assessment of the club's successes was that it had "bashed its way to A Grade". At Halifax Street they annihilated the Haileyburians by a record margin, 107 points, in Andrew Home's last game before he "retired". Little wonder he preferred the gentler pursuits of Club Eighteen football with his old mate Zeke. Andy would play one more game in the firsts, six years later.

If the Reservoir defeat had been the largest in the club's history, the next match against National Bank "must have been the most demoralising".⁶⁴ Both teams played poorly, but the Bloods did more than the Bank to lose the low-standard game. Inaccurate kicking was a major factor in the next two defeats, although the reserves managed to notch a commendably straight, but losing, 9.1 (55) against St Kilda CBC. Victories against Old Xaverians and Fairfield, thanks to a winning defence, completed the first round of matches. At this stage both teams sat mid-table, where they remained for the rest of the year.

Mid-year social activities included another mid-season Dinner Dance at St Kilda's Moorabbin complex, and the Bonwicks hosted yet another function. The third eighteen, under John Augustine, were not surprisingly making their presence felt. In those days the "Socials" were as much a part of Presentation Night as the other teams. When discussion was held on selection, some felt the thirds were having a detrimental influence on the reserves. "Augie's Boys" were born, and won the Club Eighteen premiership before the year was out.

On field the firsts never really threatened the final four nor relegation, so the year meandered. They won against Commonwealth Bank despite a lethargic attitude that was reflected in a "casual attitude when kicking for goal" and a "back line (which) played too loosely".⁶⁵ Peter Bowring

⁶⁴ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 13 May 1972

⁶⁵ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 1 July 1972

kicked six goals from full-forward, as did Andy Williams in a sortie from half-forward. Andy was hardly your archetypical flanker given his build and uncharacteristic toughness for the position. This was a day for heavily built forwards, as Rob Forbes kicked five goals in the early game.

Next the team journeyed to Reservoir for the famous “Dutch Courage” match. The northerners were well entrenched in the four, and the Bloods in no-man’s land with little to lose or gain. Coach Head feared a lack of motivation, but pulled a masterstroke by holding a team meeting at a pub on the way. A flushed and surprisingly competitive Old Haileyburians team fought the match out to the end, “beaten by a much stronger side but showing much better determination”.⁶⁶ Although the scores were not as close as some recalled, the Haileyburians managed to outscore their rugged opponents in the last quarter. The distinguished survivors of this match were:



Peter Collins, immaculate as ever, waves a well-laundered flag to signal a behind in the time-honoured ritual of the goal umpire.

⁶⁶Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 8 July 1972

Backs: Nigel Sawyer, Don Lord, Don McQueen (captain)
Half-backs: Peter Kane, Garry Marshall, John Cracknell
Centres: Rob Pollock, Peter Mason, Mark Shapter
Half-forwards: Andrew Williams, Peter Bowring, Grant Hattam
Forwards: Jim Bonwick, Peter Atkinson, Andrew Langford-Jones
Followers: John Houghton, John Langford
Rover: Geoff Quick
Reserves: Mark Travis, Dean Lovig

Unhappy with his treatment during the game, Andrew Langford-Jones unwisely short-arm jolted his opponent. Half-a-dozen Reservoir men descended like wolves from the mountains on the hapless hyphen. The field umpire (who had also been best man at Don McQueen's wedding) gave Stink the free, calling "yours number four Haileybury; against you number three, eight, ten, fifteen, nineteen and twenty-five!"⁶⁷

Peter McCready recalled golden days the following week, with five goals in the reserves' slaughter of National Bank, along with old mate Gil Urquhart and younger teammates Lovig, Isaacs and Scotch Adelaide's Bevan Roberts. Assumption's brilliant Des Tuck won his team the next match, while a strange refusal to direct play to the correct flank against St Kilda CBC contributed heavily to the Haileyburians' defeat.

Playing with nineteen men, the firsts recorded one of the year's best wins, against Power House where their third quarter sealed the game. The game at Xavier was a disappointing effort though, as the Bloods scored only 1.5 (11) in the first three quarters. The low-key year ended uncharacteristically with a cliff-hanging loss to Fairfield, who goaled as the season's final bell rang.

The curtain also fell on Halifax Street. The Fairfield match was the last the club's senior team played on the claustrophobic but very homely oval, scourge of pacy wingmen and wide receivers who preferred to run free.

Around July president Ross Venn officially sought the school's permission to play at the Keysborough grounds.⁶⁸ The positive response represented a major turnaround of attitude by the about-to-depart headmaster David Bradshaw. Another major task was to obtain official VAFA approval of the new oval.

By December the school Council had approved in principle the plans for the proposed new oval and pavilion, which had the full support of the Headmaster, David Bradshaw (who completed the last of his twenty years in the position in 1973). In October Venn was able to inform the committee that Peter Gadsden's father, packaging mogul Bruce, had agreed to act as a benefactor for the project. Bruce Marshall was appointed as honorary architect for the new pavilion in January 1973.

Presentation Night was held at the Moorabbin Town Hall, and Murray Ponsford's careful custody of the club's finances over a six-year period, as well as his continual work for the club each Saturday was recognised with the Barrie Berggy trophy. Tony Kellock became the club's second Life Member and the youthful John Houghton capped his first full season with State representation and the club's Best and Fairest. The consistent Peter Mason and still improving Garry Marshall also polled well. Gil Urquhart,

PETER EDWARD COLLINS

Peter "Wiry" Collins' Life Membership was a fitting reward for service as boundary umpire, goal umpire and general odd-jobs man. After a meteoric playing career, Collins took the hint very quickly, and graciously offered to contribute to the Club on the other side of the fence. He did so for over fifteen years.

Collins' nickname derived from the curliness of his luxurious black locks. His appearance as an official was always impeccably neat. The boundary umpires' uniform was always completed by Haileybury socks as the only indication of any partiality, and boots a shiny black like the bombs of a cartoonist's assassin. In later years, "Wires" attracted the attention of admiring crowds with his white hat, white coat, dark goal-umpiring trousers and again shiny black boots, which completed a most professional appearance.

Former coach Langford-Jones believed Collins was "too honest" in his adjudications. He would find bitter opposition from Fairfield's 1973 reserves team, who drew their semi-final against eventual premiers Old Haileyburians before losing the replay. Collins' decisions that year were momentous.

2 games (both Reserves) no goals, 1971

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1983

Committee 1982-84

⁶⁷ Personal communication, Andrew Langford-Jones, 1984

⁶⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 June 1972

now in the veteran class, lumbered in front of Peter Atkinson for the reserves trophy.

The Keysborough plan generated a remarkable atmosphere of goodwill and Haileybury community spirit. Apparently a dream was about to come true, and plans for the new sporting complex included social facilities light years away from the Albert Park dungeons. But what disappointment lay ahead in the next decade.

1973 - Augie's Boys

Gough Whitlam's new Labor Government moved into office after winning the December 1972 election on the back of the "It's Time" campaign. There was a spirit of change and progress in the community. But it was not until June 1973 that an Interim Arrangement Committee was formed for the pavilion building project, consisting of representatives from the Old Haileyburians' Association Council, as well as the football, cricket and hockey clubs.⁷¹ Tenders for the oval and the pavilion were called, and in November a Mr Mal Osbourne won the tender, for \$36,000, to begin building in March 1974.⁷²

Because of the procrastinated dealings, the Haileyburians made makeshift arrangements. Training was held at Halifax Street, and the reserves continued to play some of their games there, so the old ties were not completely severed. The firsts played their matches occasionally on the Main Oval but predominantly on the "lower" or Hazlitt Oval, named after Haileybury's only Test match cricketer. Hazlitt played in the days of Warwick Armstrong and Clem Hill, and was a minor figure in the infamous players' strike of 1912.



"Augie's Boys" are a happy bunch after their 1973 triumph in C Reserve Section.

Back row: Jim Bonwick, Michael Troup, John Cracknell, Dean Lovig, Graeme Campbell, Bob Mehegan and Rob Pollock.

Centre row: Tim Parkes, Lou Irving, Rob Forbes, John Legge, John Langford, Greg Lucas, Ian Roberts and trainer Peter Parkes.

Front row: Andrew Williams, Richard Lingard, captain Barry Gartner, coach John Augustine, president David Child, John Rigby, Mike Pritchard, Gil Urquhart and Dicky Metherall.

⁷¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 6 June 1973

⁷² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 1 November 1973

The streamlined committee's additions included new secretary Bill Neville ("the tent man"), Glen Beaton and Tim Parkes. Unfortunately the "Fight Night" organised by John Augustine turned into "a fiasco".⁷³ It was followed by a trip to beachside Anglesea for a practice match. New coach David Young, who effectively swapped places with new assistant coach Rodger Head, reputedly rejected "Augie" as a Sunday morning bed partner. Another highlight of the weekend was Mark Shapter's phantom image depositing Rodger under the shower on the Saturday evening. Early in the season players were informed of the seven dollar subscription fee, plus fifty cents per game.⁷⁴

There was another notable influx of new blood, including Phil Jessep, John Warnock, fast-bowling and fast-living wingman Doug Loney, Rob Howard, "Gus" Lingard, Greg Galt, optometry student Peter Cunningham and physiotherapist Mike Troup, who were the guests of honour at Doug and Gordon Batt's "meet the players" party. So the eyes and limbs were well covered. Wild man Mike Storrer joined the impressive list of recruits, and started his career with bags of eight, seven and six goals in his first three games.

The rule-makers took action over the congestion experienced at the centre of the ground in the 1971 VFL Grand Final, and introduced a centre diamond in 1973. At Halifax Street the corners were little more than ten metres from the wingman's boundary. The diamond was eventually found unsatisfactory (centre half-forwards complained bitterly) and made way for the now familiar square a couple of years later.

The OHAFC's first game at its new home was a fairytale. Boosted by the presence of nine new players in the side, they kicked a new record score against old favourites, National Bank to win by 148 points. The reserves made their debut at Keysborough and set the pattern for the day before returning to Halifax Street for most of the season. Rod "Royce" Hart and Garnett "Dead-eye" Quiney featured in another win by over a hundred points.

Two narrow losses followed for the firsts, despite a brilliant nine-goal second quarter at Fairfield (five from Storrer). Their performance against Old Melburnians was similar, eight of the team's thirteen goals coming in the first term. The reserves, under new coach Augustine, won their first four matches on the trot. The Fairfield game preceded the party of "Kyabram Kid" John Curtis' constant companion Liz Bowring. Witnesses at the Toorak turn swore "Rob Howard has the biggest 'bark' ever seen at the club".

The rot ended for the firsts with a fine win over the competition leader at Power House, and an equally meritorious success at over St Kilda CBC at Murrumbeena. Peter Bowring, an old dog learning new tricks, revelled in his new role at fullback a la Verdun Howell. The winning run of "Augie's Boys" was interrupted by the Saints, but resumed immediately against Parkside. The firsts suffered a demoralising defeat against Parkside, nearing the peak of their bone-shattering powers, but overcame Old Xaverians in their last win bar one for the season. John Curtis dominated, kicking six goals. A "Birds versus Fellas" match was played on the Sunday at Halifax Street,⁷⁵ but the result went unrecorded.

NIGEL GIFFORD SAWYER

Quick, mobile and well-balanced, Nigel Sawyer proved a useful utility who played much of his career on the flanks. Not overly physical, "Nigger" was nonetheless courageous. Sawyer shot in and out of the club, missing only one game on his way to a hundred and departing soon after for Mildura Base Hospital to practise medicine.

Sawyer was generally quiet and constructive, except on Sundays when he religiously journeyed to the "Sandy Hill" with his great mate Terry Lyons and irrationality could take hold. The Zebras have never had the same support since.

*114 games (50 1sts, 64 Reserves),
37 goals (4 1sts, 33 Reserves), 1967-74*

Jumper number 34

⁷³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 April 1973

⁷⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 April 1973

⁷⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 2 May 1973

Rob Pollock played his hundredth game at Keysborough in the farcical match against Old Brighton that completed the first round of matches and followed the draw against University High. Paul Godfree's father Keith had dry-cleaned the club's jumpers since the start of 1972. The reserves this day played at Halifax Street, but incredibly the firsts' jumpers were left in the boot of vocal coach Augustine's car. After dashes to Brighton to fetch the missing guernseys, the game belatedly started after three o'clock. The Bloods were thrashed and a dissatisfied "Poll" spent most of an angry day simmering on the bench.

After nine games, boom recruit Storrer had netted forty-one goals to put him in sight of his full-back's record of eighty-three. But Storrer kicked only another fifteen goals for the season as the team's fortunes fell.

Atrocious kicking, 2.10 (22), in the first quarter was largely responsible for the loss to Fairfield. Bowring (five goals) returned to the forward line for a narrow loss in heavy conditions at Fawkner Park, while both the weather and the result were miserable against Power House. Shocking conditions and play "highlighted" the Parkside game which made "relegation a distinct possibility".⁷⁶ All this time the reserves played consistently and steadily, winning two thirds of their games. They were led by the efforts of team executives Barry Gartner and John Rigby, ably assisted by pacy small man Bobby Mehegan, Jim Bonwick, "Gus" Lingard and the more elderly Gil Urquhart.

Peter Gadsden's return late in the season lifted the senior side, and he kicked five goals in a vital win against University High at Keysborough. Along with that year's Best and Fairest Neil Cocks and young lions Steve Lucas and John Houghton, "Gabby" was the side's best player. The season ended for the firsts with a defeat by St Kilda CBC, while an uncomfortable four-goal loss gave the reserves a warning for the finals.

Late in the year a number of the school's first eighteen joined the delighted club, including champion back man Greg Lucas, the classy Ian Roberts and the persistent Phil Poole. Lucas was a fine player in yet another of the club's finals played at Albert Park Number Twenty oval. The reserves took on Fairfield in a drawn final, the first of only two in the club's history. Fairfield were incensed at a courageous but possibly inaccurate goal-umpiring decision made by Peter "Wiry" Collins on Gus Lingard's kick for goal. For a team that trailed by eight points at the last change, Rob Forbes' four goals had much to do with salvaging a tie.

"Augie's Boys" played much better in the replay to hold their opponents from the infectious diseases hospital neighbourhood to a meagre and match-losing 1.5 (11). Parkside, another north-of-the-Yarra opponent, trailed the Bloods all day in the Preliminary final at the Harry Trott Oval, and they entered the Grand Final after finishing third on the premiership ladder. The team that lined up for the club's second reserves premiership was:

BARRY EDWARD GARTNER

Swarthy, good-looking Barry Gartner was a fine contributor for the Bloods before he headed down South Road to Old Brighton Grammarians to play another hundred or so games. His game was built on intestinal fortitude as he was an awkward left-foot kick and rarely used his right. Initially his scrawny build left him open to physical punishment, but he continued to motivate himself and others with chatty urging.

"Bazza's" greatest drama was the 1973 reserves finals series, where despite being captain he failed to enjoy coach Augustine's fullest confidence and uncertainty surrounded his place in the team. Gartner just survived for the Grand Final, but was dropped the following season when still vice-captain, and headed for Brighton.

*122 games (16 1sts, 106 Reserves),
10 goals (4 1sts, 6 Reserves), 1968-74*

Captain 1973 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 51

Vice-Captain Reserves 1971-72, 1974

⁷⁶ Rob Pollock, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 July 1973

Backs: Mike Pritchard, John Cracknell, Lou Irving
Half-backs: Dean Lovig, Greg Lucas, Ian Roberts
Centres: Rob Pollock, Andrew Williams, Dick Metherall.
Half-forwards: Bob Mehegan, John Langford, Jim Bonwick
Forwards: John Legge, Rob Forbes, Mike Troup
Followers: Gil Urquhart, George Whiteman
Rover: Richard Lingard
Reserves: Barry Gartner (captain), Doug Batt

Again playing at the Number Twenty Oval, Old Haileyburians gradually increased their lead of four points at the first change to nineteen points at the last. However, in the final quarter St Kilda CBC stormed home, kicking 2.5 (17) to two points in the low-scoring game. Their inaccurate kicking proved costly as the Bloods won by four points despite having six fewer scoring shots.

Bobby Mehegan kicked three of the premiership team’s eight goals, “Brutal” Legge two, and Jim Bonwick, Rob Forbes and George Whiteman all savoured the adrenalin rush of a Grand Final goal. The small brigade of Pollock, Bonwick and Mehegan played the games of their lives, ably assisted by the extremes of callow youth (Greg Lucas and Ian Roberts) and crabbed age (veteran Gil Urquhart). Augie was understandably ecstatic at the vindication of the convictions of his own coaching abilities.

1973 C Reserve Section Grand Final at Albert Park Oval Number 20,
 15 September 1973

Old Haileyburians	3.1	4.3	8.4	8.6 (54)
St Kilda CBCOC	2.3	2.7	4.9	6.14 (50)

Goals: Mehegan 3, Legge 2, Bonwick, Forbes, Whiteman
Best players: Bonwick, Lucas, Mehegan, Pollock, Roberts, Urquhart

The Parkes brothers took off the major service awards for the season, and their involvement was a welcome ingredient in the club’s success. Cool and taxi-driver Artie Goodwin were approaching the height of their strange and ritualistic therapeutic powers; the only thing hotter than Artie’s towels were his potato cakes. Neil Cocks, at last given the chance to run wide, was a popular winner of the Best and Fairest, closely followed by Garry Marshall, now a senior member of the club. Peter Bowring’s consistency and Grant Hattam’s improvement were also recognised.

Presentation Night was held for the first time at the packed and far-from-mediaeval Chaucer’s,⁷⁷ which reflected the affluence and confidence of a club moving into a new era. Recruits were relatively easy to find and, despite the firsts’ lack of success in 1973, the club was still high on the wave of improvement, if not quite the crest, that had swelled since the late sixties.

JOHN DAVID AUGUSTINE

John Augustine was one of the Old Haileyburians’ more outspoken and controversial characters. A short, fair-haired man, his spectacles often marked his eyebrows as well as corrected his long-sightedness; he rarely wore them when playing. Augustine was one of the few to contest an elected position at an annual general meeting, opposing Don McQueen for the Vice-Presidency in 1973.

“Augie” was a most determined, courageous rover with great self-belief, having captained the school team in 1961 and, as he would regularly remind others, played for Melbourne’s reserves. On committee he regularly faced the situation of ignorant colleagues being out of step with his ideas.

In 1972 Augustine master-minded the Social team’s march to a premiership and followed up the following year by taking the reserves through four finals to another flag. A feature of his teams was, in his words, “my boys”; favourites included Grant Hattam, Mike Sutcliffe, George Whiteman and Gil Urquhart, but not captain Barry Gartner. An unsuccessful assault on the senior coaching position followed, as well as later controversy over his refusal to pay subscriptions.

Occasionally Augustine would return to pace the boundary line, terrorise the incumbent coach and offer advice when not engaged in the horse racing industry where he enjoyed conspicuous success.

31 games (14 1sts, 17 Reserves),
 17 goals (5 1sts, 12 Reserves), 1961-71

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1966

Coach Reserves 1973 (Premiers), 1974-75

Vice-President 1973

Committee 1967, 1971-73, 1975



President David Child shakes hands with Haileybury's new headmaster Michael Aikman on the boundary of the school's Main Oval. This photo was taken at the unfurling of the reserves' premiership flag in the first round of 1974. Also included in the background from left are Bruce Marshall, Ian Nichols, Don Lord, Frank Northcott, Bill Allen, Tom Fisher and Don McQueen.

DAVID MICHAEL CHILD

One of the more important figures in the administrative and political development of the Club was David Child, who also involved himself in the Old Haileyburians' Association and was President of that body in 1983-84. In some regards he was a latter-day Barrie Berggy given his recognition of the importance of good liaison. His term of presidency with the football club was at an important and difficult time, and included the move to Keysborough and the construction of the Gadsden Pavilion. As President of the Old Boys he did much to improve and consolidate relations with its affiliated footballing body following a period of mutual contempt and imbroglio.

David's printing business was repeatedly generous in its failure to invoice the Club for the printing of tickets, annual reports and so on. In 1983 he was a member of the first Old Haileyburians team to win the Public Schools' Golf Day. He took on a variety of nick-names, from the popular "Joey" through to "Chick" and "The Judge (Joseph)".

Although Child's main contributions were administrative, he was a handy player and a good kick, even if not over-endowed with pace. He played in the club's first match in 1961. Child's son Andrew also played as an elusive, skilful forward in the 1980s.

David Child's committee had the unenviable task of trying to raise funds for a building project, at the height of the Whitlam Government's losing battle with inflation. Although the Club now no longer resides in the building, he must look back with pride on those efforts, as well as on the near-miss of 1974 which saw the Club promoted to B Grade for the first time.

36 games (29 1sts, 7 Reserves),
9 goals (7 1sts, 2 Reserves) 1961-64

Jumper number 13

President 1973-74

Committee 1963-66, 1971-76

1974 - Masters scores a B

The Old Haileyburians gathered momentum with one of the best years in their history, dampened only by the last match of the season. The Keysborough Complex saga ran longer than “Days of our Lives”, even though the bricks for both levels of the pavilion had been at the College since July 1973.⁷⁸ Caught in the inflation that characterised the Labor Party’s entertaining term in office, the delays cost the club enormously. By early 1974 it was obvious not only that the building would not be ready until the 1975 season, but also that the club (or to be more specific the Association) could only afford to build the lower half of its new facility.

Building finally commenced around May, and by October the brickwork was complete and the first floor concrete slab poured. The eventual cost of this initial stage of the development was about \$40,000,⁷⁹ a high figure considering the February 1973 estimate of \$25,000, and the November 1973 tender for the total complex of \$36,000. Even the higher quotes of \$45,000 to \$50,000 supplied that September were for the building in its full dimensions.

Another development which held increasing importance for the club’s future at Keysborough was the appointment of the school’s new Principal, 39-year-old Michael Aikman. Conservative beyond his years, the new Head’s views on the club’s occupation of school property were less enthusiastic and more assertively held over time. Aikman’s attitude probably stemmed from the lack of direct control he had over the behaviour of the OHAFC’s members, to say nothing of visiting clubs. Nonetheless, one of his first tasks was to unfurl the reserves premiership flag for their opening match at Keysborough.



Not just a face in the crowd, coach John Masters directs traffic in the 1974 Grand Final. By Masters’ left shoulder Andrew Langford-Jones looks on with concern.

JOHN HENRY NELSON MASTERS

Terror of mathematics students, John Masters was a straightforward man with straightforward opinions and straightforward delivery. His familiar nasal whine could turn venomous when needed, but he was enormously successful at the school, coaching the 1965 and 1977 APS premiership football teams.

Masters experienced two vastly contrasting years with the Bloods. In 1974 with his great friend David Child as President, his team won promotion to B Grade for the first time ever. The following year he was unable to cover the losses of Gadsden, Houghton, Code, Cocks and Storrer in the higher grade, with dispiriting results provoking more frequent exhibitions of Masters’ more volatile side.

An impressive motivator, Masters was tough, persistent and demanding of discipline, if sometimes emotional. Despite dispensing some virulent criticisms he remained exceedingly popular with those who played under him. Masters bore a particular dislike of Catholic teams, no surprise for one of the great after-party Protestant hymn-singers of his time. Johnny’s wavy, dark hair and appearance reminded some of Bob Davis, and Masters was another coach to favour the drop-kick at training.

In 1980 Masters’ son Gordon continued the family football tradition with a determined performance on the half-back flank in the under-nineteens’ narrow win in the premier section grand final.

Coach 1sts 1974-75

Committee 1975

⁷⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 July 1973

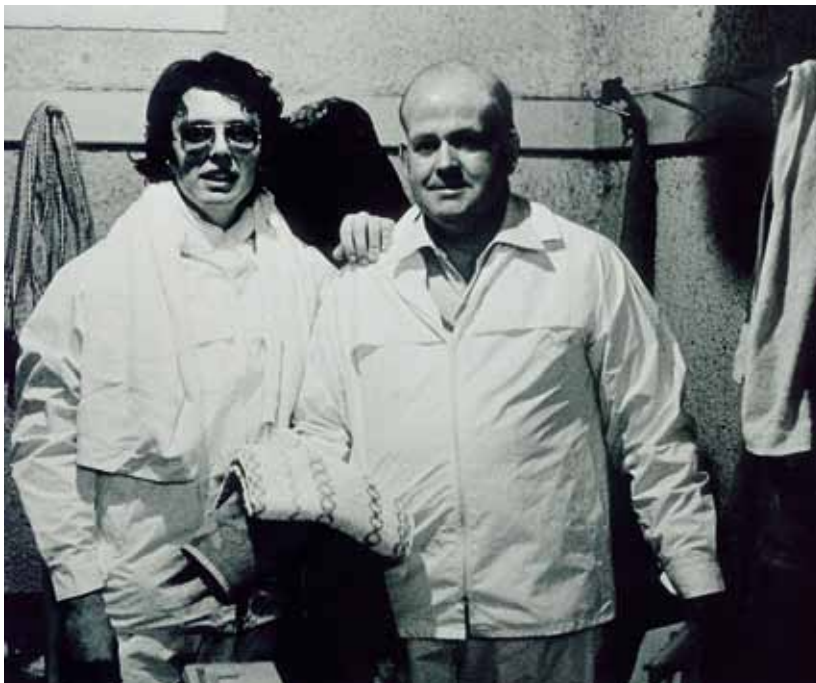
⁷⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 October 1974

For this match against Parkside, both teams played on the lush Main Oval, as did the firsts for the majority of the year. The new coach, schoolteacher John Masters, knew this ground as well as anybody. At least the two teams were together again, even if the reserves played mainly on the Hazlitt Oval. Both teams endured losses in the opening round.

Early-season activities included Rodger and Barb Head's usual barbecue,⁸⁰ and an encouraging four-goal practice match win over B Grade team Collegians. Coach Masters was reportedly seen to smile after this performance led by Peter Gadsden, and boosted by the return of Peter Mason and the recruitment of Roger Paul. Jack Lucas' sons Greg and Steven amused the club with their motoring performances, and, after an "academy performance that would rival any by Brando",⁸¹ John Augustine returned to the fold as coach of the seconds. Jumper Presentation Night was held at the Hawthorn Club.

Recruiting was not confined to the youngsters. John Gyngell began his career at the club, and threw open 1167 Nepean Highway for the first of many functions. David Young and Don McQueen made their customary comebacks.

Both teams made a steady start to the season; the reserves kicked the sweep against National Bank. Ten players shared their record twenty-three goals, yet no player kicked more than four. Inexperience and a certain lack of desperation was largely responsible for the Parkside and Alphington losses, but these were the firsts' only two defeats in the first half of the season. "Augie's Angels" lost some of their sparkle as well as five games.



"Art and Cool". Legendary trainers Peter Parkes and Artie Goodwin prepare for battle in the bowels of the Harry Trott Oval pavilion. "Cool" is just a boy alongside the venerable Artie, who holds the hot towels that were the trademarks of his calling. A show of pride and nervousness in their poses, but no sign of potato cakes here!

WILLIAM ANDREW BUTTERSS

In 1942 Bill Butterss captained Haileybury's tennis team. Dux in 1943, he also led the tennis and swimming that year. By 1944 he was not only Captain of the School but also the football, cricket and swimming teams!

Butterss was President of the Old Haileyburians' Association at the time the relocation to the Keysborough grounds and the Fisher Oval was proposed. Life Membership was conferred on him following the move. He completed a great period of service to the school with a term as Chairman of the College Council.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1975

Committee 1970

⁸⁰ OHAFC Newsletter April 1974

⁸¹ OHAFC Newsletter April 1974

The Bloods said goodbye to National Bank forever with a spectacular assault on the goals at Keysborough. Peter Gadsden kicked a not unlucky thirteen goals to set a club record that still stands for an afternoon's work by a forward in the firsts. Even back man Peter Kane scored a goal, and the cricket score of 30.20 (200) was celebrated at "1167". The performance was worthy of a top team, which was exactly where the Bloods finished after the home and away matches. The seconds lost only two games after the halfway mark and drew against University High to secure fourth.

Venues for post-match functions appeared easy to find, as social organisers Tim Parkes and Mike Pritchard did a sterling job. Ian Nichols hosted drinks amongst the plants at "Nic's Nursery" after the Parkside game, while "most people made a weekend of the evening" at McQueen's Waverley residence following the win over St Kilda CBC.⁸² On the food side of things Lou Irving senior was doing a fine job in the tuck shop, having handed over the reins of the Magenta and Blacks to Jack Lucas. The involvement of parents like Irving and Lucas played a major role in the success and buoyancy of the club at this time, just as it had in the late 1960s.



Captain Peter Gadsden bursts out from behind the paper barrier held by admiring femme fatales Denise Mehegan, Robin Williams, "Willie" Mason and Sandy Pollock. Johnny Gyngell just manages to peep through a tear in the banner.

The OHAFC Golf Day at Portsea also “provided the boys with a few laughs – especially if you were in the range of the neck-and-neck struggle going on between Langford-Jones/Mason and Gadsden/Gyngell. At the seventh the Jones/Mason “combo” were well in front until Gyngell cornered Mason in the green-side bunker and produced his warming “snake bite outfit”. Gadsden accidentally stood on Jones’ ball, both actions being the start of their downfall.⁸³

St Kilda CBC obtained a measure of revenge in the reserves’ first semi-final, and ended the Bloods’ aspirations of successive premierships with a two-point defeat at the Ransford Oval. The firsts had a more successful second semi-final, leading Parkside from start to finish except for a third-quarter lapse. Nine points behind at three-quarter time, they stormed home with five goals six to the Parkers’ four points. Cracknell, Gadsden, Gyngell, Houghton, Paul and Shapter were best in the win that lifted the club to B Grade for the first time after fourteen years of endeavour. Masons hosted the club’s celebrations.

The Bloods faced Marcellin in the Grand Final at the Harry Trott Oval. Previous results indicated the teams’ evenness, each having won their away match by less than two goals. The Old Haileyburians lined up as follows:

Backs: Peter Cunningham, Peter Bowring, John Legge
Half-backs: Greg Lucas, John Warnock, John Cracknell
Centres: Doug Loney, Roger Paul, Mark Shapter
Half-forwards: Peter Mason, Peter Gadsden (captain), John Trapp
Forwards: Ian Roberts, Mike Storrer, John Gyngell
Followers: John Houghton, Grant Hattam
Rover: Rob Pollock
Reserves: Peter Kane, Andrew Langford-Jones



Johnny Gyngell calm under pressure in the 1974 Grand Final.

DENISE HELEN LORD

Denise Lord’s flame-red hair, bouncy personality, eternal optimism and ready smile graced the OHAFC from its very early days, and was still around as it approached its half-century. For a decade or more, along with husband Don, she was responsible for running the Grand Final Breakfast that did so much to bolster the club’s finances. Both Lordys were always up for a party and were fixtures at club social functions where they mixed easily with young and old alike.

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2000

Committee 2002-03

MIGNON ELIZABETH BONWICK

As the club’s first female Life Member, the ever cheery Mino Bonwick enjoyed life around the Old Haileyburians to the fullest from the late-1960s until the family’s move north to Sydney two decades later. Towards the end of the club’s tenure at Halifax Street, the Bonwicks’ Passchendale Street home in Hampton, just out the back from the Castlefield campus, was one of the epicentres of the club’s social life. And Mino did much of the raising of the two Bonwick boys, Andrew and Jonno, at Old Haileyburians games.

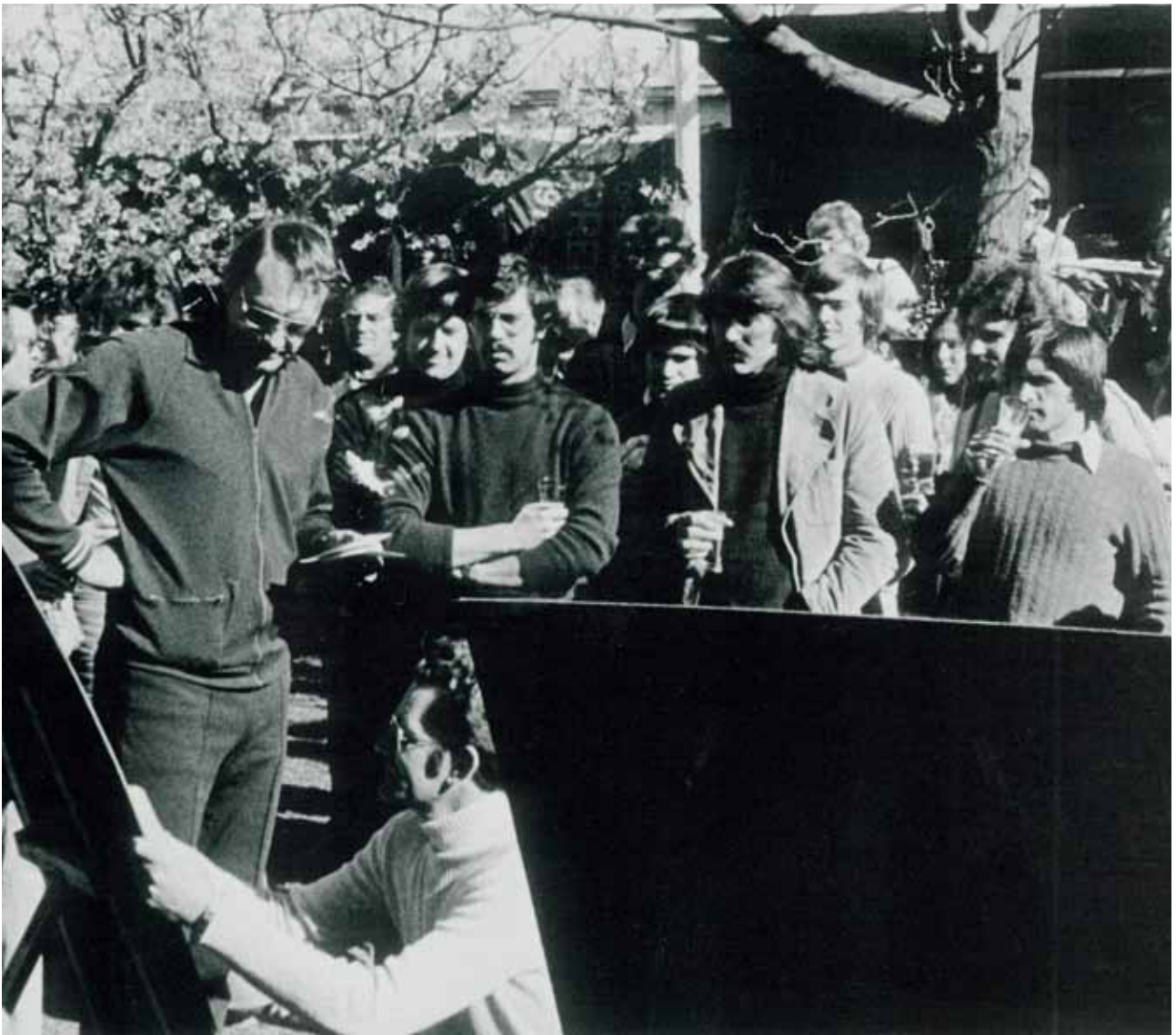
Mino was an accomplished time-keeper, doing many games, but was sacked as statistician by coach Langford-Jones after a wet day at Hampton Rovers. Stink couldn’t believe that full-back Neville Schmidt had registered twenty-five kicks for the day as recorded by Mino. It wasn’t until Mino explained Rovers had scored nineteen points and therefore Schmidt had nineteen kick outs ...

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1986

⁸³ OHAFC Newsletter June 1974

Langford-Jones returned from the reserves and Bowring from injury to replace the lame Andy Williams and ageing Don McQueen. On a sweltering spring afternoon Old Haileyburians led by two points at quarter time. Marcellin sprayed the ball all over the place, like an errant painter, for 1.5 (11).

A lead of seven points at half-time was deceptive, as Marcellin were even more inaccurate and had inched their way up to 3.15 (33), eighteen scoring shots to ten. The Eagles finally converted in the third quarter, kicking six goals amongst another seven behinds, to savour a twenty-one-point lead with their last batch of oranges. Ironically they didn't add another behind to their 9.22 (76), but instead another two goals to win by seventeen points. Mike Storrer's four goals headed the scoring, and John Cracknell and Peter Gadsden continued their fine finals form. Best of the rest were John Warnock, Doug Loney and Rob Pollock.



Vote Count Day at Parkes', 1974. From left to right included are Don McQueen, David Child, John Masters (kneeling), George Whiteman, Geoff Abbott, Peter Harris, Peter Cunningham and Rob Pollock.

Vote-count day and Presentation Night polished off the season. The former was held at Parkes' and the sixty attendees witnessed the first of Roger Paul's six wins, this one just ahead of the club's other outstanding player of the era, John Houghton. Chaucer's again hosted perhaps the club's best-ever trophy evening. An amazing 310 players and supporters filled the halls⁸⁴ as Frank Northcott made the presentations and was himself awarded Life Membership. The Old Haileyburians approached B Grade with confidence.



A team photograph of the 1974 runners-up.

Back row: Rob Pollock, Grant Hattam, Roger Paul, Greg Lucas, Ian Roberts, Peter Cunningham and Andrew Langford-Jones.

Centre row: Trainer Artie Goodwin, Don McQueen, Mike Storrer, John Legge, John Warnock, Mark Shapter, Doug Loney and trainer Peter Parkes.

Front row: Peter Bowring, John Houghton, president David Child, captain Peter Gadsden, coach John Masters, Peter Mason, John Gyngell and Andrew Williams.

⁸⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 October 1974

CHAPTER 4

KINGS OF KEYSBOROUGH 1975-78



1975 – Famine at the Fisher

Old Haileyburians entered their first season in B Grade with a new president, the enthusiastic Don McQueen, who had “retired” from playing yet again. His predecessor David Child’s term of office had been an important one in the club’s development. Johnny Masters returned as coach, although skipper Peter Gadsden had retired and Peter Mason became the sixth regular captain of the club.

John Cracknell was appointed Mason’s deputy after his fine efforts in 1974, particularly in the finals. Unfortunately the club struggled for players. It missed for the greater part of the year John Houghton (at Oakleigh), David Code, the injured Neil Cocks, Mike Houston and John Gygell. Gadsden’s retirement was compounded by those of Greg Lucas and Nigel Sawyer, as well as the unavailability of Ross Bannon, Lou Irving and Gil Urquhart. Mike Pritchard was transferred to Launceston, leaving John Gygell to direct the social functions.

Tony Kellock performed the honours of jumper presentation at Gibby’s Brighton Club Hotel, before the Bloods hosted Caulfield Grammarians as the first visitors to the club’s new Fisher Oval. A large section of the school community attended what really was a disaster. Even the flag refused to unfurl properly when Judge Dethridge performed the ceremony!



At last the Bloods take the field at the Fisher Oval, with the newly completed Gadsden Pavilion in the background. The result of the club’s first match in B Grade was a sobering experience though, as the Bloods lost heavily to Old Caulfield Grammarians. Peter Mason leads his team on to the ground.

PETER DAVID KANE

School captain in 1969 and eventual inheritor of Andy Home’s famous number one jumper, the left-footed Peter Kane played predominantly on the half-back flank and quickly became a regular senior player. Whippet-like, wiry and almost all bone, his forwards appreciated his expert disposal. “Kaney” or “PK” generally looked accomplished, moved well, and he played the game hard for a small man.

The Kane family, especially sister Jenny, became a part of the club, traditionally hosting the pre-season party at their Canberra Grove home. Sailing eventually took over as Kane’s major sporting interest, and by 1983 he was a member of the “Challenge 12” crew at Newport for the America’s Cup.

*119 games (108 1sts, 11 Reserves),
14 goals (8 1sts, 6 Reserves), 1970-78*

Jumper number 1

John Cracknell claimed the club's first kick in B Grade, but both teams were easily beaten. The firsts lost by nine goals despite "new boy" Russ Sincok's five goals from not many more kicks on the wing and younger recruit Bouris' two. Even the infectious "Evil", a Best and Fairest winner with A Grade club Commonwealth Bank, must have had difficulty raising a laugh after the game.

The firsts had only one win before round fourteen, and that against lowly Kew. Even the school eighteen managed to draw against them. Not surprisingly the players' morale dropped, as did the young side's position on the ladder. The reserves, still under John Augustine's protective wing were more encouraging, and at least managed to win as many games as they lost. Mike Sutcliffe and George "The Great" Whiteman shared the majority of the team's goals.

Early in the year Peter Bowring overtook Andy Home's games record, which then stood at 204, although Andy later regained the title in his Indian Summer of the late seventies. Bowring failed to last out the season, however, and retired after the match at Collegians. One of the seconds' best wins was the one-point triumph at Marcellin, in which Geoff Abbott and Peter Cunningham were prominent.

Facilities at the ground caused some concern, but most problems were ironed out, including the distribution of profits from the canteen and bar to the various sporting clubs of the Old Haileyburians' Association. By June the minutes recorded that the erection of the second story was "unlikely in the near future",¹ still at that stage mainly due to a lack of funds rather than any objections from the school. A new scoreboard was built, materials courtesy Tom Fisher and assembled by the capable hands of the ubiquitous "Gyng",² whose efforts earmarked him as a worthy winner of that year's Barrie Berggy trophy.



Members of the official party at the opening of the Gadsden Pavilion in 1975. They include Tom Fisher and his wife Jo, Bill Butterss, Michael Aikman and Tom Russell.

LOUIS BEAU IRVING

Another of the Haileyburians' "bend 'em and mend 'em" brigade, Lou Irving was a steady, reliable defender who played mainly at centre half-back for the reserves. A great protector of his team mates but an awkward kick, Lou was fearless under that shock of red hair. Occasionally Lou's big tangle of arms and legs would flatten an unsuspecting opponent, after which one spectator called, "Leave him your card, Lou!" At North Melbourne CBC's ground he received advice more gynecological.

Like most of the Bloods' medical crew, Lou was quiet off the field. Stationed for a time at the RAAF Butterworth base, he eventually rose to become Associate Professor in Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He maintained long friendships with contemporaries such as Peter Atkinson and Peter McDougall, with whom he shared a daily walk along the Brighton foreshore for many years. Lou's father, Lou senior, was another great supporter of the club, heading the Magenta and Blacks and directing the canteen with aplomb.

129 games (30 1sts, 99 Reserves),
12 goals (4 1sts, 8 Reserves), 1969-77

Member 1973 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 28

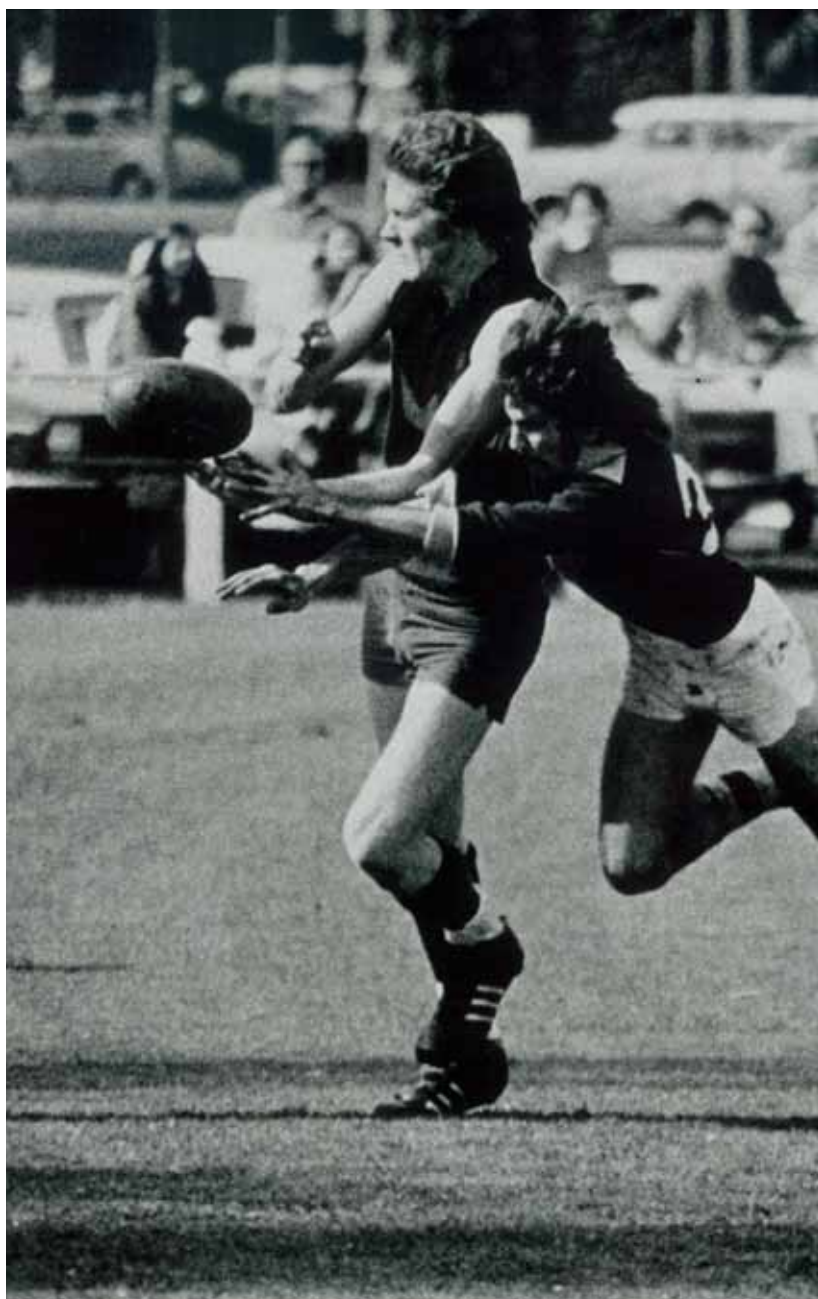
Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1974

¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 23 June 1975

² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 14 May 1975

The Magenta and Blacks were active too and raised nearly \$2,000 for the club;³ John Stahmer's work was particularly notable. Pewter mugs engraved for past players were all the rage, and their sale proved profitable. Unfortunately the tankards were not bottomless! Magenta and Blacks President Don Lord and old teammate Robin Boag nurtured a growing involvement of past players in the group.

The most successful team in the club was the thirds, although concern was expressed at their insularity. The club endeavoured to rectify the situation through Andy Home, their on-field leader.



John Legge braces himself and struggles to deliver a handball under pressure from a desperate Old Marcellin opponent.

JOHN RUTHERFORD LEGGE

A big, sandy redhead, John Legge had all the abilities and the potential to be a brilliant player. Something of a gentle giant, he split his games almost equally between the firsts and reserves. Originally from Ormond, Legge was capable of using his strength to great advantage. Although not particularly fast, he could cover a lot of ground with big strides, ankles typically bound in white elastic bandages.

Fellow tall Don McQueen nicknamed Legge "Brutal" in an effort to modify the big man's image, but the ploy back-fired when a smart-alec called him "Brittle" instead. Legge's football after the Old Haileyburians took him to the bush and eventually to the offshoot "Bloods" team in the Club XVIII competition. Appropriately for a big man, Legge's career took him into truck dealership.

In a handful of games, Legge's older brother David showed he was one of the more talented players to wear the magenta and black. He also enjoyed stints at St Kilda and Frankston, and his impersonations and piano playing invariably brightened the scene.

*105 games (55 1sts, 50 Reserves),
47 goals (14 1sts, 33 Reserves), 1972-78*

Member 1973 Reserves Premiership team

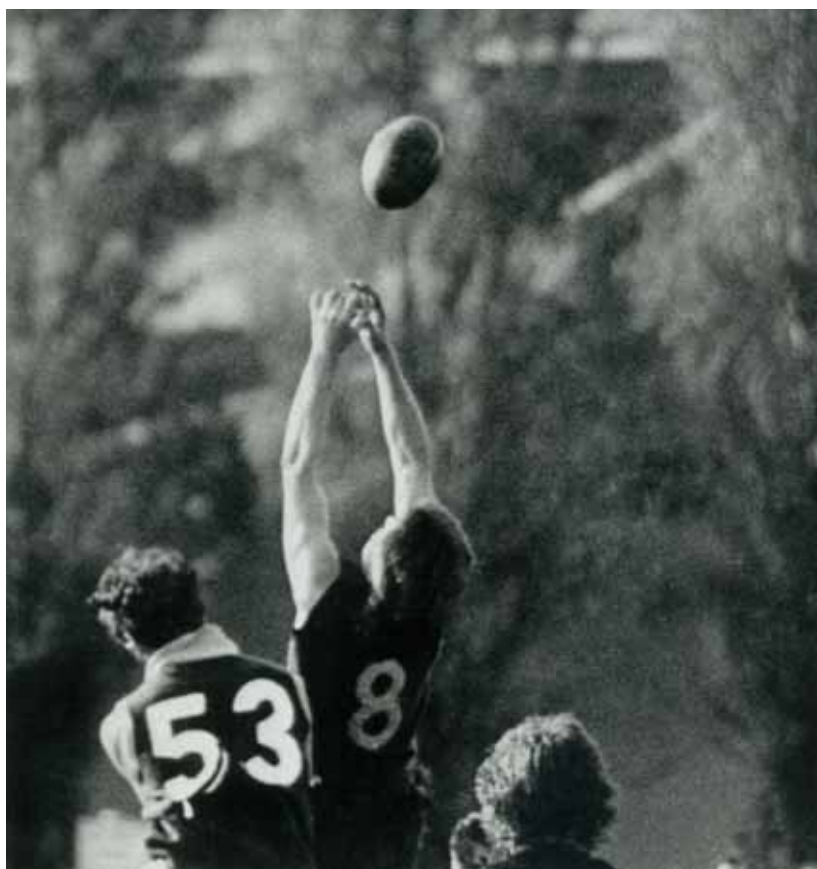
Jumper number 33

³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 19 August 1975

Against a weak Old Carey late in the depressing season the firsts finally broke through for a narrow win at Keysborough, led from the front by Mason's four goals. Russ Sincock, the persistent Peter Kane and those sprinters of ill renown, Andrew Langford-Jones and John Corrigan, were instrumental in the win. Boosted by the return of Houghton and Code, they bettered this effort with a belated win against early-season tormentors Old Caulfield. John Langford's five goals and John Warnock's performance were particularly valuable.

Presentation Night was again at Chaucer's, where one of Peter Bowring's first duties in retirement was to present the trophies. Roger Paul comfortably headed ALJ for the Fisher Trophy (Best and Fairest), and Geoff Abbott emulated Roger's feat of successive wins, albeit in the reserves. Dick Metherall, Neville Schmidt and "Harada" Palmer were closest to the studious ruckman. "Skip" Payne also had a notable playing year. Treasurer John Rigby so finely balanced the club's books that a profit of ten dollars resulted for the year.⁴

John Masters headed back to coach the school First Eighteen after his years of feast and famine at the Old Haileyburians and in 1977 added another APS premiership to his bow. The Haileyburians returned to C Grade, but just as importantly Michael Porter returned to the club, having last played for the Bloods back in 1964.



John Houghton (8) head and shoulders above everyone else in the 1974 Grand Final.

⁴OHAFC 1975 Annual Report and Financial Statements
(submitted 24 November 1975)

1976 - Portholes Away!

Lights were erected at the Fisher Oval between the 1975 and 1976 seasons, and were an essential asset to improve training. Johnny Gygell's social committee were largely responsible for raising the funds. Colour television had taken hold of the country, and North Melbourne wore their now-familiar royal blue shorts for the 1974 VFL Grand Final against Richmond, the first where the television footage was recorded in colour. Wishing to leave the days of monochromatic trunks behind, the Haileyburians made a successful application to wear gold shorts. But it was not a successful fashion statement, even for the 1970s.⁵

More long-range planning took place following the humiliation of immediate relegation from the higher grade. The club took steps not only to ensure a speedy return, but also to build a team that could hold its place amongst fiercer competition. Solidly built but surprisingly injury-prone Bob Curry was the pick of the recruits. Don Lord returned for a season in the reserves, and John Houghton and David Code were retained.

A new tribe emerged at the club over this and the following year. The 1975 school leavers were a particularly spirited bunch, and although most of this group tended to be fringe senior players (from whom Porter procured amazing commitment), they made extremely important contributions to the club's social life over the next seven or eight years. Mark Newton, a particularly neat forward and wingman of greyhound build, headed the influx along with Grainger "Max" McLennan of the elastic knee bandage and the elongated but temperamental ex-boarder from Traralgon, "Stretch" Derham. Lloyd Bowman, a tall redhead with an awkward kicking style, Phillip Poole's similarly quiet brother Steve, and Garry Patterson made up the complement.



Coach Michael Porter (left) with another of the noted strongmen in Roger Paul at a Keysborough training session.

MICHAEL BREK PORTER

One of the Old Haileyburians' greatest motivators and, for his time, most successful coaches, Michael Porter was always destined for sporting fame. He captained the 1963 school football team, was vice-captain of the APS combined team, and as a wicket-keeper of uncultured attitude held the school record for most catches in a season. Peter was also good enough to compete in Intervarsity tennis.

Quite an athlete, "Portholes" played in Zeke Davies' 1963 premiership team, occasionally rucking despite still being a schoolboy. He played tennis the following year, but was spotted by a Hawthorn talent scout when tennis was washed out and he filled in for the Bloods against Kew. A Best and Fairest in University Blacks' A Grade premiership team in 1965 and a career at Hawthorn followed.

Glenferrie Oval's frequent quagmires suited Porter's rugged style. His liking for a physical clash made Ted Whittens 321st and final game, and Carl Ditterich's 1971 Grand Final literally less memorable than they might have been.

Lured back to coach Old Haileyburians over a four-hour lunch with Don McQueen, the loud and extroverted Porter would inspire his players, clenched fists at his side, with relatively simple coaching philosophies. Old Haileyburians teams coached by Porter exerted uncharacteristic physical pressure, and the strongman would ask nothing of his players he wasn't prepared to do himself. When he made a comeback as a player, Old Melbourne's supporters witnessed a typically spectacular flailing of Porter's arms in the clinches at close quarters.

Porter was never reported and rarely bit off more than he could chew. A rare exception was against Fawkner at Keysborough when he flattened one of the McMahon boys, whose brother was a useful boxer and chased Porter for most of the day. When finally caught, for once "Holes" admitted being frightened; the surviving McMahon was suspended for eight weeks.

If fear was very rarely a problem for Porter, modesty was hardly ever. This made him a natural for the "Roading School Girls Choir" that performed regularly at the early Grand Final Breakfasts. Porter's move to Sydney with Valvoline ended his term as coach and was a far greater loss than realised at the time. The club soon fell into decline when another few years of Porter at the helm could have seen the Bloods in A Grade.

31 games (all 1sts), 34 goals (all 1sts), 1963-79

Member 1963 1sts Premiership team

Coach 1sts 1976-78

Committee 1976-78, 1980

⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 16 March 1976

A few older names disappeared, but most of these had been put out to the pastures of reserves matches anyway with the exceptions of Storrer, Loney and Trapp. Porter held training on Monday and Wednesday nights, and on average thirty players attended. The Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria's headquarters at Kooyong become popular with the club, and the recruits and veterans were presented with their jumpers at the spiritual home of Newcombe, Rosewall, Laver and colleagues in the year of Bjorn Borg's first Wimbledon success.

Old Haileyburians' place in the finals was virtually secure by round ten. Their undefeated season to date washed away much of 1975's disappointment. The opener was a high standard game in ideal conditions at Old Melburnians; Bouris and the once-again returned McQueen each kicked five goals in the later and earlier matches respectively. The reserves were afforded the dual luxuries of Schmidt at centre half-forward and Forbes on the bench. The firsts held Hampton Rovers to four goals in three quarters and comfortably won the match, but the reserves' weak final quarter allowed the Rovers to snatch a win in the final moments.

A great third quarter against the wind set the Bloods up for a rare win away against the also-unbeaten Fawkner after one of amateur football's longer road trips. Bouris, Cocks, Code, Houghton and Roberts were all conspicuous in the early-season wins. Dominant first and last quarters accounted for Parkside, and "a brilliant effort in wet conditions"⁶ resulted in the thrashing of Kew, whose three-quarter time score read 0.6(6). Mud-runners were particularly valuable in 1976's very damp winter, as Van Der Hum demonstrated in the Melbourne Cup.

In the 1970s, flooding was what happened after a lot of rain, so Alphington's tactic in playing all players on the back line when kicking against a typical Keysborough wind made the Bloods look relatively unimpressive.⁷ But their efforts in a "bitter" game at University High were much better. Runner Peter Bowring's performance influenced "the last few minutes of the match (which) were marked by scuffles between the supporters. These continued for a short while after the game had ended".⁸ The "Golden" had clipped Uni High's secretary in response to derogatory comments made all day. Volatile elements in the Mediterranean blood of the High School boys produced the usual reactions. The reserves also won, despite "atrocious kicking for goal".⁹

John Houghton's "superb game"¹⁰ and the team's brilliant half quarter bursts in the game's middle quarters overcame Power House, but a depleted side nearly lost to Old Ivanhoe Grammar in a very poor match, Andrew Williams' 150th. The Ball at Hawthorn State College after this near miss marked the halfway point of the season, and, along with the trip to Reg Livermore's Betty Blockbuster Follies, was a highlight of the year's entertainment.¹¹

A powerful performance marked the return OM's game. The customary rivals were held scoreless in the first quarter and kicked twelve behinds in the second! Perhaps taking the Hampton Rovers game a little easily, the winning streak came to an end, although the Bloods held a lead of fourteen points at one stage in the final term. A "lack of positive desire for the ball"¹² was responsible for a similar result against Fawkner, and

GRAEME JOHN CAMPBELL

Unrelated to the other Campbells of his era (Ian and Alastair), the enigmatic "Rags" Campbell sported a beard and fiery ginger hair. Richly talented, especially with the ball in his hands, he was a great player in the right mood. Campbell's play was marked by clever baulking and weaving, and completed by drop-punt kicks of mathematical precision, which must have delighted coach John Masters. Spectacles were occasionally removed from Campbell's bushman's face in the course of play.

Rags improved steadily from his early days in the reserves, and by the mid-1970s he had secured a regular senior place on the wing, half-forward flank or ruck-roving in the club's first B Grade teams. In his Indian Summer season of 1977, Campbell finished only behind two out-and-out champions in Houghton and Code in the Best and Fairest. He "went bush" the following year but was never quite the same player on his return.

*121 games (49 1sts, 72 Reserves),
29 goals (10 1sts, 19 Reserves), 1972-79*

Jumper number 48

⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 May 1976

⁷ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 May 1976

⁸ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 5 June 1976

⁹ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 5 June 1976

¹⁰ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 June 1976

¹¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 30 June 1976

¹² Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 July 1976

the firsts lost their top position on the ladder. Parkside made it a hat trick, bamboozling the Bloods with the advantage of a first-quarter wind (leading by nine goals at the first change) and handing out the “biggest thrashing for years”.¹³ The Haileyburians dropped to third.

Injury-depleted teams strung together wins against Kew and Alphington, but the real comeback to form came in the second-last home and away game against Power House on a sunny, windless day in which long kicking featured. Code, transferred from full-back to centre half-forward, Ian Roberts and McQueen all kicked five goals in the team’s tallest score of the season. A one-point loss to Ivanhoe in the last game was costly however, as the Bloods dropped from top place on the ladder to fourth of the leading five teams, all of whom won thirteen games and were separated only by percentage.

Old Brighton Grammarians’ beachside oval was the venue for the first semi-final, and by fate both teams met Fawkner. The reserves suffered “a disastrous end to the season”,¹⁴ losing by over one hundred points. The main game opened “at a cracking pace”,¹⁵ and Fawkner opened up a half time lead of four goals after quarter-time’s level pegging. The lead was all but eliminated by three-quarter time, and rain began falling. A particularly determined effort in the last quarter established a three goal winning margin. Cracknell, “Rags” Campbell, Jessep and Cocks had won well on the flanks, and skipper Mason’s multifariousness allowed him to perform admirably at centre half-back, a new role.

Roberts for the injured and retired Pollock was the only change to the preliminary final team that played Parkside at Monash; the ground was “in excellent condition, but still a bit wet and slippery following rain during the week”. The Haileyburians led all day, “making much better use of the wide ground by kicking deep into the wings and flanks, whereas Parkside persisted with short-passing and handball which sooner rather than later came unstuck”.¹⁶ Declining for once to handball, Grant Hattam led the scoring with four goals and was among the best with young players Houghton, Corrigan, Schmidt and Bouris. The Bloods relaxed slightly in the last quarter, but not before they had secured their return to B Grade.



All eyes on the goals as ruck-rover Grant Hattam kicks through the ball, although on most occasions he would prefer to handball; perhaps that is why the bearded Peter Cunningham is running around behind him. Peter Gadsden looks on open-mouthed and flat-footedly. 1974 Grand Final.

GRANT LAURENCE HATTAM

Grant “Handball” Hattam’s first connection with Haileybury was through the family business, Hattams of Hampton Street, who supplied countless school uniforms and football jumpers. Although he should have had the best-looking uniform at school, Grant rarely worried about his appearance, which matched his rugged and rarely pretty style of football. One of “Augie’s Boys”, Hattam was a great team man and became a very serviceable B Grade ruck-rover.

Curly of hair and boyish of face, there was never any doubt about Hattam’s quick mind, but his legs were a different matter. Just occasionally a mark would bounce off his chest, and “Hattie” would fiercely demand the ball from team mates, expecting they would reciprocate the many handballs he dished out himself. He loved a cigarette at half-time and especially a punt. His large circle of mates ranged from Peter Mason to George “The Great” Whiteman.

Solicitor Hattam was a keen litigant, as Andrew Langford-Jones discovered when he received a writ for defamation in retaliation for changing Hattam’s nickname to “Handbag”. But like many things for Hattam, it was just for play. After he retired, “Commissioner” Hattam frequently played an important role as the club’s advocate at VAFA tribunal hearings, and he safeguarded the careers of a number of players through the 1980s and 1990s.

Hattam was renowned for his work as a media lawyer and partner at Corrs, one of Melbourne’s largest law firms. When he died of lymphoma in 1998, the Melbourne Press Club included in their Quill Awards, the Grant Hattam award for investigative journalism. The AFL Players’ Association followed the next year with the Grant Hattam Trophy for excellence in football journalism.

121 games (87 1sts, 34 Reserves),
69 goals (57 1sts, 12 Reserves), 1970-87

Jumper number 18

¹³ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 July 1976

¹⁴ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 28 August 1976

¹⁵ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 28 August 1976

¹⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 4 September 1976

When they returned to Monash for the Grand Final against Old Melburnians, the unchanged side was:

Backs: John Corrigan, Neville Schmidt, John Warnock
Half-backs: John Cracknell, Peter Mason (captain), Dean Lovig
Centres: Graeme Campbell, Roger Paul, Neil Cocks
Half-forwards: Terry Bouris, David Code, Ian Roberts
Forwards: Mike Houston, Andrew Williams, Phil Jessep
Followers: John Houghton, Grant Hattam
Rover: Richard Lingard
Reserves: Andrew Langford-Jones, Don McQueen

There might have been a bit of chat on the bench!

Slippery conditions prevailed again, and a few showers fell during the game, as indeed they had the previous week. A strong, cold wind blew down the ground. Old Melburnians won the toss, kicked with the wind and “set up a barrage on the goals”,¹⁷ to lead 6.11 (47) to a solitary behind with the game one part played. OM’s Cordner dominated. With the wind Old Haileyburians kicked inaccurately and trailed by six goals at half-time. The third quarter was the Bloods’ best, and the Grammar boys’ lead was restricted, but their two quick goals in the last quarter sealed the match. The disaster of the first quarter had been too much to overcome.

Once again the skipper and less experienced players were adjudged best. Corrigan, Cracknell, Paul, Schmidt and Houston all battled hard.

In order to make the Presentation Ball more financially attractive for the younger members of the club, they booked Hawthorn State College, but this venue proved “ordinary”¹⁸ after the delights of Chaucer’s. The committee decided to grant automatic Life Membership to the club’s Double-Centurions; thus Andy Home, Peter Bowring and Don Lord qualified for the accolade.

David Code capped a fine year to win the Best and Fairest, and runner-up Neil Cocks signalled a complete recovery from injury. The two-pronged attack of Bouris and Williams had been most effective; both kicked over forty goals for the season. Andrew Langford-Jones backed up his usual plenitude of talk with an appropriate amount of toil (even if not on the training track) to join the distinguished list of Berggy trophy recipients.



David Code won the Best and Fairest in 1976 and represented the VAFA before embarking on a brief career with Melbourne and a series of triumphs in country football.

DAVID MAXWELL CODE

David Code is an automatic choice in the Old Haileyburians “greatest-ever” team. When teaching duties took Code to Shepparton, his loss became harder to take each time he dominated the Country League championships, a common occurrence in the early-1980s for the prolific ball-winner.

Having first played whilst still at school, “Codey” developed into a highly adaptable key position player right down the ground from full-back through to centre half-forward. Brute physical strength in Code’s upper body and arms enabled him to take pack marks massive for a player of his size. He was a magnificent grab even though he rarely left the ground.

Code’s strength increased over time and on windy days coaches keen to use all the “Bionic” man’s high technology often left him at the same leeward end of the ground for all the game, unaware of the dangers of burning out his batteries. Code was rarely flustered and kept his head in stressful situations.

Code tried out at Melbourne under Bobby Skilton in the mid-1970s, and was played mainly as a ruck-rover; he was perhaps a fraction slow in pace if not in mind in his dozen or so senior VFL matches. He returned to the Bloods for a smattering of games before his transfer to the country.

At Shepparton Code’s fair hair thinned, but unlike Sampson didn’t cause him to lose his strength or prevent him quickly becoming a legend in country football. He captained the Goulburn Valley League team, and eventually the Victorian Country team that played the VAFA at Bendigo in 1983. The Bloods easily saw the irony of seeing this superb player and friendly competitor leading the VCFL team to victory over the Amateurs’ best. After his playing days Code took a number of important roles in football administration.

53 games (48 1sts, 5 Reserves),
54 goals (all 1sts), 1974-79

Member OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 11

Best & Fairest 1sts 1976

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1977

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1977 (31 goals)

VAFA Representative 1977

¹⁷ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 11 September 1976

¹⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 6 October 1976

1977 – Big Boys at Play

Old Haileyburians approached the new season with the disaster of 1975 still fresh in mind, when they had been rejected from B Grade like an incompatible transplant. A repeat performance seemed likely well into the season, but four wins in the final five games enabled the firsts to complete what was eventually seen as a promising season in sixth place. Two of these wins were against the teams that contested the Grand Final and were promoted to A Grade for 1978.

Major changes occurred at the helm of the club for the new season. Don Lord took over as President, and the twenty-year-old Roger Paul became the new club captain. Peter Mason, the previous incumbent, was to miss the first eight games of the season, suspended by the VAFA tribunal for “kicking” in the Grand Final, despite howls of protest from the Bloods.

The coaching panel was unchanged, and training began early in February. Porter utilised his Hawthorn connections to enable the club to train and socialise one evening at the Glenferrie Oval. Young Old Boys (soon to be formalised as the “YOBs”) and their parents were invited, as the club endeavoured to make a favourable impression.



Ruckman John Houghton at the height of his leap and approaching the peak of his career, against Old Marcellin in the 1974 Grand Final. Around him John Gyngell (24) waits expectantly and John Trapp anxiously.

JOHN LINTON HOUGHTON

“Big John” Houghton was the only Old Haileyburian to be a virtual regular in the VAFA representative teams of the 1970s, and his great career was capped by selection in the 1979 All-Australian Amateur team, and two C Grade competition Best and Fairests.

Houghton played his first games in 1971 while still at school. Frank Northcott’s benevolence allowed Houghton to be rushed back from cadet camp at Puckapunyal to Melbourne for finals matches, where the young colt shone. In contrast with Houghton’s enthusiasm at the start of his career was the venerability of his ruck partner, Don McQueen. The early 1970s saw a John Houghton of long flowing hair and surfer’s beard. From those early days he loved a chat and loved the girls.

The size and agility of “Okka” soon caught the attention of talent scouts at Richmond and Oakleigh; the big fellow was always being approached by other clubs and despite Houghton’s loyalty the Bloods always had a task to keep him on their playing list. Houghton’s dominance of the rucks was vital in the club’s climb to B Grade along with the efforts of his captain of many years Roger Paul, although their Friday night pre-match preparations could differ markedly! Not a great bet when shooting for goal, Houghton’s kicking was not a major strength, but his marking around the ground and big knock-outs more than made up for this.

Once captain to Melbourne legend Robbie Flower at Murrumbidgee South State School, Houghton finally won the captaincy of the Old Haileyburians in 1980 following Roger Paul’s injury. He contributed a magnificent year to the club’s life, also acting as Social Director and winning the Barrie Berggy trophy for Outstanding Service. Okka also played one of his most memorable games in the mud and slush at Bulleen-Templestowe.

Houghton’s physique broadened considerably in the latter part of his career. He was never keen on pre-season work, let alone when “Okka the fokka she’s chokka”! After a year at Old Melburnians, he returned to the Bloods for the 1983 revival. Against Parkside at Bentleigh he again exhibited a trait of rising to physical challenges. Houghton thought this would be his last season before two years later he succumbed to yet another Langford-Jones ploy and was convinced to pull the boots on one final time.

Continued over page...

The "Class of '75" completed its integration into the club. Geoff Sincok, highly extroverted, soon thrilled and amazed ladies and gentlemen alike, although not always with his football. Steve Marshall, another young man of a distinctly different build, joined as a nippy rover or back pocket with a sure pair of hands. Mark Thomson, lean and sometimes bearded, and Greg Meadows, a tremendously fit wingman and rover, exerted their influence on the club very early in the piece.

To complete the pride of young lions, clever forward Rod Wise and slender utility Alistair Campbell also made their debuts. The '75ers also brought the considerable weight of one Paul Ostmeier in behind the club, and the jovial, popular "Ossy" served as team manager for the reserves team in which many of his mates played. The hefty ex-boarder also hosted many eventful "turns" at his Beaumaris home.

The prize recruit was however John Legge's brother David, a nomadic contemporary of John Houghton's who played for St Kilda in the VFL and Frankston in the VFA. The curly blonde's appearance late in the season had much to do with the club's successes at that stage. "Leggy's" size and experience were invaluable in his short stay at the club, while the voice-over professional's impersonations were always an amusing diversion.

Michael "Mountain" Houston's parents hosted the traditional early-season barbecue, and jumpers were presented at Kooyong Tennis Club.²⁰ For the first time the jumpers were decorated with the now-familiar winged-heart monograms. The season opened in fine style for the firsts at Old Scotch, after the reserves were beaten by a record margin. Playing "a new brand of football" the Bloods led by two points at half time, and increased the lead despite kicking against the wind in the third quarter. The "big-man dominance and desperation were the key factors. The last quarter was a formality".²¹

Facing Monash the following week at Keysborough, the reserves continued their miserable start to the season. As for the firsts, Murray Ponsford described their performance by writing, "After the Lord Mayor, comes the night cart!"²² Bouris' four goals and Graham "Rags" Campbell's Indian Summer form kept the state of the match even up to half-time, but Monash ran away for an easy win. Reservoir Old Boys' pace, determination and aggression, allied with Haileybury's appalling inaccuracy (eight goals, twenty-one behinds) resulted in an easy win for the lakeside team. This inaccuracy didn't help in the Geelong game either; the Haileyburians lost by four points although Porter's influence showed in their improved tackling. Ten players kicked goals, but only Steve Marshall managed to score more than one, and the team could only register points when scoring opportunities arose in the final ten minutes of the fast-paced match.

The efforts of interstate representatives David Code and John Houghton allowed the Bloods to jump the previously unbeaten Old Paradians and be within a point at half time. The strong Paradians slowly pulled away in the last half despite the desperation of their opposition. On a typically windy day at St Kilda CBC's ground, a fine second quarter with the wind and good defence against it in the third term were major factors in the seniors' victory, their first since the opening round. Code again dominated, kicking five goals from centre half-forward.

John Linton Houghton continued...

Houghton's mother Hilly loved watching her big son play as well as throwing her house open to preside over high-spirited affairs. In 1986 the club recognised her part in its life by creating the Hilly Houghton Ladies Award for contributions from its female supporters.

After football, John Houghton turned his attention to the family's stationery business then landscaping. After honing his skills for many years at the Grand Final Breakfast and then in the Sincok-Marshall revival band "Sprocket Heads", he became a "Bagpiper to the Stars", playing with Powderfinger on the MCG at the 2008 AFL Grand Final and the 2010 Brownlow Medal night.

*177 games (all 1sts), 62 goals (all 1sts), 1971-85
Member OHAFC Team of the Century;*

Jumper number 8

Best & Fairest 1sts 1972, 1977, 1978

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1974, 1979, 1980

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1985

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1980

Captain 1sts 1980

Vice-captain 1sts 1977-79

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1974

Coach Reserves 1985

Committee 1980-81

VAFA C Grade Best & Fairest 1974, 1980

All-Australian Amateur 1979;

VAFA Representative 1972-80

²⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 March 1977

²¹ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 26 April 1977

²² Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 23 April 1977

The reserves scored their second and best win for the season over eventual finalists Old Melburnians by the narrowest of margins, but the firsts faltered badly. The temptations of fortune then attracted the teams to Johnny Gyngell's for a "Special Efforts" night, where Don McQueen's "Unders and Overs" board came in handy.²³ A lucky night would have enabled players to pay their annual subscriptions, then \$15.²⁴

Collegians did not enjoy their visit to Keysborough. Their reserves lost by two points, and their first eighteen were astonished by a metamorphosis at the twenty-minute mark of the third quarter. Old Haileyburians, twenty-six points in arrears, were "a beaten side".²⁵ Two goals at the end of the quarter, one at the bell, set the scene for seven-goal assault in the final quarter that enabled a quite comfortable win in the final analysis. The first half of the season was completed by a visit to the Ivanhoe quagmire, in "appalling condition".²⁶ Rain throughout the game added to the misery. Ivanhoe used handball very well in the slippery conditions, winning all day. The saturated Bloods consoled themselves with an after-match function at their coach's home.

Wet conditions at Monash also made for a scrumbly match, but the Bloods showed much greater desire and won well despite the academics' early accuracy, which kept them in the game. Keysborough acquired a formidable reputation for home ground advantage, and a surprised Reservoir were unable to repeat their earlier thrashing; they were a little lucky to win by two goals. The Bloods' next win was not until round fourteen, when on a windy Keysborough day they outscored St Kilda CBC in the third quarter against the draught to take a stranglehold on the match. Although a six goal lead was whittled down to only six points at the end.



The football is about to travel over a considerable distance; an unhurried John Cracknell prepares to deliver one of those familiar torpedo-punts.

JOHN ROLAND CRACKNELL

John Cracknell was a strong, adaptable half-back flanker and fine clubman. School captain in 1971, he promptly reeled off eighty consecutive matches. "Crackers" was soon known for his tear-through style, magnificent long torpedo kicks right and left foot, and the way he backed his usually sound judgement.

Much was expected of Cracknell after his 1974 finals series; he was appointed vice-captain the following year. Many also remember his best on ground performance against Fawkner in the first semi-final at Brighton Beach two years later when he produced a definitive attacking half-back flanker's game.

Cracknell played every match in the 1973 reserves premiership team's marathon twenty-two game season. Swarthinness added to the impression of Cracknell's strength and earned him another nickname in "Blackman". John was a central figure of the friendly peer group that included Dean Lovig, Neil Cocks, Dave Browne, Mike Pritchard and elder statesman Dicky Metherall. Originally a Product Manager with Kraft, then Adidas, Cracknell's career really took off at Disney, where he became the Managing Director of their Asia-Pacific region.

In the later years of his career John Cracknell spent most of his energies in the reserves, but occasionally he would be called up for a hard game against one of the district teams such as Parkside. As captain-coach in 1983, overseas business hindered him from drawing better results from a team good enough to defeat that year's premiers. Cracknell also converted himself into a rugged full-forward reminiscent of Andy Williams only a few years earlier.

163 games (81 1sts, 82 Reserves),
56 goals (7 1sts, 49 Reserves), 1972-83

Member 1973 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 30

Best & Fairest Reserves 1981

Runner-up Best
& Fairest Reserves 1980

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1987

Vice-captain 1sts 1975

Captain-coach Reserves 1983

²³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 March 1977

²⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 December 1976

²⁵ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 4 June 1977

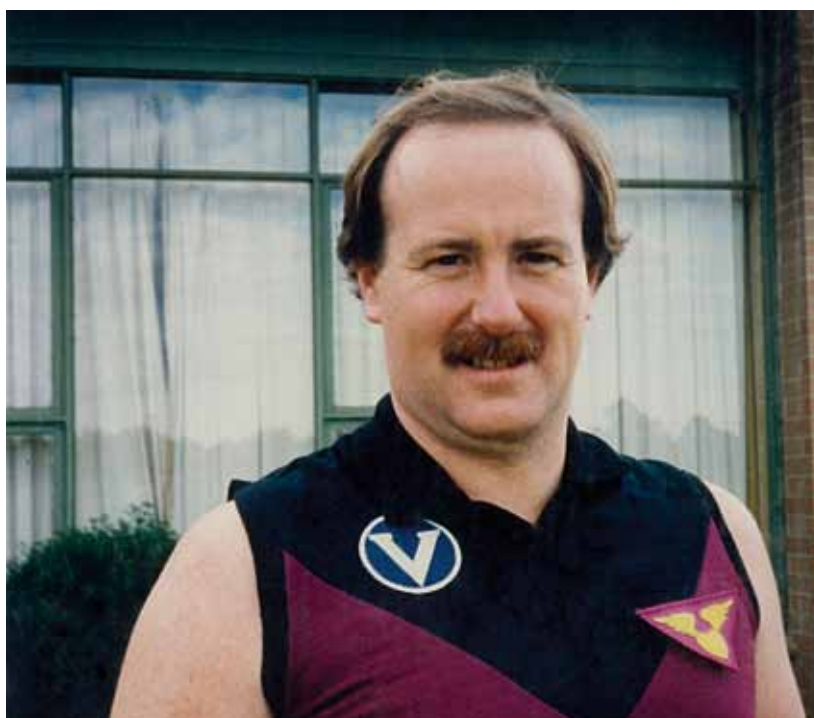
²⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 18 June 1977

An entertaining match at Old Melburnians followed, where a goal-for-goal struggle ended in a five point loss for the Bloods. Around this time the cordial relationship between the two clubs and their players was at its strongest. The Bloods loved going back to OM's clubhouse in Punt Road while for their part the OM's always looked forward to another turn at John Gyngell's 1167.

The seal was really set on the season by a tremendous win against eventual premiers Old Scotch, then two games clear on top of the ladder. Once again the team's capacity to hold opponents and even score goals against the wind proved crucial, and the Bloods' third quarter was outstanding. Roger Paul played a "superb captain's game",²⁷ closely shading John Houghton for the best player afield. The centreline and the last line of defence also performed well, in a team of:

Backs: John Corrigan, Neville Schmidt, Lou Irving
Half-backs: Peter Cunningham, David Legge, Bob Curry
Centres: Neil Cocks, Roger Paul (captain), Graeme Campbell
Half-forwards: Rod Wise, David Code, Ian Roberts
Forwards: Greg Lucas, Don McQueen, Steve Marshall
Followers: John Houghton, Grant Hattam
Rover: Greg Meadows
Reserves: Mark Thomson, Phil Poole

This was a big-bodied, muscular side, with the likes of Houghton, Legge, Schmidt, Code, Paul, Curry, Cunningham, Lucas and of course the old stager McQueen. To say nothing of Houston who played in the reserves and Warnock, absent injured. And Porter was only too happy to encourage the use of physical strength.



Rob Forbes at the end of his playing career.

ROBERT ANDREW FORBES

"Reliable" best describes Robert Forbes, a man whose solidarity in the goal-square became well-known from the late-1970s onwards. Arriving a long-haired and moustachioed lad with a touch of ginger, Forbes played in a premiership team in only his second year at the club. Before his stint in Darwin he was a useful full-forward.

At full-back, "Forbesy" had the judgement of Solomon and the build of another well-known "Gallop Gasometer" at the time, North Melbourne's Mick Nolan. Strength and marking ability were his forte; Forbes would take mark after mark on windy Keysborough days, complementing Andy Williams at the other end of the Fisher Oval. Unlucky not to win a reserves Best and Fairest, in 1981 he finished only one vote behind the three winners who tied. The following year Forbes carried the back-line on those broad shoulders, often surrounded by names such as Graham Reid, Tony Clark, Buck Owen and Wayne Rae.

Forbes also quietly and efficiently served as Secretary to Peter Davies. He slimmed remarkably for 1983's vaunted revival, but then faded quickly from the playing arena. More recently he has become another fixture at the veterans' post-mortem drinks at McKinnon.

*168 Games (10 1sts, 158 Reserves),
73 Goals (2 1sts, 71 Reserves), 1972-83*

Member 1973 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 41

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1978

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1976 (30 goals)

Vice-captain Reserves 1983

Secretary 1981-82

²⁷ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 6 August 1977

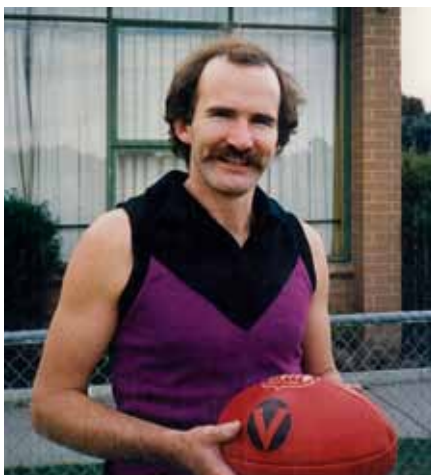
Near-perfect conditions at the Ross Gregory Oval for the match against Collegians failed to prevent a low-standard game. John Houghton's ruckwork and a number of positional changes were instrumental in pegging back a half-time deficit of twenty-one points, and at last relegation was avoided with only one match to be played. In this final game David Code's marking enabled the Bloods to use the wind advantage in the opening term, and Ivanhoe's revival still left them three goals behind at the final siren. The reserves endured a disappointing season and were creamed in their final match, there being "not enough experienced players to support the younger ones".²⁸

Ken Allison's Games Night before the Collegians match was even more successful than Johnny Gyngell's, the "bookmakers" clearing \$1,900.²⁹ Ian Houston again opened up his Brighton residence, this time for the season's penultimate function.

The organisers of Presentation Night maintained their continual changing of venue, settling on Ponsonby's restaurant.³⁰ Dick Metherall was the star of the show, and was awarded Life Membership of the club as well as the Barrie Berggy trophy. Norm Edwards, President of the Magenta and Blacks, was recognised with the other major service award. "Rags" Campbell's form had startled everybody, and he finished behind John Houghton and David Code in the Best and Fairest, Vote-Count Day having been held at Greg Galt's abode.

As a post-script to the season the club held its first Grand Final Breakfast, at the Kooyong Tennis Club, the venue for the first three years before space limitations forced a change from the tennis club's graceful surrounds. Don McQueen and Andrew Langford-Jones were the driving forces behind the event that attracted 150 patrons at twenty-five dollars each, and made a profit of over \$750.³¹ Brownlow Medallist Neil Roberts was the solitary guest speaker.

A new peak was reached, with higher to come. The club took another major step forward late in 1977 when with the help of Jack Kingston the club formed an under-nineteen team,³² having first mooted and rejected the idea in 1964-65. The aim was to create an automatic channel for school leavers to play with the Old Haileyburians.



Dino or Deek? Dean Lovig after 150 games.

DEAN HAROLD LOVIG

Rob de Castella look-alike Dean Lovig was a steady half-back flanker and utility. Lean, fit and either bearded or moustachioed, he was particularly fast in his early days and determined throughout. His senior career may have been extended by the club's relegation from B Grade in 1979 and he was certainly up to scratch in the lower section.

A handy tagger in the mould of Calrton's "Curly" Austin, "Dino" was similarly tenacious but a far better right-foot kick. He suffered his share of injuries including a smashed nose against Parkside and a broken collarbone from a seemingly innocuous St Kilda CBC bump. Lovig's retirement was prompted by a knee injury sustained wind-surfing. A lawyer, some of the club's activities could make the normally implacable Lovig a little nervous.

Off the field Dino was a great clubman, taking his turn at running the canteen and the Magenta and Blacks. When he started marathon running the comparisons with de Castella were made complete.

*151 games (62 1sts, 89 Reserves),
15 goals (1 1sts, 14 Reserves), 1972-82*

Member 1973 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 44

Best & Fairest Reserves 1979

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1976, 1982

Committee 1980-82

²⁸ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 August 1977

²⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 September 1977

³⁰ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 August 1977

³¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 September 1977

³² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 7 September 1977

1978 – Junior Uprising

In 1978 football's rule-makers introduced the interchange system that allowed players to return to the field after being taken off, but the days of endless rotations were many years away even at the elite level, let alone in the amateurs.

For the Old Haileyburians, 1978 was the summit of an era. They reached their highest position to that time in the senior grades. The new junior team, despite teething problems relating to senior selection, played impeccable football and won a premiership in its first year. Not for the last time, the juniors showed a reluctance to concede players to the club's prime twenty.

Ken Allison became the club's seventh President the previous summer. Woodwork teacher and pipe-master Ted Winchcomb was initially appointed coach of the under-nineteens, but was replaced before the season began by former Ormond stalwart Ken Rowse. The junior team came together very smoothly, thanks to the efforts of interested parents Jack Kingston and Cleve Hodge, as well as team manager Peter Chambers.



Roger Paul in his kicking stride as Bob Curry shepherds at the Fisher Oval.

The Kingstons hosted, with typical hospitality, the pre-season barbecue,³³ and only a dozen under-nineteens were needed to “coax” the senior coach into the pool. Honours were probably even considering the odds, as “Portholes”, dragged two or three of his antagonists in with him. Having the Kingstons over the road from the Keysborough grounds could be a trap after training.

Thirty players in total were recruited for the under-nineteens, including Ian Campbell who stepped straight into a permanent position in the firsts. He was joined at various stages of the season by the determined and courageous rover Ian “Cocky” Chambers (after wayward motoring exploits delayed his season), long-kicking ruckman-defender Bob Anderson and the speedy Geoff Brookman. The opening round was played in perfect, sunny, autumn conditions. The firsts began confidently with a nine-goal trouncing of Monash at Keysborough. Playing on the nearby Main Oval, the youngsters also opened with a win in a high-standard match against eventual finalist Coburg.

All three teams lost their second round matches. The firsts’ defeat at Parkside was particularly disturbing, considering Parkside scored their first goal only just before half time for a progress score of 1.11(17). The Bloods kicked just three goals after quarter time, so naturally enough the players’ match fitness was questioned.³⁴ De La Salle, quickly the under-nineteens’ most bitter rival, scored first blood in winning by two goals.

Reservoir Old Boys were suspended from the competition before the season, which gave the senior OHAFC teams the luxury of a bye in rounds three and twelve. Some of the club’s elder gents took the opportunity to watch the stars of the future from the roof of the Gadsden Pavilion as the under-nineteens demolished Old Paradians in a rare but polished appearance on the Fisher Oval. It was as close as the club ever got to using “upstairs” facilities at the Gadsden.

At Old Trinity’s Yarra Bend Oval Michael Porter donned an Old Haileyburians jumper for the first time since 1964. Starting in a forward pocket he was one of his team’s best along with Cocks, Corrigan, Houghton and Marshall in their seven goal win. Old Melburnians crushed the Bloods in the next round, scoring nine goals in the final quarter when the match was over anyway.

All three teams journeyed to Fawcner for a wet afternoon, the juniors having a more difficult afternoon than expected. The firsts’ win was full of merit in the difficult conditions; three goals behind at the final change, in the last quarter they kicked five of their nine goals for the game. They took the lead five minutes before time and sealed the match with sixty seconds remaining. The half-back line of Curry, Lucas and Lovig was particularly tight at vital stages of the match.³⁵

The tradition of close tussles with Old Paradians continued at Keysborough. Kicking with the strong wind, Parade notched six behinds, and added another by half time when they were still goal-less. The Bloods’ burst of five goals in the first six minutes of the second quarter gave them a handy lead, but they relaxed in the second half. Parade staged a great comeback, and hit the front. Only a “brilliant goal by David Legge took the points on the death knock”.³⁶ The juniors began to win as

GEOFFREY LIONEL ABBOTT

Yet another of the Bloods’ medical practitioners, Geoff Abbott was a much under-rated ruckman who invariably played just as well when called up for the seniors as he did in the reserves. The quiet enthusiast resembled Carlton’s Mike Fitzpatrick, being bespectacled, even-tempered, intelligent, and having a characteristic style of leaning backwards when kicking.

Houghton and McQueen’s dominance saw Abbott spend most of his career in the reserves. In his last senior game, at Parkside in 1983, Abbott showed again he could mix it at the higher level with a great performance in a magnificent win. Tall and gangly, especially in his early days, the bearded follower even survived being tackled by team mate Ken Allison when trying to kick a goal. The imperturbable Abbott probably did no more than raise an eyebrow to acknowledge the amusement generated by the scene.

*113 games (13 1sts, 100 Reserves),
28 goals (all Reserves), 1970-84*

Jumper number 35

Best & Fairest Reserves 1974, 1975

Vice-captain Reserves 1975

Deputy vice-captain Reserves 1983

³³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 13 February 1978

³⁴ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 April 1978

³⁵ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 May 1978

³⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 May 1978

they liked, and defeated Therry CCOB by nearly one hundred points.

In very wet and heavy conditions at Coburg's oval on the banks of Merri Creek "the ground was like one enormous cricket pitch".³⁷ This seemed no great disadvantage to the fleet-of-foot Bloods, who in their team had handy exponents of the summer game in Ian Campbell, Greg Lucas, Andy Williams, Steve Marshall, Bob Anderson, Rod Wise and Michael Porter. The Haileyburians' size and experience proved telling, and Coburg's efforts to change the sport of the afternoon from football to boxing proved unsuccessful; one Coburger was dismissed from the field by the umpire, "the first such occasion in a game in which Old Haileyburians has played".³⁸

Therry had been just a warm-up exercise for the under-nineteens; they slaughtered Old Caulfield by over two hundred points and kicked a club record score. District cricketer Andrew Lynch set the juniors' record for an individual goal tally with ten goals from centre half-forward. Michael Collins chimed in with eight from the goal square and parasitic rovers McDonnell and Chambers snapped five apiece. Lynch added another eight the following week against a hapless West Brunswick, who were defeated by "only" 204 points. Skipper David Hodge, ever eager for a goal, helped "Lynchy" out with six of his own.

The reserves entered the winning lists in round seven against Parade and made it two in succession out near the old bluestone hotel, but in general had an unsuccessful year. Losses to Collegians and Monash dimmed the firsts' finals prospects, and a draw against Parkside at Keysborough didn't help matters. Parkside led for most of the game, despite kicking less accurately in the perfect conditions, and were probably the slightly better side on the day. Both teams had opportunities to win late in the game; the Bloods fell down in attack, where Michael Houston was their only effective forward.³⁹



Action at the Fisher Oval in 1976. John Houghton and Peter Mason contest in the pack while Bob Curry prepares to swoop, but Peter Kane can only scratch his head at the scene.

³⁷ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 June 1978

³⁸ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 June 1978

³⁹ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 1 July 1978

The excitement wasn't confined to the Fisher Oval either, as the under-nineteens' contest for top position on the ladder ended midway through the final quarter due to an all-in brawl. De La were two or three goals up at that stage and looked likely winners. The upshots of the mini-riot included a fine of \$200 for the home team and \$150 for the visitors. No premiership points were awarded from the game, which allowed Coburg to bypass both teams and shoot to the top of the ladder.

A superb back line was largely responsible for the firsts' desperate win over Old Trinity in the Keysborough mud,⁴⁰ and for the second time that season all three Haileyburian teams won. Two disastrous efforts followed, but with eight wins and a tie in the sixteen round season the firsts scraped into a B Grade finals series for the first time. A narrow loss against Coburg ended the minor season but the game was highlighted by Andrew Home's efforts in his last senior game, but his first since 1972. Andy arrived ready to play in the reserves, but because of a long injury-list found himself back in his old spot, the centre for the firsts. The old fox acquitted himself well, and was easily one of the team's best players.⁴¹

The juniors upstaged everybody though. Prior to the last game, they were lying in third position, level on points with arch rivals De La Salle but about four percentage points behind. Leader Coburg was two points clear of both. All three teams won their final round matches, De La by ten goals. In a staggering display on the Main Oval, the juniors kicked 41.31(277), to three behinds, to break Caulfield's heart and set club records that still stand for the highest score and greatest winning margin for any team. Twelve players kicked goals, and the percentage gap was bridged (the team finished with the highest season's percentage of any OHAFC team, 232.6%). Despite their comfortable win, De La dropped to third and lost the double chance.

On the opening day of the finals the firsts tied with Old Paradians in their first semi-final and the juniors won their second semi-final against Coburg. The main game was played at Melbourne University and the Bloods lined up as follows:

Backs: John Corrigan, Neville Schmidt, Bob Anderson
Half-backs: Ian Campbell, David Legge, Mark Thomson
Centres: Greg Meadows, Roger Paul (captain), Geoff Sincock
Half-forwards: Neil Cocks, Michael Porter, Lloyd Bowman
Forwards: Mark Newton, John Houghton, Terry Bouris
Followers: Michael Houston, Greg Lucas
Rover: Steve Marshall
Interchange: Peter Mason, Brendan Matthews

Haileyburians' first quarter reflected a certain nervousness, but the pressure applied by Neville Schmidt and his co-defenders played a large part in Parade's inaccuracy. John Houghton's marking in defence also helped keep the Bloods within three points at half time 3.6(24) to 3.9(27) and in front by five points at the last change.

Parade gradually caught and overtook Old Haileyburians, and with seconds to play the Keysborough Kings were seven points down. They scored a point, then marked the Parade full-back's kick out. Another kick

NEIL GEOFFREY COCKS

Neil Cocks must have been delighted to leave the confines of Halifax Street, as the fair-haired and fair-playing wingman loved to run wide. Very fast, of slight build and an awkward, unreliable right-foot kick, Cocks always showed great endeavour. After winning a Best and Fairest under David Young's coaching, Cocks played consistently well through a five-year period in the mid-1970s. In his final year as a "fill-in" for the depleted reserves he played so well as to win their Best and Fairest too, as well as his old spot back on the wing in the firsts.

That errant kicking meant "Cocksy" could only play with his right to the boundary, as the left was used only in dire emergencies. Cocks was the Bloods' culprit in an unusual sequence of four successive "out on the full" kicks played out against St Kilda CBC. He reminded some of Brian Dixon, although the neat accountant's socks would never be found down around his ankles.

A fine if quiet clubman, Cocks famously acted as playing coach Don McQueen's runner in the reserves. After another thundering pre-match address, McQueen took his place on the field having forgotten to remove his false teeth. The coach's first call to his runner saw Cocks refuse to handle the offending dentures, but eventually he relented to allow McQueen to place them in his track suit pocket. At quarter time a desperate Cocks pleaded, "Take your teeth Macca, they've eaten half my lunch!"

*136 games (102 1sts, 34 Reserves),
29 goals (23 1sts, 6 Reserves), 1970-82*

Jumper number 9

Best & Fairest 1sts 1973

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1976

Best & Fairest Reserves 1982

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1977-78

Committee 1977-78

⁴⁰ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 July 1978

⁴¹ The Amateur Footballer 1978 (Vol 78, No 18)

and play saw Michael Porter's snap for goal marked by the unattended Lloyd Bowman, two yards out from goal with seven seconds to play. Big Lloyd, noted for his over-sized heart but hardly his kicking, completed the heart-wrenching finish by booting accurately to tie the scores. The Bloods were particularly lucky with this result, having had ten less scoring shots and clearly less than half the play.⁴²

The juniors' final against Coburg was also an exciting affair, even all day. A fit Old Haileyburians team came home well with the wind in the exciting last quarter, kicking four goals eight. Steve Castles' five goals, David Hodge's captain's game and ruck-work, and the efforts of the defence were outstanding. Brett Mattingley finally sealed the match with a freak torpedo goal from about fifty metres out and on the boundary in front of Old Caulfield Grammarians' pavilion.⁴³

For the firsts' replay, Andrew Langford-Jones took the place of a disappointed John Corrigan and Rod Wise displaced school staff member Brendan Matthews. Parade opened by kicking to the scoring end of St Kilda CBC's Murrumbeena oval. Michael Porter broke the battle of defences when he kicked an inspiring four goals in ten minutes in the second quarter, and the Bloods led at half time. However Roger Paul left the field for the day with a rib injury before half time, and Porter was also battle-scarred, concussed and playing with a broken thumb. In a dour third quarter Parade won a narrow lead they never relinquished, despite the efforts of Anderson, Bouris, Houghton, Legge, Porter and Schmidt.⁴⁴

In hindsight this loss was a major turning point in the club's fortunes. Parade defeated Parkside in the Preliminary final and won promotion to A Grade, a task the Bloods felt they also could have accomplished given the opportunity. Instead, Old Haileyburians remained in B Grade, although only for another year, and lost the chance to recruit with the attraction of being an A Grade club.



Pacy wingman Neil Cocks won the 1973 Best and Fairest award.

PHILLIP JOHN POOLE

A useful utility, Phil Poole provided a steadying influence from the flanks and wings. He arrived from school with luxurious mutton chops fashionable at the time, and was joined a year or two later by younger brother Steve. Both brothers were quiet, neat right-foot kicks, bearded and wore the successive jumper numbers twenty-three and twenty-four.

Phil Poole eventually sat on the College Council. Steve played almost exclusively at full-back, and still holds the unfortunate record of most games (75) for no goals. On one of the rare occasions he took a mark in the forward line and was a genuine chance to break his duck, he would not have been able to believe how hard his team mates tried to put him off.

*103 games (72 1sts, 31 Reserves),
26 goals (18 1sts, 8 Reserves), 1973-80*

Jumper number 23

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1977

⁴² Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 26 August 1978

⁴³ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 26 August 1978

⁴⁴ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 2 September 1978

Albert Park Number Twenty Oval was the scene for the season's highlight, the premiership win of the under-nineteens. The triumph was all the sweeter for facing De La Salle in the Grand Final. Michael Collins returned from the Victorian snowfields to replace the injured Southgate, and Bob Anderson took the place of Spears from the second semi-final team, leaving a final line-up of:

Backs: David Thomas, Richard Kingston, Simon Farnbach
Half-backs: Tony Mitchell, Chris Haydon, Ian Ridoutt
Centres: Roger Gerny, Geoff Carruthers, Brett Mattingley
Half-forwards: Ian Clydesdale, Steve Castles, Geoff Brookman
Forwards: Jeff Taylor, Andrew Lynch, Clint McDonell
Followers: Bob Anderson, David Hodge (captain)
Rover: Ian Chambers
Interchange: Dick Lyons, Michael Collins

The game opened at a furious pace on a fine day. Jeff Taylor's two early goals gave the Bloods a fine start, but by quarter time neither side had gained a break. Early in the second quarter, De La opened up a three-goal lead and looked dangerous. The Bloods, finally starting to team, rammed on five goals in the latter half of the quarter, and rested at half time with a thirteen-point lead.

In the torrid third quarter team leaders David Hodge (concussion) and Ian Chambers (broken arm) left the field injured, a wobbly Chris Haydon was forced to full-forward and leading goal-kicker Andrew Lynch back to centre half-back. Key forward Steve Castles also sported a nasty gash on the knee. But the young Bloods outscored their Catholic rivals, and led by a handy four goals at three-quarter time.



Old Haileyburians' first junior team, premiers in Junior Section 2, 1978. The vice-captain, Ian Chambers, and Andrew Lynch missed the photograph.
Back row: David Southgate, Andrew Mitchell, Ian Ridoutt, Simon Farnbach, Jeff Taylor, Philip Kingston, Roger French and Peter Berry.
Centre row: Team manager Peter Chambers, David Thomas, Brett Mattingley, Ian Clydesdale, Bob Anderson, Michael Collins, Bob Shergold, Steve Castles, Tony Mitchell, Jack Kingston and Lloyd Thomas.
Front row: Chris Haydon, Dick Lyons, Geoff Carruthers, Richard Kingston, coach Ken Rowse, captain David Hodge, Clint McDonell, Roger Gerny and Geoff Brookman.

They extended their lead to six goals in the final term. Ian Ridoutt defended superbly and David Thomas' marking stood out. Eleven goal scorers reflected an even team, but Roger Gerny and Bob Anderson stood out in particular, along with the defence and the destructive ruck-roving duo of Brookman and Carruthers. The club's supporters were all suitably elated, notably "Pam and Trace", the juniors' unofficial team mascots.

1978 Junior Section 2 Grand Final at Albert Park Oval Number 20,
9 September 1978

Old Haileyburians	4.2	9.7	13.8	16.11 (107)
De La Salle Old Collegians	4.5	7.6	9.9	10.13 (73)

Goals: Mattingley 2, Collins 2, Clydesdale 2, Taylor 2, Brookman 2, McDonell, Haydon, Lyons, Chambers, Lynch, Castles

Best players: Gerny, Brookman, Thomas, Anderson, Ridoutt, Carruthers

A big night followed at Barry McDonell's Harkaway hideout. Steve Marshall attained immortality by his efforts sculling tomato sauce; the vegetable oil narrowly averted a similar fate. The boys surfaced the next day at Ian Houston's Vote Count Day to see Roger Paul and John Houghton tie for their third Best and Fairest each. The club was still full of pride at the news that Roger Gerny had won the Junior competition Best and Fairest to complete a perfect personal season.

Trak Centre's "Village Green" hosted Presentation Night for the first time; Rob Pollock and Murray Ponsford were awarded Honorary Life Membership. Dicky Metherall once again starred as the top rock-and-roll attraction of the night and upstaged the regular band. This was a fine conclusion to a year that promised even greater things.



Michael Collins under siege in the pack in the 1978 junior Grand Final, watched by Dick Lyons (19), Geoff Carruthers (8) and Steve Castles.

KENNETH J ROWSE

Ormond stalwart Ken Rowse was recruited to the Old Haileyburians by Jack Kingston to coach its first under-nineteen team. Despite a thirty year difference in age, "Rowsey" soon won the respect of his young players and guided them to a premiership that became more inevitable by the game.

At training, former half-back flanker Rowse brought back the days of Cranch and Masters with "toed" drop kicks. Wearing tinted spectacles and smoking through a cigarette holder his abuse of the umpires would habitually start at the five-minute mark of the first quarter. After two years coaching the juniors, Rowse became Chairman of Selectors for the senior teams, which brought a distinct change in attitude towards playing junior players in the firsts.

Coach U19s 1978 (Premiers), 1979

CHAPTER 5

NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE 1979-82



1979 - MacDonald's Misfortune and Misery

In retrospect 1979 was one of the Old Haileyburians' more disastrous years, and highlighted the lost opportunity of the Parade semi-final of the previous season. The firsts, despite winning seven games, were relegated and consigned to struggle more or less constantly for the next decade in C Grade. So 1979 marked the start of the club's longest lean period, its Dark Ages.

Michael Porter's term as coach ended with the 1978 finals. Considering the success he brought the club, somewhat incredibly there was an element that seemed happy with his departure. Perhaps three years had been a long grind. Old Caulfield's likeable Bob MacDonald had the unenviable task of filling the "Holes" left by Porter's departure, but was forced to do without the team core for most of the season.

The losses included David Legge and David Code (playing elsewhere), Porter himself (retired), Roger Paul, Greg Lucas, Bob Curry and Neil Cocks (all injured). In addition, MacDonald's gun recruit, Glenn Fletcher, spent most of the year on the sidelines nursing a knee injury. Fletcher was sensational in his spasmodic appearances and kicked twenty-eight goals to lead the goal-kicking from only eight games. His marking, strength and kicking were superb.



The burly Terry Bouris sets sail for goal against Old Brighton at McKinnon Oval, 1984.

TERRY ANDREW BOURIS

Heavily-framed and mature at a young age, Terry Bouris played in the school firsts for three years and a then record number of APS games. His bulk was also useful when competing in the shot put, but combined with Terry's vigour and determination meant he could be anything on the football field. Bouris was big, strong and tough as nails.

Bouris' favourite past-time was betting on the horses, but few spectators would have wagered when the power forward with the luxurious moustache lined up the goals with his awkward, wobbly right-foot kicks. "TB" usually won the ball with strength, especially in the air.

Smaller teammates were always happy to play in the forward pocket beside Bouris, such was his willingness and reputation as a protector, even for perennial trouble-makers like Frosty Miller.

A carefree man off the field with a large puppy-like smile, the "Bourac" just loved a drink, a bet and a chat. His response to crashing his blue Falcon after one finals series was simply to leave it by the side of the road. He tended to drift through a variety of occupations from cafes in Swinburne, restaurants in Mount Eliza and bars in Koh Samui, Thailand.

*117 games (109 1sts, 8 Reserves),
173 goals (166 1sts, 7 Reserves), 1975-86*

Jumper number 11

*Leading Goal-kicker 1sts 1976 (48 goals),
1978 (27)*

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1980-81

Committee 1985-86

Retention of the premiership under-nineteen players was excellent; thirteen moved up into senior ranks. Key players Roger Gerny, David Hodge and Ian Ridoutt became regular, important firsts players. After their flag-unfurling ceremony on the Fisher Oval, the juniors were untroubled by the run to the spacious Main Oval, where they comfortably defeated that year's eventual premiers Ormond. Much to the delight of coach Ken Rowse, whose origins were with the district team.

The firsts began slowly, and were humiliated by Old Caulfield who showed old clubman MacDonald no sympathy in his coaching debut. Jim Bonwick, returned from a three-year stint with the socials, captain-coached the reserves to an encouraging start. Against Old Trinity the following week the firsts made amends; their smaller players led by clever and neat recruit Keiren Breen (Barry's younger brother) ran riot. Both teams lost against Monash at home, but the seniors scored a thrilling win at Old Xaverians' Yarra Park home by only two points. The only time they led in this fast-paced match was in the final two minutes; this was a fine effort after Xavs led by two goals at the halfway mark of the game.

A frustrating run of six successive defeats followed for the firsts, which prompted desperate measures such as MacDonald's emergence from retirement. Even Michael Porter came back for a solitary appearance, against Old Trinity. Apparently this did the trick, as this was the match that ended the depressing sequence. At the halfway point of the season the reserves had won just over half their matches, having scythed down such tall poppies as Old Caulfield, Collegians and AJAX.



Mark Newton, neat as ever, streams out of the backline in his hundredth game watched by Tony "Perce" Mitchem at Banyule, 1986.

MARK ANDREW NEWTON

The greyhound-thin Mark Newton was a central personality in the boisterous group of school leavers that joined and rejuvenated the Old Haileyburians after leaving school in 1975. He kept that body of a nineteen-year-old perfectly preserved despite becoming a grandfather early in his fifties. An exceedingly neat, nippy wingman or small forward he played many useful games in the Porter era in particular, some as second rover to Steve Marshall. "Newts" or "Newta" was adept at finding space and was a more than competent goal sneak. He would now be described as an outside player.

Widely acknowledged and accused of having one of the healthier libidos in the club, Newton contributed greatly to its social fabric and was frequently the life of the party. Newts played a leading part in the club's second breakaway team in 1982, but helped in their return to the fold the following year. One of the first at the club to carve out a career in information technology, his talents and fitness extended to playing State League squash and competing in triathlons with some of his old team mates.

*116 games (26 1sts, 85 Reserves, 5 3rds),
44 goals (15 1sts, 27 Reserves, 2 3rds), 1976-90*

Jumper number 34

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1983

Committee 1982-85

Experience proved telling in the Collegians match; the club's veterans turned out in force. The seven evergreens were Messrs Home, Metherall, Langford-Jones, Williams, McQueen, Bonwick and Allison. Between them they had played in excess of 1,100 games for the club over a total playing period of some ninety years.¹ Just to show that they were no passengers, between them they kicked all but two of the team's twelve goals on the day. The juniors had won exactly half their matches, including a draw against North Old Boys at Keysborough, partly courteous of a dubious goal-umpiring decision by the northerners' goal umpire.

A winning centre-line and third-quarter burst of eight goals were major features of the drought-breaking Trinity win.² What followed was the highlight of the season. The whole club played at Monash on a fine sunny day, and all three teams recorded wins for only the second time that season. The seconds were so inspired by the return of prodigal sons and recovered crocks that they easily accounted for their top-of-the-ladder opponents.

The firsts were coached by Michael Porter in a cameo performance, filling in for the suspended Bob MacDonald. A final-quarter burst and Fletcher's seven goals were telling in a match marked by what must have been one of Old Haileybury's strongest-ever teams on paper this team fielded every Best and Fairest winner from 1972 to 1984 inclusive, with the exception of the injured Neil Cocks. The big guns Code, Fletcher and Legge were more than paper tigers too in the team of:

Backs: John Corrigan, Neville Schmidt, David Hodge

Half-backs: Ian Campbell, David Legge, Ian Ridoutt

Centres: Roger Gerny, David Code, Phil Poole

Half-forwards: Roger Paul (captain), Michael Houston, Keiren Breen

Forwards: Glenn Fletcher, Terry Bouris, Geoff Carruthers

Followers: John Houghton, Greg Meadows

Rover: Paul McGaw

Interchange: Lloyd Bowman, Steve Castles



Bob MacDonald talking tactics with Rob Pollock (back to camera) and the Poole brothers Phil (left) and Steve (right).

ROBERT BRUCE MacDonald

The likeable Bob MacDonald was an unlucky coach. Recruited to replace Michael Porter by his old friend Ken Allison, MacDonald saw his injury-depleted team win seven games but still be relegated on percentage. He then repeated the experience the following year with his old team Caulfield Grammarians, where he had done everything from playing in their 1970 A grade premiership to captaining that club in 1976. Big and fearless, his style on the field and in life was straight ahead, if sometimes a bit wild.

Ironically known as "Hairy", MacDonald began with great enthusiasm. He tried the contemporary motivational technique of asking players to write an essay about their football. He even made a playing comeback to try to lift his team, but in one of these games was reported, paving the way for Porter to make a guest re-appearance as coach. MacDonald still remained popular and friendly through the disappointments, other than when, in another motivational ploy, he wore his old Caulfield jumper at one of the Bloods' social functions!

7 games (all 1sts), 7 goals (all 1sts), 1979

Coach 1sts 1979

¹ *The Amateur Footballer* 1979 (Vol 79, No 6)

² Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 7 July 1979

Mark Newton's parents hosted one of the social highlights of the year after this game. The club was in a buoyant mood at the Mount Eliza spit night, and "Newts" himself particularly enjoyed the night. The '75ers' organising skills were at their height; the typical line-up included Greg Meadows, vulture-like on the door, with Col Bowman scouting the packs for the crumbs. Steve "Sausage" Marshall managed the sound and "Evil" Sincock the later and bawdier entertainment. Holding a party was easy with these magicians at your disposal, and even coach MacDonald volunteered his abode as a venue - when his wife was away for the weekend.

The Bloods pushed relegation a little further away with a third successive win. On yet another windy Keysborough afternoon, they led by four goals at the last change, but Xavs had the use of a "six-goal wind".³ Superb play, particularly by Houghton, allowed the home team to outscore their opponents against the breeze. David Code and nippy redheaded rover Paul "Quick-draw" McGaw were also prominent. The under-nineteens scored one of their best wins too, defeating St Bernards by three goals, a fifteen-goal turn-around from their previous meeting.

Wins against Parkside and at Fawkner extended the firsts' record to five wins in their last six games as they battled to avoid relegation, one of amateur football's great motivating factors. Monash, their main "rivals", managed to string together two extraordinary wins over leading teams late in the season, but the Bloods suffered a percentage-sapping loss against Marcellin in the penultimate round. Finally they faced the task of defeating eventual premier AJAX in the final round to avoid relegation. AJAX were far too good, and cruised home to win easily. Combined with Monash's win over Parkside, this left Old Haileyburians ninth on percentage.

The disappointing season did have some highlights. John Houghton capped a fine Amateur career by being selected in the All-Australian Amateur team after his performances in the interstate carnival. The under-nineteens finished in a solid sixth position in their first year in the top junior section. Only a demoralising loss at Hampton Rovers late in the year ended their finals aspirations.

The Grand Final Breakfast was held for the last time at Kooyong, and most of the entertainment was spectacular, including Ron Blaskett and the surprisingly uncouth Gerry Gee. The schoolgirls choir from Rooding School were well established and although the cast varied a little from year to year the participants included "Mesdames" Porter, Metherall, Houghton, Thomson, Marshall and of course Sincock. The Paul, Schmidt, Corrigan, Bouris, Billings push attended this particular breakfast after a night of "Football Marathon" and poker - less than immaculately attired in their football gear!

Roger Gerny continued his habit of collecting Best and Fairest awards. Don McQueen and Andrew Langford-Jones were awarded Life Memberships, fittingly at the same time. Rob Pollock was rewarded for his continual industry and "ferreting" with the Barrie Berggy trophy.

³ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 July 1979

Late in the season the club tentatively re-investigated the possibility of building the proposed second story to the Gadsden Pavilion. Suspensions were confirmed when the School Council made clear their policy; while they would probably allow the construction to proceed, they were not at all amenable to the consumption of alcohol on school property. This marked the beginning of the end of Keysborough as the club's home. Bitter disillusionment followed over the next few years.



Typical Keysborough follies for a 1980 reserves match. Jim Bonwick trots out for his 150th game, escorted by Tom Fisher and preceded by Ross Bannon (56). No game at the Fisher Oval would be complete without dogs, in this case owned by Andy Williams.

JAMES ALEXANDER BONWICK

For twenty years from the late-1960s Jim Bonwick and his family were a bedrock of the OHAFC. His first appearances were marked by the same fair curly hair that still tops his small but durable frame today. "Bonna" soon established a reputation as a wet-weather footballer and on rainy Saturdays was often a chance to receive a morning phone call telling him to sleep in and catch the later game.

Bonwick's courageous burrowing techniques often drew praise from appreciative coaches, but they were more reluctant to select him on sunny days. Never fleet of foot, he had a quick football brain as evidenced by his handball, which also enabled him to get away with his short kicking. Jim played the game of his life along with fellow small men Pollock and Mehegan in the second of two reserves premiership wins.

Returning to the club after a spell with the Socials, Bonwick became noted for his sartorial splendour on Saturday mornings, resembling an unmade bed. As captain-coach of the reserves his addresses could be brief; at Marcellin's soggy Bulleen playing fields his attempt to lift a dispirited team at half-time was simply "Let's go!"

In their early days at the club, Jim and Mino's Passchendale Street home was almost permanently rented to the football club for entertainment and shelter on Saturday nights. His greatest contributions to the Old Haileyburians, however, were probably in the lean years of the early-1980s when he worked tirelessly for his club when it seemed to be falling apart at the seams. Fittingly he played his two hundredth game against old rivals Parkside. It would have been much to Jim's delight that son Andrew continued the family tradition with the OHAFC with distinction.

240 games (21 1sts, 219 Reserves - club record),
80 goals (6 1sts, 74 Reserves), 1968-87

Member 1968 & 1973 Reserves Premiership
teams

Jumper number 50

Best & Fairest Reserves 1981, 1985

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1971

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1980

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1981, 1982

Captain-coach Reserves 1979

Captain Reserves 1971-72

Vice-captain Reserves 1970, 1981-82

Vice-President 1981-84

Committee 1970-75, 1979-84

1980 - Tonkin's Triumph and Dads' Army - but No Leap Up for Froggy

No mass exodus followed the club's descent back to C Grade. Glenn Fletcher returned to the knee surgeon's operating table, and to Caulfield Grammar with his unsuccessful coaching mate. The mercy dashes of Code and Legge constituted their last games at the club. Greg Meadows left for Sandringham's beachside oval, Phil Poole retired, and some of the newer hopes vanished; these included pacy roving trio Brookman, Carruthers and McGaw. Leading forwards Chris Haydon and Keiren Breen also wandered off to other pastures.

The major achievement of Ken Allison's committee over the summer months was to secure a coaching panel of Neil Crompton for the seniors and Nick Tonkin for the under-nineteens. Physics teacher Tonkin also brought along with him the majority of the previous year's APS team, thereby boosting his coaching future. Once again Jack Kingston was heavily involved with the under-nineteens; younger son Philip was appointed captain of the team in an inspired choice. Old-stager Ross Bannon rejoined as skills coach and a lean, thinning and venerable defender. Ken Rowse continued his involvement at the club, and abuse of the umpires, from a new vantage point as Chairman of Selectors.

Como Park was the venue for a most encouraging start to the season. In perfect conditions on the carpet-like ground, there was plenty of youthful verve. No less than thirteen of the twenty had played with the under-nineteens in the two previous years, and seven players were making their senior debuts. Forwards Wise, Taylor, Clydesdale and surprisingly Peter Thompson peppered the goals to convert John Houghton's dominant ruckwork. The writing was on the wall at half time when the Bloods held a three-goal advantage. Coburg were easy meat for the juniors, the lanky blond "Sticks" Robertson opened the season with six goals.

Bulleen-Templestowe deflated the Bloods' ego in the following round's "Match of the Day" at Elsternwick Park. The strong wind and uneven bounce were in stark contrast to the previous week.⁴ Mike Houston's solo performance in kicking six goals against Geelong could not save his side, and after three weeks the two senior teams had won only one match out of six between them. The juniors won their first five games by at least six goals, and annihilated the strong University Blues side by 100 points; clever forward Mark Jury showed off his immaculate disposal skills with six goals.

At Brighton Beach the firsts reached the lowest ebb of their slide, losing by over twenty goals. Brighton's full-forward "Jumping" John Priestley was largely responsible for the then-record score against the hapless Bloods. An encouraging note was the first win of the season for Don McQueen's reserves team, which started a run of five straight victories.

Crompton had the firsts well and truly fired up for the vital match at Keysborough against Coburg, to such effect they kicked six goals to one against the breeze in the opening term. David Hodge was elusive in the key forward post. "Old Masters" Williams (seven goals), Langford-Jones (three) and Bannon (three) ensured an easy win for their geriatric reserves team.

NEIL COLIN CROMPTON

Forever remembered as the Melbourne back-pocket who kicked the winning goal in the 1964 Grand Final, Neil Crompton was also one of a select band who played both cricket and football for Victoria. His appointment as coach was considered a coup for the Old Haileyburians, but his results were perhaps disappointing, just missing the finals courtesy of a loss to Hampton Rovers in a spiteful final game of the season.

Originally from Ormond, "Froggy" was highly respected by the players, and he maintained excellent team spirit. Work commitments prevented him from fulfilling his appointment for a second year. Crompton died in 2003, aged only 66.

Coach 1sts 1980

⁴ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 April 1980

Nick Tonkin's juniors suffered their first loss, at the hands of old rivals De La Salle, which cast some doubt on their chances of success in September. Neville Schmidt displayed his potential as a forward for the first time in the seniors' losing effort against Melbourne High. To compound the club's misery, the juniors lost their second game in a row, this time against St Bernards, their eventual Grand Final opponents.

One of the firsts' best victories was over Hampton Rovers. Hampton looked too strong early, but the game changed mid-way through the second quarter. After kicking 1.10, the Bloods secured a two-point lead at half time and maintained the leeway. The final term was all Old Haileyburians as they rattled on 9.2.⁵ New centre half-forward Michael Collins kicked an incredible goal with the breeze to set the seal on the match.

A narrow win against St Kevins was highlighted by Roger Paul's great comeback after being stood down as captain due to injury. At least this gave another fine clubman in John Houghton the chance to show his skippering wares.

Finals became a distinct possibility following a great win in atrocious conditions at far away Bulleen-Templestowe, conditions which even Keysborough on the bleakest of days would have been hard-pressed to match. John Houghton's efforts in the wet were remarkable, taking countless marks and constantly knocking the ball out of bounds in the dour last quarter.



The Mountain - Michael Houston.

MICHAEL NAIRN HOUSTON

The enigmatic Michael Houston might sometimes have been a whipping boy for coaches and supporters at Old Haileyburians, but on his day "Mountain" was awesome. Almost perversely, those days were frequently against the likes of Parkside and the physically tougher district clubs.

As a ruckman and key forward, Houston's assets included a fine pair of hands which took many great "catches", and a reliable right-foot kick of accurate flat punts. He was not considered a jumping ruckman. Mountain's form reversals sometimes saw him playing in the reserves, much to his disgust, as he always considered himself a senior player.

Varying forms of motivation were tried on the big man, one of the most successful being coach Langford-Jones' three sharp punches to his head before a 1983 clash. Mountain finished with eight goals and Stink a sore hand. Not one to stay long after the game, the quiet Houston dwarfed his companion, the tiny five feet and not much more Marella. He was rarely bothered by injury, other than calcifications from hot towels. Houston's parents were often generous hosts for club functions, and younger brother Richard became a valuable defender and occasional ruckman. Unfortunately the obvious nick-name "Hill" never quite stuck.

*158 games (93 1sts, 65 Reserves),
192 goals (131 1sts, 61 Reserves), 1974-86*

Jumper number 6

*Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1980 (27 goals),
Reserves 1981 (29)*

⁵ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 7 June 1980

The trip to Geelong's superb Queen's Park Oval and inviting bluestone-sided pavilion proved less successful. The Western District's capital town's nine goal second term demoralised the Bloods. A frustrated Terry Bouris was ordered off by the umpire in the third quarter but Geelong hardly needed the extra man.⁶

The club's other teams consolidated their positions in the upper realms of their respective ladders. Athletic wingman Nick Broome's six goals were a highlight of the juniors' win over Hampton Rovers. Scavenging small men Peter Burns, David Miller, David Goldstraw and Glenn Hart were also consistently amongst the goals. The reserves showed that guile and cunning were still important aspects of the game. Schmidt's seven-goal bonanza at Coburg confirmed his status forward of the centre square.

A win in the wet at Camberwell kept the firsts in touch with the four, but their chances came to an end in the final game at Hampton, in virtually an elimination final. An undermanned Old Haileyburians were no match for the snarling, aggressive Rovers, who used their strength freely. The reserves and juniors both had poor dress rehearsals for the finals; first semi-final opponents Hampton defeated the seconds easily, and the under-nineteens lost their last two home and away matches. Neil Crompton's fortieth birthday party completed the minor season.

Semi-final day was a double success for the Haileyburians. The much-vaunted "Dad's Army" reversed the previous week's result by twelve goals. Their venerable side was:

Backs: John Corrigan, Robert Forbes, Cameron McDonald

Half-backs: Ross Bannon, Ian Clydesdale, John Cracknell

Centres: Mark Newton, Roger Paul, Neil Cocks

Half-forwards: Peter Noske, Peter Mason, David Bedwell

Forwards: Geoff Abbott, Andrew Williams, Jim Bonwick

Followers: Don McQueen (captain-coach), David Southgate

Rover: Ian Chambers

Interchange: Andrew Home, Col Bowman

Monash University hosted the first of two classic reserves finals, both played in identical conditions; a strong wind prevailed on a dry, sunny day. After a tight first quarter the Bloods established a six-goal lead by half time, largely thanks to fine defence. The Rovers cut the lead in half in the third quarter, and further alarmed Haileyburians' supporters with a goal in the opening thirty seconds of the last. They drew to within five points after only ten minutes, but the Bloods steadied, and "a lucky goal to Jim Bonwick with only a minute or so to go put the result beyond doubt".⁷

The juniors, following typically meticulous Tonkin preparation and a team meeting at Kingston's the preceding night, nearly doubled St Bernards' score to win easily at Yarra Park. Former defender Peter Burke umpired a match fortunate for the Bloods' inspiring captain Philip Kingston. "Kingo" committed the ultimate footballing sin of taking the bait in a semi-final, and should still be thanking "Pom" for ignoring a blatant striking offence. Along the flanks Neil Meadows, Matt Hoskin, John Constable, Nick Broome and the speedy but unfit Rod Strahan were significant players in the win.



Ross Bannon won the Best and Fairest in 1967, but this photo was taken of him in his days as a veteran playing in Don McQueen's "Dad's Army".

⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 5 July 1980

⁷ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 23 August 1980

Two points were all that separated the reserves from a Grand Final appearance after a valiant performance against eventual premiers Geelong in the Preliminary Final. In a replay of the semi final, again played at Monash, the Bloods held a substantial half time lead that was whittled away as the elderly citizens tired. Geelong's winning goal was kicked very late in the final term. A hilarious afternoon followed at the Notting Hill Hotel despite the loss, thanks in part to the performance of Mark Newton's blow-up doll.

Another Friday night meeting at the Kingstons prepared the juniors for their final clash. One drama was the non-appearance of Peter Burns, who preferred romance to football. A concerned coach pestered most of Melbourne's public hospitals trying to locate the errant left-footer.

The other pre-match quandary concerned the brilliant "Frosty" Miller, who returned from a Queensland holiday with stitches in the webbing of a hand, obviously unfit to play. The team had insisted that he return if there was the slightest possibility of him playing. Lou and David Witts' father, an ever-present and supportive figure around the club, had the unhappy task of ruling a disconsolate Miller out. The younger Witts took his place, which made the final team:

Backs: Neil Meadows, Richard Houston, Alan Stuart
Half-backs: Matthew Hoskin, Mark Knight, Gordon Masters
Centres: Nick Broome, Phil Kingston (captain), John Constable
Half-forwards: Jeff Robertson, Glenn Hart, David Witts
Forwards: Mark Jury, John Wickenton, Peter Burns
Followers: Al Steadman, David Goldstraw
Rover: Rod Strahan
Interchange: Michael Carson, Bruce Dann



David Hodge doing what he liked most, shooting for goal. Mark Newton (34) watches his lanky frame bent well over the ball.

DAVID JOHN CLEVELAND HODGE

Lanky with a streak of red-tinged hair, David Hodge captained the school and the football team to the 1977 APS premiership, then the following year the Bloods' first under-nineteen team to another flag. A versatile tall player, he had a clear preference for the forward line and especially kicking goals, but in his first year in the seniors played a great role as a high-marking back pocket.

Hodge's rapport with his older team mates had him earmarked as a future captain. Finally given an extended run in front of goals in 1981, he propped, stopped, marked and kicked in the manner of old-time full-forwards to lead the goal-kicking. Marking was always an asset, but the big fellow was not over-endowed with pace and had a wide turning circle. He preferred to kick with the right and handball with the left as a means of avoiding capture. "Hodgery" quickly joined the ranks of keen punters at the club, as well as famed motorists in an aged Falcon with multi-coloured panels.

Deceptively durable despite supposedly suspect hamstrings, Hodge was not one of the great trainers and could look like a 25-year-old in a 40-year-old's body. With his GP father Cleve he also sat on the committee, the latter providing great common sense and advice, a courtesy he occasionally extended to umpires. After football David pursued a successful career with Amcor, researching overseas acquisitions.

108 games (76 1sts, 15 Reserves, 17 U19s),
 118 goals (72 1sts, 31 Reserves, 15 U19s), 1978-84

Captain 1978 U19 Premiership team

Jumper number 29

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1981 (35 goals),
 Reserves 1984 (28)

Committee 1979, 1983-85

Collingwood and North Melbourne played the elimination final at the MCG, across the railway line from Old Xaverians' Swan Street oval, on a dry, windy day. The breeze blew down to the footbridge end, to which St Bernards kicked in the opening term. The Bloods opened with their captain on pain-killing injections for a hip injury suffered in the semi-final. Mark Jury scored the team's first goals. Scores were level at the first change, although the Bloods had kicked the first four goals against the wind. In an accurate match a spasmodic Haileyburians led by twenty points at half time.

St Bernards made little use of the wind until the last ten minutes of the third quarter, when they rammed on the goals to lead by eleven points at the orange break. The gap was slowly closed, and at last back-pocket Neil Meadows emulated his senior coach to kick the goal that put his team in front. "Bugs" was thrust into the roving division late in the game as the fitness of regular scavengers Strahan, Burns and Goldstraw failed. A hurried left-foot snap of long carry from the centre square, assisted by the breeze, sealed a one-point premiership win. The game was thrown into confusion three minutes from the end by the false alarm of a train siren.

The team's strengths were clearly evident and included the powerful ruckwork of quiet ruckman John Wickenton, the solidity of centre half-back Mark Knight and the pugnacity of defender Gordon Masters. Jeff Robertson surprised many with his heart in the big game, but above all was the determination of the skipper, who capped a perfect, inspiring year by winning the competition Best and Fairest.

1980 Junior Section 1 Grand Final at Old Scotch Oval, 6 September 1980

Old Haileyburians	4.2	10.4	12.6	15.9 (99)
St Bernards Old Collegians	4.1	7.2	14.5	15.8 (98)

Goals: Jury 3, Steadman 3, Strahan 2, Robertson 2, Kingston 2, Burns, Goldstraw, Meadows

Best players: Wickenton, Kingston, Meadows, Knight, Steadman, Robertson



Nick Tonkin's finest hour. Peter Thompson shakes his hand as premiership captain Philip Kingston rides on his shoulders moments after their one-point win in the 1980 Junior Section 1 Grand Final.

BRIAN NICHOLAS TONKIN

Former Brighton Grammarian Nick Tonkin had an enormous influence on the football and professional careers of many boys to pass through Haileybury. A highly respected physics and maths teacher at the school for many years, he was even more popular with old boys, especially those who loved a good time and talking sport. In APS football, Haileybury and Brighton Grammar now play for the Tonkin Cup.

Great company, knowledgeable and entertaining, the hyperactive Nick's enjoyment for life could be deceptive because he was a ferocious competitor in anything he did, whether it be resuming rivalries with fellow boarding house master Ian Greenaway in table tennis or opening the bowling with Max Walker for the Melbourne Cricket Club. Nick was one of the stars of APS cricket in the mid-1960s. All that time spent in youthful company tended to make his birthdays indiscernible too.

Many players received the Tonkin rev-up, inspiring efforts never less than their best, but generally he spoke quietly and intelligently to his players. The same could not always be said when it came to opposition players or umpires, and "Tonks" was not beyond a decent spray. This included the day in a school seconds match at Caulfield Grammar when he took up a harassed umpire's offer of the whistle and officiated the game himself.

As coach, Tonkin used his formidable teaching skills to great advantage. He had a fine appreciation of players' strengths and weaknesses, and stressed the values of handball and running team play. His great triumph was of course guiding the under-nineteens to a one-point win in the 1980 Junior Section 1 Grand Final. The following year he took over the senior team after Neil Crompton's withdrawal at short notice, but his efforts were not always matched by his players and the team suffered terribly from key injuries.

Everyone at Old Haileyburians admired Nick Tonkin's commitment, passion and ability to improve the skills of his players, and many lives were richer for his considerable influence.

2 games (both Reserves), no goals, 1981

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1990

Coach 1sts 1981

Coach U19s 1980 (Premiers), 1990

Vice-President 1987

The Kingstons again hosted one of those famous all-night parties to celebrate the win. It was a night like that of the Marshalls over a decade before, and notable for parental involvement. Bob Knight, Max Jury, David Robertson, Neil Wickenton, Keith Meadows and Ian Houston had plenty to celebrate in their sons' triumph.

John Houghton completed a unique double for the club by winning the C Grade competition Best and Fairest (for the second time). It was Neville Schmidt, however, who took off the club's award when votes were counted the "morning after the night before" at Kingston's.

As Social Director, John Houghton masterminded the club's entertainment programme, including Presentation Night at Tudor Court, where he deservedly received the Barrie Berggy award. Of all the first year players, pacy trainee medico Scotty Deller had been the most impressive; cheeky, yappy and prolific kick-winner David Thomas continued his steady improvement to collect the first of two successive awards for consistency. No doubt father Lloyd's statistics bore out "Chook's" value to the club.

In the year of "Dad's Army", Don McQueen appropriately wore the laurels of his team's Best and Fairest, pushed by the ageing John Cracknell and Robert Forbes. John Wickenton ran his captain close for the juniors' award. Apart from the disappointing end to the season for the firsts, Ken Allison's final year as President had been promising. But further success would be scarce for some time and, as it turned out, not until KA returned to the Chair.



The club's most recent junior premiership was won in 1980. John Constable's parents hosted a barbecue for a photograph session, but the lads look surprisingly little the worse for wear here. Bruce Dann, Al Steadman and David Witts missed the afternoon.

Back row: Stuart Sommerville, Mike Carson, John Wickenton, Dick Houston, Mark Knight, Glenn Hart, Mark Jury and Gordon Masters.

Centre row: Tony Gilchrist, Jeff Robertson, John Constable, coach Nick Tonkin, president Ken Allison, captain Philip Kingston, Alan Stuart and David Miller.

Front row: Matthew Hoskin, Neil Meadows, David Goldstraw, Peter Burns and Rod Strahan.

1981 - Very Hard Yards

Nineteen eighty-one opened in turmoil. Peter Davies replaced Ken Allison as President, being prepared to commit when nobody else was. Rick Horne passed the secretary's quill on to the rock-solid Rob Forbes. Neil Crompton was re-appointed,⁸ but over the pre-season it became obvious that "Froggy" just didn't have the time to do the job justice. Nick Tonkin took training over this time, and his clear dedication made him the logical choice as senior coach.⁹ "Tonks" showed more resolve than many of his predecessors, and he would need it.

A second major drama was the departure of junior premierships captain Philip Kingston to his father's old A Grade team Ormond, which sparked a wave of sorrow and anger. Some held hopes that Tonkin's promotion to senior coach would bring a change of mind from the premierships captain, but that mind was made up. So after just one senior game for the Old Haileyburians, Kingston carved out one of the great amateur careers, including multiple A Grade premierships, All-Australian selection and captaincy of the VAFA. His loss was one of a number of body blows that saw the Bloods at their weakest in the early 1980s.



Veteran and dual Best and Fairest winner John Corrigan celebrates his 200th game in 1986, much to the joy and amusement of his reserves team mates, his great friends Don and Denise Lord, and Harry Metherall.

JOHN McMAHEN CORRIGAN

John Corrigan won Best and Fairests in 1981 and 1982 through sheer endeavour and doggedness, and in these lean times did more than his share to keep his club out of D Grade. Having joined the club with long flowing hair, the engineer quickly showed his construction was solid as he played his first sixty matches consecutively.

Always an enthusiast for a game, a win and an after-match beer, "Corrers" also loved an argument. His rural roots meant he was at home as anyone in the depths of Keysborough's Gadsden Pavilion, covered in mud from players' boots. It was here "Corrers" became King of the "Zeke Hot Dog" in 1981 and initiated the steamed dim sim craze the following year. He was also a familiar figure behind the rickety wooden table utilised as a bar servery.

Never particularly fast, Corrigan loved the wet much as another mud-lark, dim sim aficionado and mate in Jim Bonwick. His strength was an advantage in dealing with the resting rovers in the back pocket, and once John had his hands on the ball he disposed of it well with either foot. Corrigan's appearance could vary from the very neat to a more bedraggled look; typically this would be after a loss in the Keysborough rain in his later years. Over the years that flowing hair disappeared, much to his mates' mirth, and was replaced by a highly reflective dome.

Corrigan's commitment to the Bloods extended to delaying his honeymoon with new wife Deb to play in desperate end-of-season relegation games. A hard but fair player, one of his few appearances at the tribunal was as witness for a charge against Ivanhoe giant, Tim Robb, who received eight weeks for trying to drown Corrigan in a large puddle!

The talents of John Corrigan extended to tennis, dancing and, to a lesser extent, singing; he always amused with his performances of John Denver's "Thank God I'm a Country Boy!" The recruitment of Corrigan's nephews Paul and Mark in the mid-2000s saw him make a welcome return to the club and those lively post-match discussions.

200 games (134 1sts, 66 Reserves),
19 goals (4 1sts, 15 Reserves), 1975-86

Jumper number 10

Best & Fairest 1sts 1981 & 1982

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1986

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1986

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1982-83

Captain Reserves 1986

Committee 1983-85

⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 25 November 1980

⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 31 March 1981

Philip's father Jack had been heavily involved in the sub-committee investigating the third major problem, that of the ground situation. Russell Sincock and the stern but venerable Doctor Cleve Hodge, who gave numerous free Saturday afternoon consultations, completed the sub-committee.¹⁰ They had their problems, both in the search for alternative grounds, and in their dealings with a procrastinate Old Haileyburians' Association to establish a reasonable tenancy agreement at the Fisher Oval. Eventually the club was advised that 1982 was to be the last year that alcohol would be permitted on school premises.¹¹ Some felt strongly that double standards were being employed at the time.

Problem number four was the Magenta and Blacks. Interest in the club generally had fallen as a result of Keysborough's lonesome facilities, and a replacement for Dean Lovig as President was difficult to find. Finally Rob Mackay, a blast from the past, was appointed¹² as what turned out to be the last head of the Parents' and Supporters' Group. "Mordy Mac" was given little assistance in keeping the group going on its last legs. The absence of parental support was sorely felt.

The team also had to play both games against Old Camberwell away (the Fisher Oval was unavailable on both days),¹³ but this seemed relatively trivial after all the other dramas. At least the usually difficult area of team management was well taken care of by the dynamic duo of Bob Knight and Max Jury, two Indians if ever there were. These two did a fabulous job over the next few years. Roger Paul resumed the mantle of captaincy, and John Houghton reverted to the role of a non-executive player. The juniors' coaching position vacated by Tonkin was an added irritant, a variety of gentlemen showing their wares over the year. These included Graham Gilchrist's ex-Carlton team mate John Sullivan and the broadening Andrew Langford-Jones.

No major recruits were attracted to replace the inevitable departures. As well as Philip Kingston, the muscular but speedy Clint McDonnell also left. So too did Ian Ridoutt, Andrew Williams, Peter Mason, Max McLennan, Brett Mattingley, Lloyd Bowman and Michael Collins. ALJ and Andy Home entered more permanent semi-retirement. Jumpers were presented in the relatively Spartan surrounds of Frank Northcott's legendary accounting nursery, Keysborough's Room 41. Rodger Head, St Kilda's Match Committee chairman in the newly installed Fox regime, was the guest presenter.

Surprising as it may seem considering the circumstances, the Kingstons again hosted the pre-season barbecue. Judy Kingston also unfurled the juniors' pennant at the Melbourne High home game in the third round. This was after an encouraging start to the season on a fine day at Camberwell. A winning centre-line of Gerny, Campbell and Constable, along with Hodge's four goals and Meckiff's chasing and tackling, sealed the match in a determined second half.¹⁴ McQueen's marauders sought to repeat their previous year's success and embarked on a six-game winning run.

For once the reserves seemed to have the wood on Hampton Rovers, and destroyed the Hampton industrialists at David Road in a replay of their finals match. The under-manned firsts never looked like winning their match, although they drew level in the last quarter significantly assisted by the Rovers' inaccuracy. They were then creamed by Melbourne High,

¹⁰ *Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 25 November 1980*

¹¹ *Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 March 1982*

¹² *Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 18 February 1981*

¹³ *Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 17 March 1981*

¹⁴ *Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 11 April 1981*

but recovered with a fine ten-goal win over State Bank at Albert Park assisted by the cold wind.

Tonkin's young tyros quickly and firmly established themselves in the senior team. These included the long-punching Dick Houston, whose kicking made him a natural for the full-back position, and the speedy half-back flankers Al Stuart and Scott Deller. The especially gifted Glenn Hart, persistent elder Kingston, mature John Wickenton and football thief David Miller were also prominent.

David Hodge revelled in his favourite position, full forward, and led the goal-kicking with thirty-five majors. The Parkside defence allowed "Hodgey" to kick his highest tally for the season, seven, on yet another windblown Keysborough afternoon in his team's win. The red-head's main co-contributor was on target in the St Kilda CBC thriller; bearded, robust and oh so ox-like. Neville Schmidt kicked eight goals, all after half-time and most in the goal-for-goal final quarter which resembled the final blow-for-blow increment of a fifteen-rounder. Fine defence in the first half by Houston and Corrigan kept the Bloods in this great game, which they nearly stole.¹⁵



Eyes on the ball as ever, John Constable in a marking contest on the backline, McKinnon Oval, 1984.

JOHN DAVID CONSTABLE

One of the greatest compliments that could be paid a player at Old Haileyburians was that he "played like a Constable". Although younger brother Mick had an even longer and more successful career, it was John Constable who set the family standards.

Only of medium build, the level-headed "Cunners" or "JC" was possibly the most courageous player to have worn the magenta and black. Mild-mannered off the field, his peculiar form of white-line fever was a fearlessness regularly needed running backwards and forwards into packs, and he never ran off the line. Team mates rated him a superstar in the ticker department; he was enormously consistent and reliable.

A neat kick in defence or on the wing, Constable often preferred to play in his long-sleeved school jumper. Even the VAFA tribunal recognised his fine upstanding nature when it let him off with a reprimand for tripping late in his career. Stranded in retirement on 149 games, no one was surprised that Constable never returned for a token last game just to reach a milestone.

*149 games (123 1sts, 2 Reserves, 24 U19s),
21 goals (12 1sts, 9 U19s), 1979-87*

Vice-captain 1980 U19 Premiership team

Jumper number 18

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1983

Vice-captain 1sts 1984

Committee 1986

¹⁵ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 23 May 1981

Both forward line prongs pierced St Kevins' defence with four goals apiece, and a fine effort followed out at the Yarra flood plains of Bulleen-Templestowe, where one of the competition's leaders was held to only five points within minutes of the siren before it pulled away. The reserves, following their fine start to the season, were disgraced and won only four of their final twelve games.

Very few knew or apparently cared of the juniors' results and activities, but by the halfway mark their pattern for the season was established; all but one of their six wins were by at least seven goals and only three of their twelve losses were by less than six goals. This team was a punter's delight, neither inflicting nor suffering a shock result, even if Hampton Rovers ran them close.

Eventual premiers Alphington were the Bloods' victim in the highlight of the season at Keysborough on a perfect day for football. This was also the day of the notorious mud-wrestling match between one of the players' vociferous mothers and an Alphington supporter in a patch of Keysborough slush, in the interval between the firsts and reserves matches. Further dialogue between rival spectators included a threat to force silence with a very male piece of anatomy, and ended with the famous retort, "If it's as big as your brain it's not going to worry me much!"

After the slapstick, Alphington with nine goals in the first quarter quickly threatened to break the game apart. Midway through the second term they led by seven before finally the Bloods applied pressure to Alphington's forwards, steadied, and at half time retired to the pavilion only twenty points in arrears.

The last half was all Old Haileyburians. Just like old times John Houghton dominated the ruck and Roger Paul the centre. Neville Schmidt monstered the goal square as the Bloods kicked six and nine goals in the third and fourth quarters. Schmidt finished with eleven goals, a total in firsts matches bettered only twice in the club's history, predominantly through sure marking and straight drop-punting.¹⁶ His team mates were:

Backs: John Corrigan, Richard Houston, Richard Kingston

Half-backs: David Thomas, Ian Campbell, Al Stuart

Centres: Roger Gerny, Roger Paul (captain), John Meckiff

Half-forwards: Scott Deller, Terry Bouris, Glenn Hart

Forwards: John Wickenton, Neville Schmidt, Rod Strahan

Followers: John Houghton, Steve Marshall

Rover: Ian Chambers

Interchange: Ian Clydesdale, Mark Knight

This fine victory put the club in reach of the four at the halfway point of the season, with five wins in nine matches. Disaster struck in the next round at Camberwell with a demoralising defeat in heavy conditions. Roger Paul suffered a re-occurrence of a hamstring injury, Ian Clydesdale and John Houghton injured ankles and worst of all Neville Schmidt broke his jaw in a collision with relatively pint-sized team mate Roger Gerny. A dispirited team finished the match with sixteen fit men,¹⁷ and that really was the end of the season for the Bloods.

JOHN RICHARD KINGSTON

Stalwart Richard Kingston just loved his football and his football club. Highly rated as a junior, despite some useful games in the seniors early in his career, especially under Nick Tonkin, he settled into a lengthy career in the reserves. Courage was on his side but pace was not, and "Kingo" generally played dour defensive roles, doing some fine one-on-one jobs. Late in his career he became known as "The Judge" so often did he sit on the bench.

Kingston's career was interrupted first by a sojourn in Bougainville, where the engineer looked a throwback in team photos as the only white face, the only red head and the only player wearing boots. It was halted a second time by his horrific collision with team mate Neil Meadows at Elsternwick Park and he needed all that courage just to take the field again. The steel bars that protruded from and held his face together after the accident earned Kingston another pseudonym, "The Frame".

Kingo's rural appearance was reinforced by his pipe, his battered old RM Williams boots, his Harris tweed jackets and his liking for adventure, especially maritime or abalone diving. Seemingly impervious to and unaffected by alcohol other than by a slight flush, he also just loved his Melbourne Bitter.

147 games (19 1sts, 101 Reserves, 17 U19s, 10 3rds), 4 goals (all Reserves), 1978-90

Deputy vice-captain 1978 U19 Premiership team

Jumper numbers 13 & 27

Committee 1988, 1992-94

¹⁶ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 June 1981

¹⁷ Murray Ponsford, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 June 1981

Atrociously cold, wet, and bitter conditions, complete with Antarctic winds, marked the Keysborough matches against Hampton Rovers. No wonder Zeke's hot dogs were 1981's taste sensation at the club before being succeeded by Jim Bonwick's dim sims the following year. John Corrigan was the club's champion devourer of both these exquisite dishes.

Along with housemates Rob Hutchison and Graham Billings, "Corrers" did some catering of his own when they hosted one of the season's few turns at their Power Street dwellings. "GB" retired from playing in 1978 after breaking a collarbone, but his droopy moustache and infectious belly laugh still enlivened the club. The slender "Hutch" was another noted stayer. Bonwicks' Balnarring Car Rally was also a winner, but Neville Schmidt had to drink the winner's champagne through a straw.

Relegation looked more imminent and morale dropped noticeably as the season dragged its chain through the slush. Results panned out for the club to retain its status in C Grade, but only on percentage. The reserves collapsed to lose their final four games and the chance to play in September. Tudor Court was embarrassingly under-filled for the Presentation Dinner that saw Jim Bonwick and John Corrigan awarded with the first of two successive Barrie Berggy and Club Champion trophies respectively.

Richard Kingston's impressive improvement and steadiness in the back pocket was recognised, and the reserves' count (held again at Balwyn) was fascinating; John Cracknell and his curly-haired roving mates Bonwick and Coldebella tied for first. Rob Forbes was only one vote behind in second place. David Hodge took over as club bookmaker in Stink's absence, but the lanky one's premature use of the "form guide" on Vote Count Day was not popular.

VFL Grand Final Day was enjoyable as usual, and the Breakfast featured a "best of" cast: Neil Roberts, Maurie Fields, Jack Perry, Rod Quantock and the Schoolgirls Choir.¹⁸ Nick Tonkin was presented with a cricket bat, a small token for a season largely unrewarding despite his formidable efforts. These were not available to the club in 1982.



Ian Campbell running loose through the centre of McKinnon Oval against Monash Blues, 1985.

IAN DAVID CAMPBELL

Ian Campbell had talent to burn but unfortunately played in lean times. He would have appreciated playing in a team with similarly quick football minds. Although Campbell was less adept at lifting a team by his own performances, the enigmatic and perplexing utility was capable of winning matches off his own boot, as was usually the case at Hampton Rovers' David Street oval.

"Cambers" slotted into the firsts under Mike Porter although just out of school and still eligible to play in the under-nineteens. He began as a half-back flanker, but even that year was thought highly enough of to hold down the centre half-back position with his athletic six-foot frame, narrow at the waist and hips with thick, strong legs. Mid-fielder Campbell hated nothing more than being played on the half-forward flank.

Possessing all the skills and well aware of it, Campbell's ability to kick long with both preferred right foot and left made one wonder why he so often ran around in circles, but justified his reticence to handball. Very poised, a confidence player, he kicked some magnificent goals on the run. Campbell rarely missed a match through injury and was never heavily felled. He played a heroic part in the desperate last few games of 1982 that kept the club in C Grade.

Cambo's simple tastes included a passion for Humber motor cars and fishing. After batting left-handed for South Melbourne in district cricket and still playing in his fifties both he and his son made centuries in the same innings playing for Dandenong fourths.

*147 games (142 1sts, 3 Reserves, 2 U19),
66 goals (65 1sts, 1 Reserves), 1978-86*

Jumper number 7

¹⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 18 August 1981

1982 - Lowest Ebb

The Old Haileyburians fell to their lowest ebb in 1982. In a truly miserable season the club's three teams won only seven matches between them, and players and supporters deserted the club. Although the prospect of folding was never seriously considered, if ever that was going to happen it would have been in 1982.

The coaching position caused great problems. Eventually approached as Tonkin's replacement, Roger Paul understood the club's plight and gave the task his all. He had little help, other than from his trusty deputy Dicky Metherall, who with a broader girth returned as playing coach of the reserves.

A large part of the problem was the formation of a breakaway team, consisting largely of the '75ers. Mark Newton and Greg Meadows served as President and Coach respectively of the new team. A meeting between Peter Davies, Jim Bonwick, Newton and OHA President David Robertson resolved little, especially after "the OHA President left the matter for the OHAFC to sort out".¹⁹ In return for the use of the Old Haileyburians name in the "Club XVIII" Competition, the breakaways agreed to involve themselves in the main club's social functions.

What eventuated instead was that the two bodies drifted apart, and Mark Newton's nights at Committee meetings were lonely ones. Old Haileyburians became something of a laughing stock, supposedly fielding two teams in the "social" grades but struggling in its main field of endeavour. This development was another manifestation of the "Keysborough syndrome", where the unattractive location and facilities inhibited both playing and social activities.

Recruiting and training were poor, single figure numbers often attending training nights on balmy Keysborough evenings.²⁰ In an extraordinarily dry year, rain didn't affect a game until round seventeen and this unusual winter led into the 1982-83 drought.



Roger Paul knocks the ball away from his West Brunswick opponent and looks to have decapitated him too. Paul Brewer, the bearded Scott Deller and Kevin Meehan lend support.

ROGER IAN PAUL

In most eyes the Old Haileyburians greatest ever player, Roger Paul vindicated the judgement of his first coach John Masters, who declared at the start of the 1974 season, "I don't care who you don't get, as long as you do get Roger Paul". Over the journey he did it all at his beloved club: captain, coach, President, 200-game player, Life Member and Best and Fairest winner (a record six times).

Brimming with strength, determination and a fierce desire to win, the youthful Paul quickly established his reputation. Particularly robust in those early years, although never really fast, "Pauly" would regularly burst apart packs and emerge streaming downfield with the ball. The Bloods' Raging Bull assumed the captaincy with aplomb, and playing predominantly in the centre he was able to direct most of the Bloods' play on the infrequent occasions he was not in the action himself.

Possessed of a hard streak and Jack Dyer's affection for disturbing collarbones, all Roger's bumps, some delivered with terrifying force, were nonetheless fair. Many fine amateur players admitted to treading warily and being on high alert when Paul was around. He clearly inherited a fair dose of his determination from his vocal father Arch, a great stalwart around the club whose favourite line was "Hit 'em hard Bloods!" One of the more memorable calls from the early days of video recording in the mid-1980s was the excitable Geoff Sincok's cry of "The Bonecrusher!" when yet another clavicle snapped at McKinnon. Others remembered Paul snapping OM's ruckman Rohan Brown's collarbone like a twig.

In the late-1970s leg injuries took their toll on the champion. Having missed less than ten matches in his first five years, Roger struggled to play twenty in the next three; in 1980 he played so little he qualified for the reserves finals. Two years later he took on the onerous task of captain-coaching the club's senior team, in the club's last year at Keysborough and when resources and morale were at their lowest. Just keeping the Bloods in C Grade was no mean feat.

Usually quiet off the field, Pauly never minded a chat on the other side of the white line, particularly with umpires, who he was convinced had perverse illusions of grandeur. Given the chance to take the whistle himself, against Hampton Rovers he established a new record for giving least free kicks in a game. When one umpire told him the subject he was permitted to comment on was meteorological, Roger's belligerent reply was "Bloody awful weather we're having!" Another favourite comment, repeated weekly no matter who the opposition, was "I hate this mob more than anyone else!"

Continued next page...

¹⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 February 1982

²⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 23 February 1982

Reports that Ken Rowse would return to coach the juniors proved unfounded, and numbers were scarce. Only some “sharp recruiting” and delicate paperwork by team management enabled this team to forfeit no more than one match. Only three of the school’s 1981 first eighteen joined the juniors.

Subscriptions remained at \$35, with a \$10 reduction for students.²¹ Despite an early-season newsletter, Bruce Marshall’s creation, the Magenta and Blacks, all but folded. Cleve Hodge utilised his membership of the Kingswood Golf Club to secure the pleasant venue for Jumper Presentation night, where Frank Northcott performed the honours. Kingswood was also the scene for Presentation Night, famous for the bunker incident.

The ground situation became more urgent once the club received Old Boys’ President David Robertson’s written terms of tenancy for Keysborough in 1983. Andrew Langford-Jones investigated sharing Old Brighton’s beach oval. In a more successful venture Arch Paul secured sponsorship worth \$850 from Humes.²²

If any reminder was needed, the writing was well and truly put on the wall by eventual premiers Old Camberwell in the opening round at Keysborough. The firsts lost by over twelve goals and the reserves by ten. On the Main Oval the juniors’ seventeen men had no chance against De La Salle. Only fifteen of these little tin soldiers completed the match.

A new recruit to shine for the firsts was Jimmy “Sparkles” Walters, a link in the chain of left-footed rovers who were also talented cricketers and included Mark Hodge, Roger Gerny and Warren Ayres. But the cheerful sparkler from Waverley headed west to Perth after the season.

The reserves’ recruits were generally characterised by features other than ability. At the academic end of the scale was the “Bonwick School” of recruits, including 1977 school Vice-captain Ivan Bastian, and Jim’s even smaller brother Richard. Glen Farrow made it a medical trio, but the real coup was the acquisition of “Big Jim” Abbot, a thickset redhead of Hereford calf features whose experience included playing centre halfback for A Grade team University Blacks. Old Brighton’s Andy Burnell would prove a handy rover.

“Buck” Owen, Wayne Rae and Tony Clark were a different group again. Buck’n’Oath” (or “Heckle and Jeckle”) were inseparable as salt and pepper and boasted the club’s first sets of tattoos. Tony Clarke complained continually about his broken body, but like the other two fronted up every week.

Each team lost the first four rounds. The defeats at Melbourne High were particularly demoralising, and youthful ruckman Shane Grey was suspended for a retaliatory pile driver. Miller’s and Gerny’s four goals apiece and the skipper’s centre-play were the major factors in the break to the drought, against West Brunswick. The juniors broke through for their only win of the year, by the unlikely margin of 104 points. Terry Johnston, wobbly knee and all, kicked nine goals in this rare triumph.

Schmidt’s five goals were a guiding beacon in the win over Fawkner, the last for eight rounds. The season dragged, especially for the reserves, whose highlight was a solitary victory over Melbourne High (although

Roger Ian Paul continued...

Paul’s playing career was supposed to end in 1983. Until Langford-Jones’ ruse that added another four years and a couple more Best and Fairests, and final retirement the year before the Blood’s watershed 1989 premiership. Only the first two weeks of Paul’s three-year term as President were non-playing, and he was the club’s youngest President to that time, having been one of its youngest captains and youngest coaches. Leadership came early to him.

Throughout it all Roger was supported by the lovely Bronny, and by the time the Bloods’ fiftieth birthday was rolling around, Paul’s oldest son James was playing his first games with the under-nineteens. There was no talk of another legend in the wings, however, as there could only ever be one Roger Paul.

*200 games (198 1sts, 2 Reserves),
94 goals (all 1sts), 1974-88*

Member OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 2

*Best & Fairest 1sts 1974, 1975, 1978, 1983,
1985, 1986 (club record 6 times winner)*

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1984

Captain-coach 1sts 1982

Captain 1sts 1977-79, 1981-83

Vice-captain 1sts 1976

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1975

President 1985-87

Vice-President 1992

Committee 1982-92

*VAFA Representative 1978, 1986-87
(CFEFG Captain)*

VAFA Certificate of Merit 1989

²¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 6 April 1982

²² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 27 April 1982

they were awarded points for two other games where their opponents played an unregistered player). John Cracknell morphed into a handy full forward of the Williams discipline with four goals, and dominated the game with other veterans Rod Wise and Neil Cocks.

Jeff Robertson made big efforts after realising the futility of wasting his ability in the reserves. His eight goals in a losing score of twelve against West Brunswick underlined his potential, brought out by the backs to the wall circumstances. Geelong made the long trip to Keysborough for the round fifteen do-or-die fixture. The Bloods did rather than died and had a field day; their seven-goal lead at half time set the scene for a mammoth win. Schmidt kicked seven goals, as he did the following week in a disastrous loss at Fawkner, close rivals for relegation.

To remain in C Grade the Old Haileyburians had to defeat either or both of the third- and fourth-placed Hampton Rovers and St Kilda CBC in the last two rounds of the season. The club's last game as a permanent tenant at Keysborough was fittingly a wet one, and witnessed "a fabulous, famous victory".²³ CBC's five-goal opening burst and six-goal lead after kicking with the wind in the first quarter were daunting, but by half time the Bloods had steadied and the die was cast. Small and medium-sized players John Constable, Ian Campbell, Roger Gerny and Ian Ridoutt were all riveted with determination. Campbell kicked a memorable goal in the second quarter, brushing a pack aside.



"Blues Brother" Steve Marshall and friend. The orange juice is unusual, the sunglasses are not.

STEPHEN JOHN MARSHALL

A solid and versatile five feet eight, Steve Marshall played a variety of roles in a very useful career, from minding rovers in the back pocket, dashing through the half-back flank, directing traffic from the pivot, snapping goals or having a run on the ball. Later in his career he performed many valuable tagging roles. Marshall's wicket-keeping hands took many clean marks and "Sausage" had surprising pace and a formidable leap for one so short.

Distinguished as his playing career was, more of Marshall's fame came off the field. Resident disc jockey at many club functions through the 1980s, he achieved wider notoriety in the public media as Sergio Paradise, dealing mainly in celebrity scuttlebutt. From the Mick Molloy school of deportment and grooming, stubble and sunglasses were constants.

No mention of Marshall is complete without reference to his legendary contest for the "Club Championship" as a reticent rival to the more extroverted Geoff Sincock, held in Keysborough's Gadsden Pavilion in the depths of winter. The thickset Sausage won on volume displaced after the leaner, meaner "Evil" had won on length by a short half head. There was no greater embarrassment to one's manhood than being caught between these two in the showers.

*153 games (108 1sts, 41 Reserves, 4 3rds),
72 goals (48 1sts, 21 Reserves, 3 3rds), 1977-90*

Jumper number 5

Committee 1988

²³ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 14 August 1982

Five points behind at the last change, the Bloods finally grabbed the lead at the last gasp, despite a Robertson snapshot that cruelly brushed the excessive padding on the goalpost. Old Haileyburians said good-bye to Keysborough with a win by six behinds. This victory made relegation an improbability, but not quite an impossibility.

The following week the Bloods played just as well on Hampton Rovers' strip of dirt to end the season with their third win in four games. They lined up as:

Backs: Steve Marshall, David Baker, Al Steadman
Half-backs: Andrew Hicks, David Hodge, Al Stuart
Centres: John Constable, Ian Campbell, Peter Noske
Half-forwards: David Miller, Neville Schmidt (captain), Glen Farrow
Forwards: Michael Houston, Jeff Robertson, Jim Walters
Followers: Shane Grey, Ian Ridoutt
Rover: Roger Gerny
Interchange: Andrew Burnell, Ian Clydesdale

Campbell (five goals), Constable, Gerny and Ridoutt again dominated, and were ably assisted by strong young full-back David Baker, who marked and kicked like a champion.

The juniors ended their miserable year at North Old Boys. They conceded more points in a season (2,694), and against Ormond suffered the biggest loss (221 points) ever by an OHAFC team. Injury-prone blond rover Craig Brown was a worthy winner of the Best and Fairest. Greg Taylor pounded up and down the wide expanses of Keysborough's Main Oval. Taylor's mate Bernie Ladds rucked like Barry Round. Ian Granter developed as a versatile captain, and Brad McDonell showed plenty of the family fortitude. David Allison did the work of ten Barney Rubbles as a tear-through back pocket on unsuspecting rovers.

Arch Paul's Vote Count Day saw the veterans get up in the reserves; Neil Cocks, Dean Lovig and Geoff Abbott had been outstanding. John Corrigan completed his quinella of best and fairests, closely pursued by Roger Gerny and the consistent Ian Campbell. Peter Noske, a forward-cum-wingman had made significant improvement and Peter Thompson's determination saw him rewarded.

The Barrie Berggy award was obvious; Jim Bonwick had carried the burden of ten mortals. Frosty Miller's Downlow trophy, awarded at the Grand Final Breakfast, proved amusing. The trophy, a boot studding device, was freshly painted not long before the Breakfast. The jolly Miller's table took great delight in cajoling innocent passers-by to take hold of the trophy and raise it a la John McEnroe. Problems arose when the gullible returned the trophy to see the palms of their hand covered in magenta paint!

Mercifully the year ended, but some had had enough of mediocrity. Two strange, but not unfamiliar, visitors patronised the Club Eighteen Grand Finals, involving Old Haileyburians numbers one ("The Bloods") and two ("Newts' breakaways"), but were more interested in sharking footballers than watching the game. The contrasting silhouettes of Messrs McQueen and Langford-Jones were hatching plans for recovery.

CHAPTER 6

SURVIVAL 1983-85



1983 - Get Back in Magenta and Black

The renaissance planned for in 1983 largely eventuated, other than on the field. McQueen, familiar in JR Ewing-style Stetson hat, and Langford-Jones set about reconstructing a football club from the ground up. Zeke Davies took a back seat, perhaps disappointed he was unable to run his intended third year.

In a vital coup, McQueen and fellow henchmen Langford-Jones and Davies secured sub-tenancy of the McKinnon Reserve, previously home to recently re-instated VFA club Moorabbin.¹ The Keysborough dream was over, scuttled by remoteness and an increasingly unwelcoming landlord. Moorabbin councillor David Story, an old boy who played seventeen reserves games in the late 1970s, was also a key man in the negotiations.

Mark Newton's group returned to the fold, and made their presence felt on the field, socially in particular, and on the committee. "Stretch" Derham became Treasurer and Greg Meadows rested from coaching to act as Secretary.

Fanfare typical of McQueen filled Mark Thomson's new-look newsletter.² ALJ's appointment as Senior Coach surprised former team-mates given his previous (lack of) commitment to training, but he promised to "put the fun back into footy", assisted by club greats Roger Paul and Peter Bowring. John Cracknell became reserves' playing coach, while Barry McDonnell master-minded the under-nineteens captained by son Brad. Never short of a word, the stocky removalist matched the president's taste in hats, and was renowned for wearing shorts on the coldest of days in the way Tom Hafey braved the elements in a T-shirt. Although not the public speaking type, Barry proved extremely popular with his contrasting conglomerate of public schoolboys and Moorabbin locals.

Recruiting was largely a matter of recovering lost ground. Dick Houston, Scott Deller and John Houghton (from Old Melburnians) returned, as did Michael Collins from retirement. The '75ers' Mark Hodge and John Gosewinckel were classy additions as was Dingley's Paul Brewer. John Kingsley was another Dingley boy who made good. McQueen's efforts failed to recapture Philip Kingston, but succeeded with Bob Anderson. The dark, brooding Adonis Andrew Wilson was another good find.

Practice matches encouraged. Power House were annihilated, Old Brighton trounced and A Grade team Old Xaverians sorely pressed. A pre-season get-together at the new McKinnon clubrooms attracted over 200 people, a halcyon day turnout. The tradition of first eighteen players wearing the winged heart monogram on their jumpers was revived.

To open the season the Bloods visited Hampton Rovers for what they hoped was the beginning of a new era. Instead it proved a disaster. The Bloods led by three goals at the first change but scores were level at half time. Miller's report for kicking typified a game in which little went right, and the Bloods were forced to play one man short for the last quarter and a half.³ The seconds also capitulated, but the juniors made a brilliant start to the season, winning by over 100 points.

DONALD GERRARD McQUEEN

A completely unrestrained enthusiast, Don McQueen all but saved the OHAFC from extinction with his great mate Andrew Langford-Jones in the early-1980s. He was also a determined, inspiring captain, to say nothing of the amusement he gave to spectators late in his career; McQueen took years to give playing away completely.

The big fellow's heart was usually in the right place, although not everyone always agreed with his style. His skills and drive in selling life insurance for AMP preceded him and he used those same attributes to the club's good advantage. As a player McQueen finally joined the Bloods in the twilight of a great career that included stints with Waverley in the VFA and Commonwealth Bank, but was still a fine ruckman with team-lifting desire. "Macca" ate football for breakfast, lunch and tea.

For those with a delicate sense of smell, McQueen was a dangerous man to be around before a game. Also known as "Steve" or "Bullitt" after his American actor namesake and one of the movies he starred in, he notoriously took his place as an assistant coach in the VFA State team photo attired in his old Victorian jumper. As coach he excelled in blood and guts speeches.

Comedy was often the mode in late career, although Don was always deadly serious, particularly when captain-coaching the reserves. Despite over 350 amateur games, he never played in a premiership team. He occasionally suffered indignities such as when playing against fellow veteran Peter Hutchinson from Power House in their late-thirties; having convincingly won a knock-out in front of the pro-Haileybury crowd, "Hutch" capped it off with, "There you are son, that's what ruckwork's all about!" One of Don's own favourite instructions was "Kick it high and leave the rest to me!"

Other memorable moments included running into the open point and back to the centre in celebration before realising his folly in a practice match at St Kevins. And the drop-kicks with those old green "Arena" boots, including a goal against AJAX allegedly kicked under the jumping man on the mark. These were always a favourite with the crowd, and although some would be "toed", they never failed to amuse. McQueen's false teeth also caused trouble on odd occasions, such as with Neil Cocks and the night they disappeared under a car in the darkness of night following a disco at McKinnon.

Continued over page...

¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 January 1983

² OHAFC Newsletter April 1983

³ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 9 April 1983

Both senior teams crushed Melbourne High in the second round. The tall timber of Schmidt, Robertson (nine goals) and Wilson was especially damaging, as was Constable's defence. John Gosewinckel starred in the early game, kicking seven goals, and Mike Houston continued the devastating early-season form that soon saw him in the firsts.

St Kilda CBC spoiled the Haileyburians' first match at their new headquarters. Despite Schmidt and Robertson's combined effort of twelve goals the team lost by ten. CBC booted ten goals in the third quarter of both firsts and reserves games. The juniors had far less difficulty adapting to the vast number two oval, and thrashed Melbourne High.

When winning, the firsts continued to do so by large margins. In their eight goal triumph over St Pius (a pseudonym for West Heidelberg), Neville Schmidt marked his 150th game with a nine goal spree; Sticks Robertson alongside in the forward pocket kicked eight. The Bloods won the match in the first quarter when they kicked a brilliant nine goals to three against a six goal wind. Three costly losses followed, to lowly teams such as Old Brighton and West Brunswick. Even the juniors lost momentum, along with skipper McDonnell to injury. Having a player reported and sent off in the closing minutes was largely responsible for their narrow loss to eventual finalist Old Brighton, one that did much to keep them out of the September action.



Determinedly serious as ever, Don McQueen strides out for one of the last of his notorious comebacks, in 1985 at the McKinnon Reserve, the venue he made the Old Haileyburians' home.

Donald Gerrard McQueen continued...

Don McQueen's first great legacy is its present home, the McKinnon Reserve. He vowed he would play on it, and so he did in cameo appearances for milestone games. The problems he and his sub-committees overcame in securing tenancy, erecting lights and establishing an equitable sharing arrangement with St Pauls were difficult. It took persistence and a spirit of competitiveness, two attributes McQueen had in abundance. He had a great ability for getting things done no matter who disagreed with him. McQueen's other legacy is the long-running Grand Final Breakfast, a brainchild with his mate Langford-Jones.

In retirement, former fast bowler Don McQueen built his own Field of Dreams, the Hume and Hovell cricket oval at Strath Creek, supported unfailingly as always by wife Annie. As a Poet Laureate he would regale guests with his readings of Australian poetry, moustache bristling and enthusiasm brimming as always.

*160 games (79 1sts, 81 Reserves),
125 goals (51 1sts, 74 Reserves), 1971-86*

Jumper numbers 6 & 7

Best & Fairest Reserves 1977, 1980

Leading goal-kicker 2nd XVIII 1978 (13 goals)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1979

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1974

Captain 1sts 1972-73

Captain-coach Reserves 1980-81

President 1975-76, 1983-84

Vice-President 1973-74, 1978-79

Committee 1972-84

All-Australian Amateur 1965

*VAF A Representative 1964-65,
1966 (Vice-captain)*

VAF A Certificate of Merit 1979

Playing numbers swelled; by April 101 senior and 28 junior players were registered.⁴ The erection of training lights proved more difficult, and took an eighteen-month battle with stakeholders such as the local militia. In the meantime the club trained at the old Benthleigh ground, then earmarked for renovation and occupancy by the Moorabbin Football Club.⁵

At least the club could now make use of excellent social amenities. The season's opening luncheon was one of the first functions in the new rooms. Frank Northcott made Tony Barber look a novice by his incomparable hosting of the Quiz Night, red cardigan and all. The Sportsman's Night, hosted by former centre half-forward Steve Phillips, boasted "Crackers" Keenan, Keith Stackpole, craggy-faced Tony Jewell, and Raelene Boyle.⁶

A long injury list, over thirty, hindered on-field efforts, but the survivors engineered a great win over Parkside at the Benthleigh ground in the wet. In front most of the day, the Bloods looked in dire straits when Parkside snatched the lead late in the third term. Then Michael Houston showed he too could be a valuable prong in attack with a fine display of "catching" and kicking which netted eight goals, seven in the last half. John Houghton, stung by an altercation with his opposite ruckman, dominated.⁷ In the reserves, Jim Bonwick played his 200th game for the club.

The effort against top-placed St Kevins was even better, when the Bloods clawed their way back into the game from eight goals down half-way through the second quarter and without Neville Schmidt on state duties in Hobart. Mark Hodge was a ubiquitous rover, Frosty Miller at his most constructive in attack, and first-gamer John "JK" Kingsley booted three inspirational goals.⁸ Finals became a distinct possibility half-way through the season with this fourth win. Those responsible were:

Backs: John Corrigan, Ross Murdoch, Al Stuart
Half-backs: John Constable, Richard Houston, Andrew Hicks
Centres: Scott Deller, Roger Paul (captain), Paul Brewer
Half-forwards: David Miller, Ian Campbell, John Kingsley
Forwards: John Meckiff, Michael Houston, Craig Brown
Followers: John Houghton, David Youngs
Rover: Peter Burns
Interchange: Mark Hodge, Steve Marshall

After this great win the firsts' season fell away. Although the reserves defeated eventual premiers St Kilda CBC and looked finals bound, they too faded.

Only by two great wins was relegation avoided, including a heart-stopper against West Brunswick, whose inaccurate full-forward missed a chance to seal the game just before the bell.⁹ Safe passage was sealed with the win over Old Brighton, "George" Youngs' typically brilliant percentage play blanketing Brighton's dangerous forward Priestley.¹⁰

For the first time ever, both teams won at Parkside on the same day. The seniors' win was their first there since the 1969 premiership year. The reserves' started their bizarre match with seventeen men and finished with fifteen, including Mark Newton who doubled up with another game in the firsts.

ANDREW LEIGH LANGFORD-JONES

The ubiquitous Andrew Langford-Jones played a major role in the resurrection and rise of the OHAFC from endangered C Grade strugglers to A Grade finalists in the space of a decade. One of life's pragmatists and never below gamesmanship on or off the field, there was little "Stink" would not do to advance his club's cause.

From his first appearances as a player in his second-last year at school, Langford-Jones never lacked self-confidence. He joined brother Bruce in the 1969 premiership team, playing as a dummy centre half-forward after a sprinkling of reserves matches at St Kilda. Mobile for the role, he was one of the more expert and earlier proponents of the drop-punt at the club, and loved a goal.

A football pick-pocket, Stink's bag of tricks included cosying up to the umpires, deliberately kicking into the man on the mark, bluffing opponents into believing they had incurred a fifteen-yard penalty and stealing the ball at the centre bounce on its way up. Initially sylph-like, like many he thickened up in his later years, especially in the lower abdomen and legs that were increasingly strapped. Eternally cheeky and a practical joker, he was another who fell into the "not a great trainer" category. He was happy as a punter and more so as a bookmaker where he could control the odds.

Langford-Jones also loved a chat with famous personalities from all sports. His talents were not confined to talking and the single-figure golfer from Kingston Heath was part of the first Haileyburian team to win the Public School Golf Day. In 2001 he took over as Director of Tournaments for the Australasian PGA Golf Tour, and soon found himself embroiled in controversy at the end of the following year's Australian PGA Championship with his offer to Peter Lonard and Jarrod Moseley to share the title instead of returning to play another day.

Continued over page...

⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 12 April 1983

⁵ OHAFC Newsletter July 1983

⁶ OHAFC Newsletter July 1983

⁷ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 28 May 1983

⁸ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 4 June 1983

⁹ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 July 1983

¹⁰ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 30 July 1983

By the Parkside game the much-neglected third eighteen's season was over. Max McLennan abdicated the coaching throne mid-season and Col Bowman took his place. They nonetheless maintained their position in the premier grade. Mark Newton easily won the Best and Fairest, along with the Barrie Berggy Trophy. Lightweight red-head Greg Taylor, Stretch Derham and Brad Stewart also displayed good form. Ian Chambers made the odd guest appearance, but the real cameo came against De La Salle from future coach Wayne Shand, still on Richmond's list and looking for a warm-up game in a return from injury.¹¹ Shand's father was not impressed.¹²

Presentation Night returned to the Sandringham Yacht Club for the first time in many years. Jeff Taylor's reward for his power of unseen work was the Magenta and Blacks' Clubman trophy, but he faced stiff competition from Jim Bonwick for the line-marking trophy. The contributions of the whole Bonwick family were recognised, as were Peter "Wiry" Collins' efforts on the boundary line and behind the goals over twelve seasons. Roger Paul was Club Champion for a record fourth time, over fifty votes ahead of nearest rival John Constable, who scored just over the ton. The robust Dave Allison's tear-through style won the reserves' Best and Fairest.

As usual the Grand Final Breakfast was a huge success, Messrs Keenan, Quantock and Mike Coward attracting the spotlight. Coward's polished impersonation of gravel-voiced and wine-soaked English cricket commentator John Arlott was a particular highlight.¹³

A season of consolidation rather than success was perhaps disappointing considering the pre-season form, but the new talent within the club was heartening. And the Old Haileyburians were the closest they had ever been to a reasonably permanent, comfortable home.



"Mr Haileybury", Andrew Langford-Jones, the morning after the launch of "Play Hard and Play for The Game" in 1985 at Kingston Heath Golf Club. ALJ holds up the "greatest-ever" OHAFC team he helped select (including himself on the half-forward flank).

Andrew Leigh Langford-Jones continued...

After his stint as the Old Haileyburians coach and chief organiser in the mid-1980s, Langford-Jones turned his attention to coaching VAFA representative teams and the VAFA Executive. He was not universally popular in one of his early roles, that of Chairman of the Umpires' section; the men in white were provoked into running a petition against him. Within three years he was Chairman of the Reinstatement and Permit Committee, regarded by many as the most influential position in amateur football, before ascending to the Presidency and Life Membership of the VAFA. But he never quite shook the perception from other clubs of being "the Haileybury bloke".

*204 games (151 1sts, 53 Reserves),
220 goals (161 1sts, 59 Reserves), 1966-85*

Member 1969 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 4

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1975

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1979

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1976, 1984

Coach 1sts 1983-85

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1976

Coach U19s 1981

Vice-President 1986-87

*Committee 1967, 1970-72, 1975-77, 1979,
1983-87*

VAFA Life Member 2001

President VAFA 1998-2000

Chairman VAFA 1993-97

*Coach VAFA CDEFG Representative team
1986-88*

¹¹ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 July 1983

¹² Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

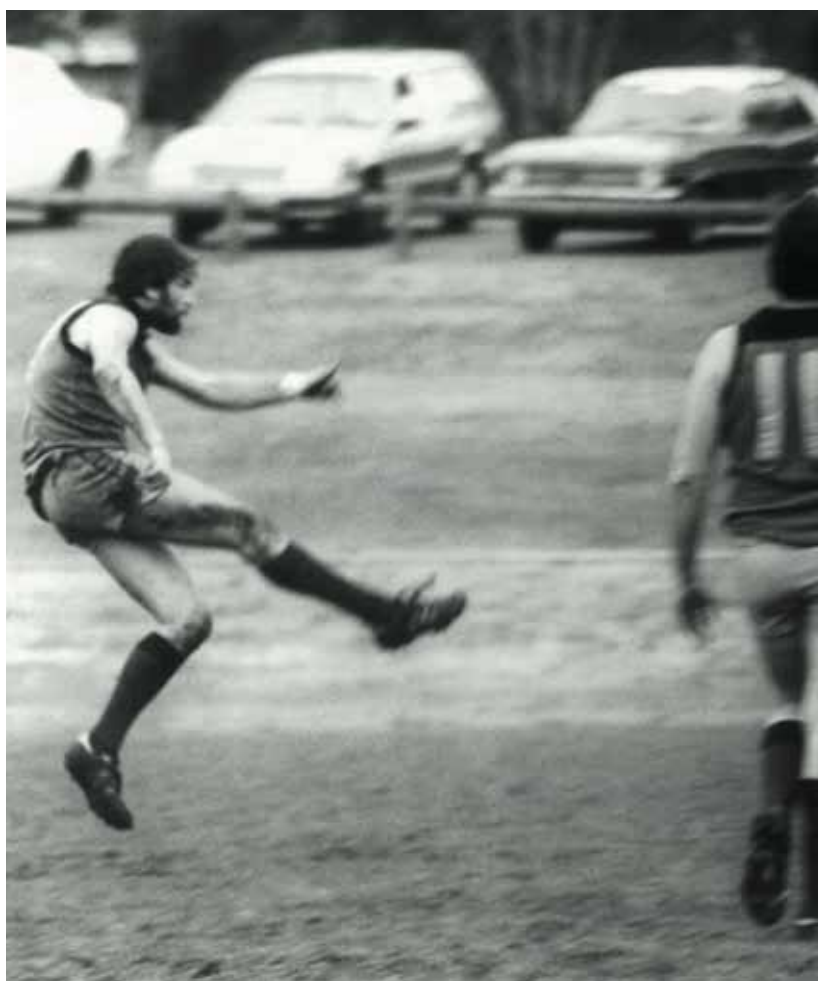
¹³ The Old Haileyburian October 1983

1984 - Rebuilding Continues

The slow consolidation and improvement at McKinnon continued in 1984. The club's administration remained stable over summer. Jeff Taylor took over as secretary, which enabled Greg Meadows to coach the reserves on a "temporary" basis. Graham Billings, appropriately from Collins Street's Western end, took over the club's finances.

Practice matches were the usual enjoyable routine of late-summer sweat and chafe. At Brighton Beach's windswept oval the Bloods coasted to an eight-goal win. After-match drinkers were treated to the sight of champion British mile runner Steve Ovett training unheralded on the oval after the game; coach Langford-Jones could not resist wandering over with a few training hints.¹⁴ At least there was no doubt about Ovett's amateur status.

Confusion reigned for the Parkside (of all teams!) practice match, played the day after the Bloods thought it had been scheduled. They did well to finish within ten points of the new B Grade team, but suffered a hiding from Old Caulfield, also newly promoted to B.¹⁵



Neville Schmidt leans forward for extra power in heavy conditions and kicks in his usual forceful style, watched by the similarly beefy Terry Bouris (11).

NEVILLE WILLIAM SCHMIDT

A robust build earned Neville Schmidt the nickname of "The Ox" and custodianship of the OHAFC games played record from 1989, when he overtook Andy Home, through to 2004, when Matthew Armstrong displaced him. "Schmidty" ploughed through many a pack in attack and defence, his solidity usually enhanced by a beard of some description.

Schmidt spent his early seasons as a defender on the fringe of senior selection, and it was not until 1976 that he established himself as a regular in the firsts, at full-back. Even in those younger days Neville was not noted for speed, but he always developed formidable momentum. His ability to kick the ball prodigious distances was never in doubt.

Neil Crompton was the first to recognise Schmidt's potential value on the forward line, and in 1980 he made the transition to centre half-forward, winning the Best and Fairest with his robust play. He found goals relatively easy to come by, despite little previous experience up forward, and remained adaptable enough to be played all day at the same end of the ground on windy afternoons. As full-forward in the early-1980s Schmidt bagged many impressive tallies, none more so than his eleven-goal effort against Alphington. He was the strongest of marks and only Bowring, Efstathiou, Lappage, Walden and Robertson finished with more goals over their careers.

At training Schmidt was familiar in that old St Kilda jumper. As a club leader in the Langford-Jones years, Schmidt uncomplainingly stuck to the onerous task of guiding younger team-mates through difficult times and proved a dedicated captain. In his years as a veteran, coaches tended to listen to the quiet man with the deep voice.

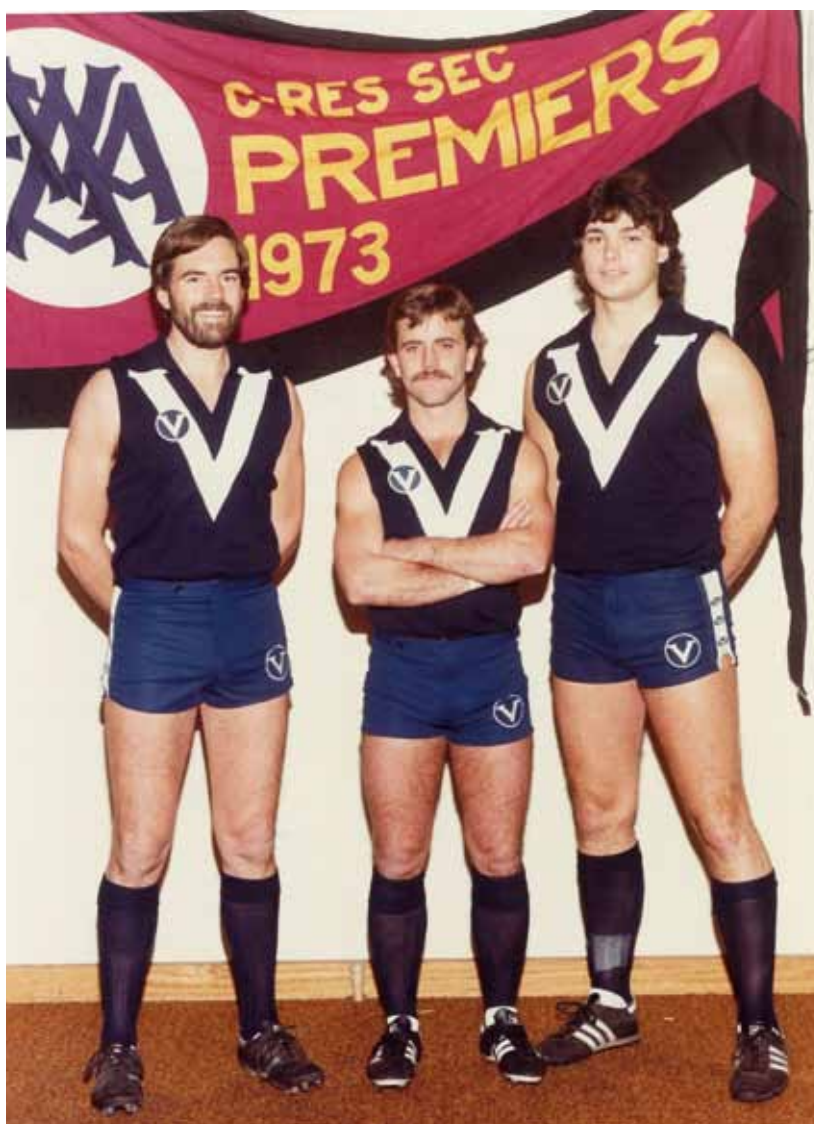
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¹⁴ The Old Haileyburian April 1984

¹⁵ The Old Haileyburian April 1984

Recruiting efforts were not well rewarded. The senior line-up was mostly retained, but very few of the 1983 under-nineteens returned. Worst of all the school team that won the 1983 APS premiership stayed away in droves.¹⁶ This despite Langford-Jones' considerable efforts, outweighed by negative attitudes at the school towards the club at the time, notably from school first eighteen coach and future OHAFC President Ken Phillips. It took some time for the club to change Ken's view, and for the moment they were bitterly disappointed.

At least the lights were finally operational by early May. Moorabbin Football Club left the reserve, leaving Old Haileyburians and local district team St Pauls East Bentleigh as not entirely amicable joint tenants – especially in regard to use of the (Haileyburians') lights on training nights. Don McQueen maintained a necessarily firm and vigilant stand for the Bloods.



The form and talent of team leaders Neville Schmidt, Roger Gerny and Andrew Wilson, as well as a little of the ALJ influence, saw all three selected in the VAFA "CDEF" team in 1984 as Old Haileyburians began to play a prominent part in representative teams.

Neville William Schmidt continued...

Having endured more than anyone the struggles of the eighties, in his 255th game and fifteenth season Schmidt finally tasted premiership success. No one at Old Haileyburians had worked harder or longer for such reward. Schmidt's final year was the club's first in A Grade, although he never quite made the senior team for that elusive game at the highest level of amateur football. It would have been an even more fitting end to a great career.

*280 games (227 1sts, 53 Reserves),
332 goals (286 1sts, 46 Reserves), 1974-91*

*Member 1989 1sts Premiership team
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper numbers 3 & 56

Best & Fairest 1sts 1980

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1978, 1987

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1990

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1982 (45 goals), 1983 (49)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1986

Captain 1sts 1984

Vice-captain 1sts 1980-83

Committee 1982-84

VAFA Representative 1983-84 (CDEF)

¹⁶ OHAFC Newsletter March 1984

A positive aspect of the McKinnon occupancy was the hiring of a professional caterer to run the bar and provide meals after training.¹⁷ Volunteer labour was no longer required, and shares of the profits were allocated to the clubs. This helped both Old Haileyburians and St Pauls each buy into over \$3,000 worth of assets at the McKinnon Reserve,¹⁸ important acquisitions in meeting the expectations of players and supporters in the eighties. Tents, tin sheds and muddy change room floors might have been acceptable in the sixties, but not in 1984.

The firsts' season began with an unexpected loss against Old Brighton. Brighton had escaped relegation only by dint of Alphington being suspended, yet won promotion to B Grade before the year was out. In retrospect this was a terribly important result, as it set the Grammarians on the path of ten straight if unconvincing victories, but ensured the Bloods would struggle from the start. The seconds gave notice of a good season ahead with an easy win, and Jeff Robertson kicked six goals in Rod Wise's hundredth match. Barry McDonell had the onerous task of coaching the thirds; with little more than ten available for their match it was obvious they would struggle for numbers throughout the season.

By the time the club journeyed to St Pius they were in dire straits; one win from nine matches between three teams. The Heidelberg boys were in even deeper strife, however, and were annihilated by the Bloods in their last game before folding. Unfortunately the VAFA decided to exclude the scores from St Pius matches in calculating percentages, so the Bloods lost the benefit of their biggest win for the year.

Rapidly growing and maturing left-footer John Kingsley booted seven goals against St Pius before disappearing to the Greek Isles and returning as "Zorba, the Golden Greek". Kingsley also enlivened the earlier Brighton game with his difficulties keeping himself within his shorts; few players wore proper athletic supports in the 1980's. Scott Deller marked the St Pius game by kicking the firsts' 5000th goal in their twenty-fourth year of competition (Peter Bowring had kicked 551 of those, even though he had long since retired).



Through the mid-1980s Roger Gerny (19) and Neville Schmidt (3) carried much of their team's fortunes on their backs. Here the 1985 captain and his predecessor congratulate each other on a goal against St Kilda CBC at McKinnon in 1984.

ROGER DOUGLAS GERNY

Roger Gerny was a classic amateur footballer and a sporting natural. Short of stature but intensely determined, his enormous heart was matched by his spring. "Gerns" was part of the 1977 APS premiership team, the year he also won the Combined Schools' high jump, with a remarkable leap of six feet six, nearly a foot over his own height. His training schedule involved nothing more than jumping in his school uniform at recess.

The high jump win was typical of Roger's liking for big occasions, such as the juniors' 1978 Grand Final. Fittingly, having won the competition Best and Fairest, he was also the Bloods' match-winner, complete with head-band in those long-haired days. Roger avoided injury like a teetotaler spirits, and reached a century of games before any of his age group.

Uncoiling of those springs in his heels saw "The Little Champ" take a galaxy of dazzling marks, notably one against Old Xaverians in 1979 and another in the goal-square at St Kilda CBC five years later. He enjoyed one of his best seasons in 1984, oozing commitment despite the pain of a cracked wrist, and it was almost inevitable that soon he became captain.

Off the field, the "professional student" completed his three year course at Swinburne in a mere six. Gerny's well-proportioned build was invariably neatly groomed, with no loose ends or dirty boots on the football field either. Favourite left-foot kicks hooked around Roger's body honed in on forwards' chests like soccer corner kicks, but in later years the ambidextrous ball of muscle began to pepper the goals himself.

Like quite a few of his contemporaries, Gerns was well known for his love of an ale, a footy trip (especially to Tasmania) and a party, where he was as much a stalwart off the field as he was on. An expert at extracting player subscriptions, he also had a serious weakness for electrical gadgets. Gerny played cricket for the Old Haileyburians for many years too, a favourite trick being his bent elbow ball that startled and bowled many a Club XI batsman. In retirement he coached both the reserves and St Kilda-South Caulfield's senior team.

The Little Champ took great pride in handing over his beloved number nineteen to another durable small man who played on the wing in Matthew Armstrong, and one could debate who made the guernsey more famous. Fittingly both played in the 1989 premiership outfit that finally saw the Bloods out of C Grade. Although Roger's fitness was so doubtful he failed to see out the Grand Final, it was beyond dispute that he deserved to play after so many years as a rare bright spark during the club's Dark Ages.

Continued over page...

¹⁷ OHAFC Newsletter January 1984

¹⁸ OHAFC 1984 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 7 November 1984) Treasurer's Report

As Meadows' Machine, a paler latter-day imitation of "Augie's Boys", overwhelmed Old Camberwell, a rampant David Hodge just failed to equal Peter Atkinson's long-standing record of ten goals in a reserves match. The main game saw the introduction of video recording to Old Haileyburians. Coach Langford-Jones' unit was used to replay the day's match in the social rooms only minutes after the completion of the match, much to the delight of players and supporters of both teams. Original anchor men "Southa" and "Tails" were augmented by guest commentators including the venerable but controversial John Corrigan, the more ribald Steve Marshall, Geoff Sincock and Mark Newton, and laconic humorist Tony Gilchrist.

The firsts' only other win in the first half of the season was a convincing and accurate performance over relegation rivals West Brunswick. Early in the second quarter the Bloods kicked their third and final behind in a final score of 22.3 (135). The reserves went from strength to strength; in three successive weeks they defeated other finals aspirants before they overcame and displaced Hampton Rovers from top position. The converting skills of Best and Fairest winner Rod Wise, his crafty mate David Hodge, the rangy Ian Clydesdale and the rugged Andrew Mountford were all clearly displayed.

Two factors contributed to a gradual improvement in the fortunes of the firsts. The success of the seconds, in the midst of a record equalling twelve consecutive wins, rubbed off and numbers at training remained extremely good. Secondly the recruits started to find their feet, including four who all answered to the nickname "Brownny". Morris Brown's son Alistair and Andrew J Brown joined Jim Brown's son Andrew P and Craig Brown in the ranks to form a confusing quaternary. The slender Alistair was a particularly fine acquisition, moving gracefully on the wing.



Rod Wise in complete university regalia including overalls and a very full head of hair, enjoying Mark Newton's hospitality at Mount Martha in 1979. Phil "Stretch" Derham contemplates his next drink at the left of the photo.

Roger Douglas Greny continued...

247 games (186 1sts, 29 Reserves, 20 U19s, 12 3rds), 186 goals (156 1sts, 17 Reserves, 5 U19s, 8 3rds), 1978-99
Member 1989 1sts & 1978 U19s Premiership teams & OHAFC Team of the Century
Jumper number 19
Best & Fairest 1sts 1979, 1984; Best & Fairest U19s 1978; Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1982; Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1984 (32 goals)
Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1989
Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1987
Captain 1sts 1985; Vice-captain 1sts 1986-87; Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1984; Captain-coach Reserves 1991
Committee 1987-91
VAFA Junior Section 2 Best & Fairest 1978; VAFA Representative 1981, 1984-1986 (all CDEF)

RODERICK JOHN WISE

For a while Rod Wise was Old Haileyburians' best answer to Parkside's tattooed gents. At University he grew a wonderful beard and head of uncut hair. "Wisey" favoured student overalls, and ear-wear that varied from safety-pins to "Snoopy" and banjo-shaped decorations.

Appearances were deceptive, however, and the quiet criminologist was universally liked around the club. Rod's mates were also convinced he was "the cleverest ever bloke to go to Haileybury". As his furry jowls became more neatly trimmed, Wise took up long-term residence in the reserves' forward line after some very useful games in the firsts. Wise emerged as the natural successor to Andy Williams as a deceptive and canny spearhead, and lacked nothing in the skill, courage or desperation departments. Dark, stocky and not super quick, he was still hard to catch, and became an extremely dangerous and productive forward. He would invariably be watched by his parents John and Joan from the quiet side of the ground.

After football, Wise rose high in the State's correction system, for a while taking charge of the Melbourne Remand Centre.

175 games (56 1sts, 119 Reserves),
272 goals (50 1sts, 222 Reserves), 1977-88
Jumper number 26
Best & Fairest Reserves 1984
Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1979
Competition leading goal-kicker 1987
(C Reserve Grade, 42 goals)
Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1983 (27 goals),
1984 (28), 1985 (30), 1986 (31), 1987 (43*)
Vice-captain Reserves 1984
Deputy vice-captain Reserves 1986

**Including finals*

Anthony Holohan, a halfback flanker of amazing skill and deceptive pace, was probably the best of all the recruits. Such were his baulking skills, at times he seemed to be playing a non-contact sport. Cheeky rover Warren Ayres, probably the greatest batsman ever to emerge from the school and the eventual scorer of seven first-class centuries, surprised with his resolution and marking skills for a small man.

Elder statesman Kerry Sawtell, a battle-hardened 32-year-old veteran from Whyalla wandered down to McKinnon for a game with St Pauls but somehow found himself in the Bloods' rooms instead. He added welcome experience and pleased everybody with his effortless raking left-foot kicks. Dingley boys Gary "Chevron" March, a future Richmond president, and his dangerous mate Trevor Sinclair performed well, especially off the field.

Perhaps the motivational skills of invited speakers Ray Jordan and Mike Green contributed too, because the firsts won six of their final nine games. Slug also showed off his talent for comedy at a packed Sportsman's Night with showman Lou Richards, incisive Tim Lane and surprisingly thoughtful Sam Newman in the days before he became infamous. This preceded an Evening for Gentlemen, notable for the coach leaving his video unit turned on in the most indiscreet places. In general, however, attendances at the season's social events were disappointing, while the club learned how to use its new home. A Progressive Dinner for over 100 at the homes of the McQueens, Bowrings and Langford-Jones proved more successful.¹⁹

The firsts' recovery began when they pushed the undefeated Old Brighton to seven points on their own patch. Then they stole the match at Fawkner with a whirlwind finish. Langford-Jones attackingly moved Miller to the half-back flank and was rewarded with superb handball and brilliant, constructive play in this mid-season revival. Frosty also made another three trips to the tribunal, all as plaintiff, taking his total to double figures, only one as defendant.²⁰ Hampton was defeated in the wet after kicking three goals in the first five minutes but only four for the rest of the day.

Lowly Old Camberwell were allowed their first win for over two months but this was compensated for by a narrow victory over third-placed St Kevins in a real Lazarus performance; the Bloods came back from three goals down with ten minutes to play. One of Campbell's favourite long torpedoes, a Miller scavenge and a sensational goal from Alistair Brown were responsible for regaining the lead and the match.²¹ In the following match at Elsternwick Park, coach Langford-Jones reacted to Banyule's twelve-goal second quarter by kicking a half-full cordial container over half the demoralised team. The Bloods feared the sticky liquid rather more than the rugged Banyule, and by the last change they regained their composure and the lead.²²

The end of the Banyule reserves match was marred by a horrible collision between Neil Meadows and Richard Kingston, who had had a great year at full back but was enjoying a rare sojourn on the forward line. The prospect of a goal meant Kingo's blinkers were firmly on, and the clash at full speed broke both players' noses; Meadows' leaked cerebro-spinal fluid. The popular Kingston's face was so indented that steel pins were required. Team morale was really dented and they suffered their first loss for a long time following a few ordinary performances. A few players would have thought

DAVID CAMPBELL SOUTHGATE

Collins Street optometrist and cricket tragic David Southgate's major contributions to the Old Haileyburians were in writing and maintaining its history, and a three-year term as a highly organised Secretary. In his heyday he was capable of reeling off from memory most players' middle names, their jumper number and the number of games they had played and goals they had kicked.

"Southa" was also a handy defender in the reserves but not overly blessed with pace, hence his very rare appearances in the seniors. A fully paid-up member of the Broken Nose Club, with his mate Jeff Taylor, Southgate pioneered the video recording of matches with the famous Langford-Jones camera. He played many games as a conservative opening batsman for the Old Boys cricket club.

Southa quickly realised the best way of doing the job of Secretary was to head overseas, which he did for the second half of his first year and a few weeks mid-season of his last. He took and organised many match and team photos through the late-1980s and early-1990s, so much so that the club ran out of space on the walls in the McKinnon rooms. In recent years Southa loved nothing better than to sneak down to McKinnon after half time and share a post-match beer with old players and contemporaries like Tony Doyle and Wayne Shand, where they generally obeyed the Golden Rule of "three cans and home by six".

*102 games (2 1sts, 64 Reserves, 36 U19s),
11 goals (1 1st, 10 Reserves), 1978-87*

Jumper number 45

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1983

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1987

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1985, 1986

Captain Reserves 1984

Vice-captain U19s 1979

Secretary 1985-87

Committee 1981-91

¹⁹ *The Old Haileyburian* September 1984

²⁰ *The Old Haileyburian* September 1984

²¹ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 28 July 1984

²² David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 4 August 1984

twice about the risks of the game when they also had professional careers. To maintain their giant-killing reputation, the firsts lost to relegation-bound West Brunswick but defeated the season's eventual premiers, St Kilda CBC, by two points in a most encouraging end to the season. Another long Ian Campbell goal lifted the game above the ordinary, as did the courage of John Constable, who finished the game with a number of ersatz stitches (platted hair) in his scalp.²³ The defence of David Youngs, quiet but reliable, and the more vigorous "Dicky" Blackwell (or in Metherall-speak "Blacky Dickwell") was important in the win.

The thirds finally enjoyed a sole win in the season's penultimate game, against Old Brighton. Coach McDonnell drafted eldest son Clint to join younger brother Bradley and kick the team's opening goal. Mark Dale dominated as he had all year to easily win the Best and Fairest in front of Steve Bennett. "Dally" had much to do with the team forfeiting no more than one match, and worked hard off the field too.

An unsettled reserves team performed poorly in the second semi-final at a near-perfect Melbourne University oval. Hampton Rovers won the toss, kicked with the breeze, and although they conceded the first goal of the match they had 6.14 (50) on the board by quarter-time. A weak comeback in the second quarter left the Bloods 4.21 (45) in arrears of their disciplined opponents. Again the failure to convert handicapped the team; key forwards Hodge and Wise underwent fitness tests before the game, the club's first final for four years.²⁴



Due mainly to an unbeaten run of twelve matches, highlighted by an easy win over eventual premiers Hampton Rovers, the 1984 Reserves were the first Old Haileyburian team to make the finals for four years. The drought broken was as long as any in the club's history.

Back row: Mark Graham, Alan Stuart, Trevor Sinclair, Peter Thompson, Greg Andrews, Ian Clydesdale, Mark Thomson, Steven Bell and Andrew Brown.

Centre row: Andrew Mountford, Mark Newton, Kerry Sawtell, Rod Wise, Richard Kingston, Greg Taylor, Dean Shepherd, Ross Thompson and physiotherapist Mark Schneider.

Front row: John Corrigan, Tony Edwards, Jeff Wood, captain David Southgate, president Don McQueen, coach Greg Meadows, Neil Meadows, Peter Noske and Jim Bonwick.

²³ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 18 August 1984

²⁴ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 August 1984

The preliminary final against Old Brighton at a surprisingly windless Monash University turned out to be a bitter disappointment. In fine conditions Brighton led all day and won comfortably by four goals, even though the Bloods defeated them easily during the season. An irrelevant scuffle marked the end of the game, and left the Haileyburians to retire to the Notting Hill Hotel to lick their wounds. The team that day was:

Backs: John Corrigan, Kerry Sawtell, Greg Andrews
Half-backs: David Southgate (captain), Ian Clydesdale, Steven Bell
Centres: Mark Newton, Greg Meadows, Alan Stuart
Half-forwards: Andrew Mountford, John Kingsley, Tony Gilchrist
Forwards: Peter Noske, Rod Wise, Steve Marshall
Followers: Peter Thompson, Mark Graham
Rover: Gary March
Interchange: Mark Thomson, Trevor Sinclair, Greg Taylor, Jeff Wood

It was still an impressive year for the twos and their dedicated coach. In mid-season their successes bolstered the club substantially, but injuries had scuttled the cause. Even leather-jacketed, sunglass-wearing seducer and club physiotherapist "Herr Doctor" Mark Schneider could not stop the flow, despite establishing himself as a character. "Schneids" was a prime contender for the Downlow with his gesture at St Pius giving Ian Campbell the "ring of fire" while "Cambers" involuntarily smoked his first cigarette, not from the usual orifice.



The 1984 First Eighteen, who defeated St Kilda CBCOC only weeks before that team won the C Grade premiership.

Back row: John Corrigan, Andrew Hicks, Anthony Holohan, Richard Houston, Andrew Wilson, Dicky Blackwell, David Youngs, Peter Thompson and John Kingsley.
Centre row: Brett Skilton, Gary March, Peter Noske, Mark Newton, Alistair Brown, Steven Bell, Mark Graham, Scott Deller, Kerry Sawtell, Ian Campbell, Paul Brewer and Tony Gilchrist.

Front row: runner Peter Bowring, Roger Gerny, president Don McQueen, captain Neville Schmidt, coach Andrew Langford-Jones, John Constable, Warren Ayres and Roger Paul.

The season's later weeks promised much with the late success of the young, talented firsts team and the depth in the seconds. Roger Gerny was an obvious winner of his second Best and Fairest, showing unmatched commitment. Strongmen Andy Wilson and Neville Schmidt also represented the VAFA State team in Hobart, and fittingly finished second and third respectively to "Gerns", who missed a mere two matches with a broken wrist. Rod Wise was a uniformly popular winner in the reserves, just ahead of Kerry Sawtell.

At Presentation Night Life Membership was conferred on incoming President Roger Paul and past president Ken Allison. Andrew Langford-Jones' outstanding year of service, not only as coach but also as organiser extraordinaire of social functions was recognised with the Barrie Berggy Trophy - even despite that carelessness with his video camera. Don McQueen was the inaugural recipient of the trophy for President named after him, and the Bonwick family added to their considerable collection of service awards.



The sticks that make up Jeff Robertson are characteristically bent over as he shoots for goal against Thomastown at McKinnon in 1986.

JEFFREY DAVID ROBERTSON

Jeff Robertson was a third-generation Haileyburian. Grandfather Don played in the original teams of the 1920s and 1930s; father David played in the club's first amateur game in 1961 and was later President of the OHA. Younger brother Andrew, or "Boro", also played over fifty games.

The lanky fair-haired "Sticks" had a springy gait and loved to jump for a high mark from full-forward. In a season of junior football with Dingley he topped the magical ton. When kicking for a goal a stuttering run in, bent over in concentration, did little to detract from his accuracy. Robertson also led well to the right spaces and took many marks on the burst.

Of all the players to kick 100 or more goals in the firsts, only O'Farrell, Bowring, Voss and Morey kicked more goals per game than Robertson. His goals to games ratio put him ahead of champions like Walden and Schmidt.

Braver than some would believe, Robertson also proved adaptable. Fifth in the club's goal-kicking list, after many years as a spearhead he led the defence superbly from centre half-back in the 1989 reserves' premiership. Throw in a Junior Section 1 premiership, some match-winning goals in the dark days of near-relegation in 1982, a constant presence around the club, and Robertson could claim to have made the greatest contribution of all his family.

183 games (61 1sts, 85 Reserves, 33 U19s, 4 3rds), 349 goals (129 1sts, 142 Reserves, 72 U19s, 6 3rds), 1979-90

Member 1980 U19s & 1989 Reserves Premiership teams

Jumper number 4

Leading goal-kicker U19s 1980 (54 goals), Reserves 1990 (44)

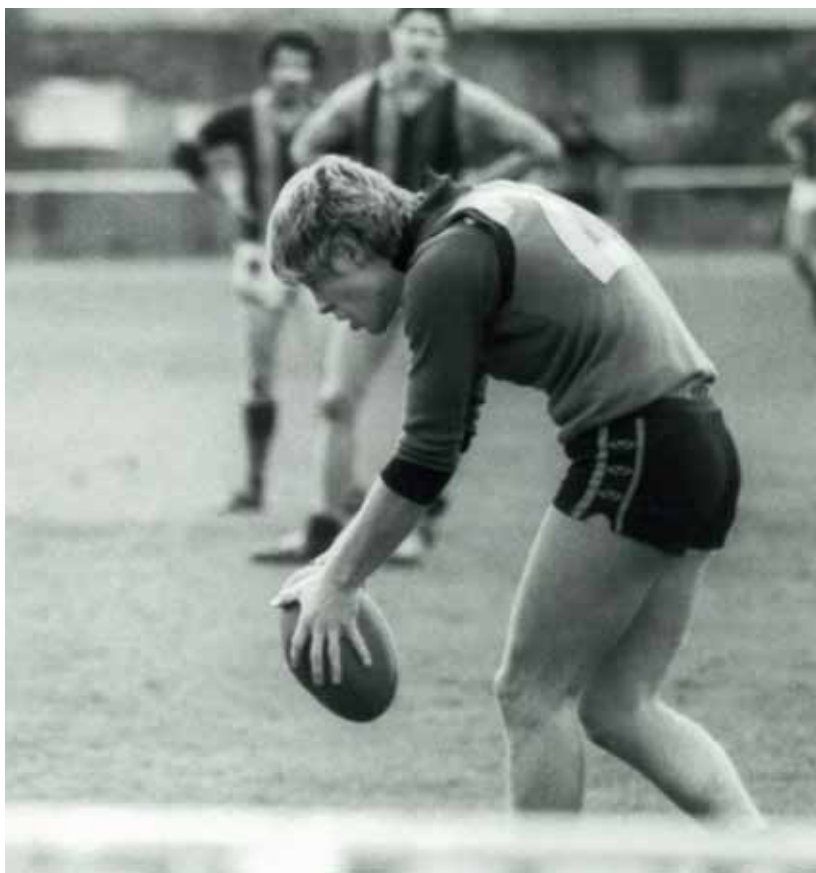
Captain Reserves 1990

1985 - Langa's Last Stanza

Rebuilding from scratch eventually sapped the energy even of a great enthusiast like Don McQueen, who stepped down as President at the 1984 AGM. He could at least be satisfied that the OHAFC was off its knees. Youth would lead the club's administration through 28-year-old President Roger Paul and 24-year-old Secretary David Southgate. A large committee surrounded them, but proved unwieldy enough to be reduced at the end of the year.

Coach Langford-Jones became the third OHAFC coach after Darrell Cranch and Michael Porter to be appointed for a third successive year. But only narrowly as the committee wavered over the decision, tempted for a moment by the prospect that former Richmond champion Michael Green might be available. Langford-Jones resigned,²⁵ only to be asked "unanimously and with acclamation" to reconsider his decision at the next committee meeting.²⁶ The chastened coach asked for a week to speak to the players before he accepted the offer.

Neville Schmidt's departure on overseas travel made the 1984 Best and Fairest winner Roger Gerny a natural successor as captain. Somehow John Houghton was coerced into coaching the reserves. Cranch bobbed up again as coach of the reformed under-nineteen team after he approached Don McQueen.²⁷



Peter Noske doing a "Hudson", performing his goal-kicking calculations with the precision of a jeweller.

PETER JAMES NOSKE

Peter Noske started life at the OHAFC as a highly productive goal-sneak, wasting no time in establishing a reputation as a handy mark and especially a deadly left-foot drop-punt kick; you would be comfortable with Noske kicking for goal if your life depended on it. Many of his shots took place after "Hudson" style deliberations, head well down and fingers stretched taut over the low-slung ball. Later in his career he played useful roles as a near-six-foot wingman in the firsts and a premierships defender in the reserves.

No man at Old Haileyburians paid more attention to personal grooming than Peter Noske, notoriously so when he became the first player to take a hair dryer on a trip away to look after that characteristic dyed blonde hair. Peter's serious, sometimes rigid accountant's personality also made him a popular target for ridicule from his team mates, but he kept extremely fit and persisted admirably through the barbs to the 200-game milestone. "Nosk" was not one to always accept the umpire's decision well, even when that umpire might have been one of his best friends. Such as when Geoff Sincoc had to jump over the boundary line to vividly demonstrate why he had paid a deliberate out of bounds decision against him.

Peter's mother Jan also involved herself enthusiastically in the club, especially in his early playing days. She made her presence more than adequately felt from the sidelines and was not beyond jumping the fence either.

*205 games (88 1sts, 101 Reserves, 16 U19s),
240 goals (100 1sts, 84 Reserves, 56 U19s),
1979-91*

Member 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 23

Best & Fairest Reserves 1989

Leading goal-kicker U19s 1979 (56 goals)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1991

Vice-captain Reserves 1990

Treasurer 1991

Committee 1990-91

²⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 25 September 1984

²⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 October 1984

²⁷ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Langford-Jones, 5 March 2010

Langford-Jones was in no doubt as to where things stood, as evidenced in the pre-season newsletter by a passionate plea bemoaning a general lack of commitment around the club. He warned that unless a solution was found to this problem, 1985 would be little different to 1984.²⁸

New assets on the playing balance sheet included the robust Michael "Bristles" Garland via South Melbourne and the similarly inclined Tony "Perce" Mitchem, solid enough to break former North Melbourne premiership player Peter Chisnall's collarbone in a practice match. Players still trickled rather than flowed from the school; Eric Mudge and Alistair Mytton were the most prized recruits. The large hole left by Schmidt was exacerbated by the losses of Ayres, Youngs, Deller and Meckiff.

On the real balance sheets, the McKinnon lights appeared as an asset of the OHA rather than its affiliated football club, which was required to complete the 1985 year as a tenant at McKinnon before the lights became its property. In return, the lights the club had erected at the Fisher Oval became the property of the school.²⁹



Dicky Blackwell flies in balletic pose, surrounded by team mates from left to right Peter Noske, Steve Bell (76), Alistair Brown (1), John Houghton (8) and David Miller (32) against Monash at McKinnon in 1985.

STEPHEN HUGH BELL

Unassuming half-back Steve Bell was so unobtrusive that one of his former coaches in Wayne Shand couldn't remember coaching him, despite Bell playing sixteen games in the firsts in 1986. Dark, speedy and solid, "Belly" or "Ding Dong" had no shortage of courage and ran hard and straight at the ball. His father was a regular watcher and known to fire his son up before the game.

108 games (38 1sts, 49 Reserves, 17 U19s, 4 3rds), 16 goals (3 1sts, 8 Reserves, 5 3rds), 1981-90

Jumper number 14

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1985

²⁸ OHAFC Newsletter, April 1985, p2

²⁹ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 7 November 1984

In the pre-season Greg Meadows and Mark Newton approached the offshoot Bloods football club to re-involve itself with its estranged parent by playing its matches on the McKinnon number two oval. By January Newton reported genuine enthusiasm to share the McKinnon facilities, but the parties were unable to agree on terms; this was one of the last hurrahs for a rapprochement.³⁰

Treasurer Graeme Billings anticipated general expenditure of over \$16,000 for the season. Cash flow was not helped by only one of the committee having paid their subscriptions by their February meeting. Thanks to the generosity of former rugged reserves defender and unofficial club printer Steve Thistlethwaite, the production costs of "Play Hard and Play for The Game" to celebrate the club's 25th year in the VAFA were limited to \$8,500 for 300 copies. At least 245 of these would have to be sold at \$35 (an extra \$15 if you wanted a particular number in the limited run) to break even. Again the OHA was approached as a banker and provided a 6-month loan of \$4,000 to cover costs while the books were sold.



The 1985 First Eighteen.

Back row: Tony Mitchem, Dicky Blackwell, Steve Bell, Paul Brewer, Michael Garland, Warren Ayres, Mark Newton and Tony Gilchrist.

Centre row: Gary March, Alistair Brown, Andrew Hicks, Anthony Holohan, Jeff Robertson, Brett Dawson, Ian Campbell, John Constable, Andrew Mountford and John Kingsley.

Front row: Kerry Sawtell, Richard Houston, captain Roger Gerny, coach Andrew Langford-Jones, president Roger Paul, Andrew Wilson, John Houghton and Steve Marshall.

³⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 29 January 1985

The under-nineteens were reformed but the thirds were all but disbanded until Trevor Sinclair's highly successful "Save the Socials" campaign. Ironically the juniors failed to complete their season while the Socials coached by Barry McDonell won their premiership.

The club's administration also moved to incorporate in order to protect office-bearers from personal liability, but this was delayed as no copy of the club's constitution could be found. This was neatly solved at a general meeting in May where a motion was passed to "delete all words after 'Constitution' and replace them with the new draft presented to the meeting." Frank Northcott for one was impressed with this fancy footwork.

John Nieuwenhuysen's seminal reform of Victoria's liquor laws was still three years away. In an unwieldy arrangement, the Haileyburians and St Pauls formed a "McKinnon Winter Sports Club" to comply with the existing licensing requirements. Non-members entering the social rooms were required to be signed in as guests.

The club's social life opened at the Balnarring races in November. Later that summer Australia hosted England for the World Championship of Cricket tournament in the first match played under the MCG's new lights, as part of Victoria's 150 year celebrations. Social Director Terry Bouris organised transport, tickets and a profit of \$650 for the club, handy after a loss of \$250 at Noske's pre-Christmas "Barrels by Candlelight", although "this was effectively a break-even result after the stock of beer was taken into account".³¹

Bouris' bus didn't go so far as Cobram for a mooted practice match when a weekend on the Murray was abandoned. The Bloods stuck with more familiar opponents Old Caulfield, Old Brighton and Old Camberwell for practice instead.



The Old Firm, ruckman John Houghton and centreman Roger Paul running on to the tap, do it one more time in their last year together against Monash in 1985. Steve Bell (76) gives Houghton support that he hardly needs.

PETER GEOFFREY THOMPSON

A players' player, Peter Thompson was familiar for his quiet determination, inelegant but effective left-foot kicking, and shock of ginger-red hair. He uncomplainingly shared the nick-name "Thommo" with a number of team-mates, which sometimes led to confusion. On his day Peter could appear indefatigable, despite rolled down socks. He was capable of rucking tirelessly but was more accustomed to playing in defence.

Although not naturally gifted, Thompson's all-arms-and-legs style, together with his ability to outmark, spoil, or at least awkwardly block the path of more gifted opponents with his lean frame, was much valued by his coaches. The durable Thompson was a coach's delight, rarely arguing with either mentor or the umpire.

*100 games (50 1sts, 33 Reserves, 17 U19s),
22 goals (9 1sts, 13 Reserves), 1979-84*

Jumper number 37

³¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 19 December 1984

The season proper opened in disturbingly similar fashion to 1983 with a loss at Hampton Rovers' reviled David Street ground. For extra spice, there had been a tug-of-war over Andy Wilson between the two clubs leading up to the game. At one stage Wilson looked certain to rejoin his father's old club, but a bit of the old Langford-Jones persuasion and the vice-captaincy sealed the deal. Despite Garland's much-anticipated debut and Wilson's brave effort before a hostile crowd, the Bloods fell away disappointingly in the last half to lose by 5 goals as the 31 degree heat took its toll. A spectator-instigated brawl at the last change didn't help after a surprisingly placid first half.³²



A very relaxed 1985 Reserves team.

Back row: John Kingsley, Tony Gilchrist, Steve Fuller, Tony Mitchem and Andrew Mountford.

Centre row: Mark Newton, Andrew Brown, Roger Loosemore, Andrew Robertson, Bernie Ladds, Greg Andrews, Neil Meadows and Dicky Blackwell.

Front row: Tony Dunstan, John Corrigan, Rod Wise, coach John Houghton, Jim Bonwick, Drew Stuart and Adrian Chapman.

³² David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 13 April 1985

Having survived Thomastown's six goal burst in as many minutes to win their first home game, the Bloods travelled to St Kevins' Righetti Oval for a vital round three clash. Driving to training with coach Langford-Jones on Thursday, Roger Paul glanced at Saturday's team and exclaimed, "Shit - Okka's in the team!";³³ having noticed the all-time great was back after retiring at the end of 1983. A second look and it was, "Shit - so am I!" Despite the coach not even asking. But Roger had tired of washing the car or mowing the lawns in retirement, and took little persuading in a return that netted him another 57 games, two further Best and Fairests and captaincy of the VAFA CDEF representative team.

A thundering win in a highly physical game (at least from the Haileyburians) in fine, hot conditions was probably the playing highlight of the season. Robertson's six goals mainly on the lead, Miller's brilliance and Kingsley's two late sealers after St Kevins snatched the lead back in the last quarter all complemented great performances by the returning veterans. Opposition collarbones started twitching throughout the rest of the competition.

Despite the encouraging start, at the next committee Langford-Jones outlined his concerns at the lack of depth and poor training attendances. He also encouraged the committee to begin looking for another coach for 1986, preferably playing, without necessarily ruling himself out of contention.³⁴

The St Kevins victory was a great lead-in to the following week, which featured a home game against bottom team Coburg, but also the 25-year player reunion and launch of the club history the night before at Kingston Heath. Over 160 of the club's past greats attended, including faces unseen for many years, but no women were invited other than Jo Fisher, who was permitted to collect Tom at the end of the evening!



Ever the antagonist, David Miller looks ready to provoke another tribunal appearance as plaintiff, this time against Kew at Victoria Park in 1986. Paul Brewer looks on anxiously.

DAVID JOHN MILLER

What a talent was David Miller. Not physically imposing in his long-sleeved jumper but with terrier-like determination, cat-like agility and a touch of magic, he was one of the few stars in Andrew Langford-Jones' struggling teams of the mid-1980s. Hard, tough and elusive, he was a serial pest to opposition teams, and not just for his football. The argumentative "Frosty" was always niggling and causing trouble, to such effect he was a regular visitor to the VAFA tribunal as a plaintiff. One of his few appearances as a defendant was for wiping blood on the umpire's shirt, when Lou Irving testified that Miller was so concussed he knew not what he was doing.

Frosty could act with the best of them, including the day he fell down looking for a free after an opponent took a fresh air swing at him. The umpire wasn't fooled but Miller's great mate Dicky Blackwell was, and ran seventy-odd metres to settle the score.

Not the most disciplined player off the field, Frosty had a serious thirst and loved the night life. On Friday nights he would regularly turn up at the Langford-Jones residence after midnight the worse for wear, to reassure the coach that "no players were down the pub", before jumping into bed with Stink and wife Rose. Invariably he would follow up with a best on ground performance the next day. The one-time National Bank teller eventually settled in Queensland.

113 games (81 1sts, 12 Reserves, 19 U19s, 1 3rds), 140 goals (94 1sts, 18 Reserves, 27 U19s, 1 3rds), 1980-90

Jumper number 32

³³ Interview with Roger Paul, 7 February 2010

³⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 29 April 1985

The two Andrews, Home and Langford-Jones, selected their best ever OHAFC side, with the rider that “naturally both will be in the team”.³⁵ They kept their word with a fantasy line up of:

Backs: John Corrigan, David Code, Daryl Regan
Half-backs: Graham Currie, Peter Gadsden, David Miller
Centres: Dicky Metherall, Roger Paul, Andrew Williams
Half-forwards: Peter Mason, Michael Porter, Andrew Home
Forwards: Alan Ross, Peter Bowring, Roger Gerny
Followers: John Houghton, Andrew Langford-Jones
Rover: David Young
Reserves: Ross Bannon, Ric Mulvey
Coach: John Masters

“Play Hard and Play for The Game” was an unqualified success, and soon established itself as the club bible for many of the older generation. Ruckman John Houghton took his copy home after the dinner and kept reading into the wee hours. Favourable reviews also appeared in the popular press, but not all were impressed. Academic historian Richard Stremski dismissed the publication, doubting that “the brief and relatively undistinguished history of the Old Haileyburians warrants this substantial collation of material”. He also warned that in this “Boys’ Own Manual” there was “anything you wanted to know about the Old Haileyburians and a lot of their dressing room antics that you wouldn’t”!³⁶

The following day started brilliantly with Rod Wise’s eight goals and the reserves’ first quarter effort of 11.9 (75) leading the way to their then highest-ever score and winning margin of 149 points. It ensured “Play Hard” was out of date the very day after its launch, and proved a great introduction for debutant Darren Seccull. But the seniors disgraced themselves to lose by six goals. Houghton was best for the Bloods despite or perhaps inspired by his late-night reading. Players and supporters consoled themselves with a Cocktail Night at the coach’s home in what had been a very big weekend.

Interviewed by VAFA General Manager Peter French about his team’s loss to the bottom side, Langford-Jones admitted to under-estimating the visitors and noted that “it didn’t help that ten or twelve of the b’s turned up to the Book Launch”.³⁷ The coach felt his team needed a centre half-back and dynamic ruck-rover to seriously push for promotion.

Having comprehensively dealt with the past, the club had a glimpse of the future the following week. School captain of football in 1984, Darren Seccull, made an impressive senior debut in the ruck and was the Bloods best at Therry’s Glenroy base. Veteran Ian Campbell’s ten-kick, two-handball opening quarter set up a win against Monash, but then another appalling last quarter at Banyule saw another game slip.³⁸

At least they were still in the game at the last change, which certainly wasn’t the case the following week when the Old Haileyburians firsts’ conceded their highest ever score against and suffered what is still their heaviest ever defeat. Eventual premiers Fawkner flogged the Bloods by 187 points, intimidating them physically and mentally while kicking 34.23 (227), after somehow the reserves had won by a point in the earlier game. Gary March remembered arriving late to the game due to work

ALAN CLAYTON STUART

Rugged Al Stuart was quick, solid, tough and determined in defence or occasionally on the wing. Coach Langford-Jones considered him something of a “rusher” but there was never any doubt about his straight-ahead approach at the ball. Stuart shared many attributes with Frosty Miller, a favourite partner in crime, in the way they approached their football and had fun off the field. His father Ian was a well-known first-class cricket umpire. Stuart eventually settled in Adelaide in his work with Great Southern Railways.

*106 games (40 1sts, 33 Reserves, 33 U19s),
36 goals (8 1sts, 19 Reserves, 9 U19s), 1979-87*

Member 1980 U19s Premiership team

Jumper number 22

³⁵ *The Haileyburian*, Term 1 1985, p1

³⁶ Richard Stremski, *Sporting Traditions* 1988 4(2) pp260-261

³⁷ Peter French & Andrew Langford-Jones, *The Amateur Footballer* 1985 (Vol 85, No 6) p5-6

³⁸ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 May 1985

commitments, sitting on the interchange bench alongside Roger Paul and finding even Roger unenthusiastic about taking the field!³⁹

Langford-Jones responded to the walloping with a tongue-lashing and the usual theatrics of kicking the cordial bucket. At least resident comedian Tony Gilchrist could break the gloom by asking, "Does this mean we don't get to sing the song?"!⁴⁰

Mercifully a break followed for the Amateur Football carnival at which Peter Noske was the obvious candidate to act as a model flag-bearer. A win over Old Camberwell saw Old Haileyburians within a game of the four at the season's halfway mark and Don McQueen retired again after another "last" (nearly) cameo performance for the reserves.

Langford-Jones' activities were not confined to coaching. Andrew Baxter remembered his address to 35 wide-eyed Year 12 students gathered at the back of the Great Hall. Jones described the club's A Grade social activities including the Gentlemen's Night and the video camera in the change rooms, which seemed to seal the deal. "Well 35 blokes promptly signed up and the rest is history. I still believe it was the reason behind the successes of the early and mid-1990s. One of the great recruiting drives".⁴¹



Even the pain of the lost 1988 reserves Grand Final that should have been won can't take the smile off perennial joker Tony Gilchrist's face. He's just managed to cajole a hint of a smirk from team mate Gary March. Perhaps Gilchrist knew he would play in a premiership the following year whereas March would not.

ANTONY NORMAN GILCHRIST

Self-appointed club comedian and Guardian of Morale, Tony Gilchrist kept team mates smiling through the dark days of the 1980s. His father Graham played over a hundred games for Carlton from the late-1950s and wore number 28 before Peter Jones made it famous; "Gilla" wore it proudly for the Bloods. He was also a talented cricketer at Brighton and played professionally in Derbyshire.

Gilchrist often won selection through the force of his personality and especially later in his career would startle opponents when shaking hands at the start of the games by saying "good game, no bumping or tackling thank you"! As coach, Andrew Langford-Jones knew better than to look at Gilchrist when delivering a serious address, lest the deceptively clever forward made him laugh.

An integral part of the club's social scene, especially the Tuesday night Chevron scene led by Gary March, after retirement Gilchrist served as General Manager. He also took a particular interest in the club's younger players, coaching the under-nineteens, or the "Young Idiots" as he affectionately called them, and helping many of his successors.

116 games (27 1sts, 50 Reserves, 24 U19s, 15 3rds), 82 goals (16 1sts, 30 Reserves, 29 U19s, 7 3rds), 1980-92

Member 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 28

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1992

Vice-captain U19s 1981

Coach U19s 1991-92

Secretary/General Manager 1990-91

Committee 1985

³⁹ Interview with Gary March, 23 September 2010

⁴⁰ Interview with Gary March, 23 September 2010

⁴¹ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 4 August 2010

ALJ also increasingly attracted former stars of school teams and in successive weeks introduced significant tall timber in lanky Brett Dawson (from Melbourne) and the frighteningly muscular Roger Loosemore. They couldn't prevent, however, what fill-in press correspondent Roger Gerny described as "the worst performance of an OHAFC team under Langford-Jones"⁴² in a 20-point loss to regular nemesis Hampton Rovers at McKinnon.

Wins north of the Yarra in consecutive weeks at Thomastown and Coburg helped the race against Old Camberwell for the last place in the four, before a loss at home to Therry despite seven goals straight in the last quarter and Frosty Miller's alley-cat brilliance.⁴³

The season's last success came at Monash, where Old Haileyburians "came home like a train"⁴⁴ to win by fifteen points for a seven-all win-loss record, before they lost their last four games. At least the team put in a spirited effort to outscore the all-conquering Fawkner in the second half, but the real crunch came at Old Camberwell where a goal by the hosts in the last two minutes sealed a one-point loss and the Bloods' absence from the finals yet again. Wilson's five majors (Gerny chipped in with four) helped him lead the club goal kicking with 27, but Miller's day was less distinguished as he was reported for "misconduct" after wiping blood on the umpire's shirt! The tribunal handed out a two week suspension.⁴⁵



John Kingsley marks against Old Trinity at McKinnon in 1986 but looks full of worry. He might be trying to find a way of swinging onto that favourite left foot. Some of his number 66 is visible, as is his good mate Jeff Robertson in the background.

JOHN DAVID KINGSLEY

Despite a relatively weedy physique at school, John Kingsley grew so much he became a valuable key defender and even occasional ruckman. The left-footer's style was reminiscent of Essendon's Scott Lucas, and he was capable of strong marks and long if sometimes erratic kicks. "Junk Yard Dog" Kingsley used his size well, and loved to kick by running around on a large arc. He could be distracted by unexpected events, however.

A constant companion of compatriot Dingley boy Jeff Robertson, Kingsley did some of his best work off the field, especially on players' trips away where his mischievous sense of humour seriously tested Tasmanian-Victorian relationships. He was also famous for returning from a Greek island holiday a golden brown late one season, when his tan made him stand out in the team photo from his milky white team mates. Kingsley's wife Sue and her twin sister Donna were so identical they were capable of spicing up club functions by pretending to be each other.

101 games (60 1sts, 41 Reserves),
87 goals (35 1sts, 52 Reserves), 1982-88

Jumper numbers 66 & 20

⁴² Roger Gerny, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 June 1985

⁴³ Roger Gerny, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 July 1985

⁴⁴ Roger Gerny, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 July 1985

⁴⁵ The Amateur Footballer 1985 (Vol 85, No 19) p19

The team's failure to live up to its promise was noted outside McKinnon's boundaries by the VAFA's correspondent, "The Whisper", who saw them as a "nice middle of the section C Grade club"⁴⁶ despite the club's obvious aspirations for B Grade. And like many other observers, "The Whisper" commented, "Old Haileyburians have that quality which committee and supporters love but doesn't win matches - potential."⁴⁷

Another member of the 1983 school premiership team, Wayne Smith, played his first senior game in Langford-Jones' last as coach, against St Kevins. Jones prepared himself with a game in the reserves beforehand, along with fellow veterans Peter Mason, Andy Williams, Grant Hattam and George Whiteman (his first game since 1978). Between them these veterans had played 780 games in 64 seasons.⁴⁸

In his comeback year Roger Paul narrowly won a fifth Best and Fairest, this time by a mere two votes (100 to 98) in front of the exquisitely poised Anthony Holohan. Old stagers Gerny and Miller lurked close behind on 92 and 89 votes respectively. Even older stager Jim Bonwick shared the reserves award with Big but not Bad Bernie Ladds, while Cranch's protégé Rod Kind was a runaway winner for the under-nineteens as well as representing the VAFA junior team. In one 20-goal loss the talented Kind still managed 45 possessions, but his team won only two games before folding mid-season, the only Old Haileyburian team ever to suffer this fate. For failing the complete the season the club was fined \$500 by the VAFA, but still managed to generate an operating profit of \$2,300 for the year.⁴⁹

Barry McDonnell's third eighteen was a far happier story, and added to the Socials' flags of 1972, 1973 and 1977 on a three quarter time diet of Smarties, jelly beans and Barry's jokes. They started their Grand Final against St Kevins at Albert Park with the bare eighteen "and a fair measure of confusion", but came home strongly to defend their lead against a strong breeze and win by three goals. Emergency measures during the year included two games by the coach and playing most of their early games in loaned jumpers, Clive Fairbairn's "smellys".⁵⁰

The premiership team was:

Backs: Greg Taylor, Chris Ladds, Steve Bennett
Half-backs: Geoff Burley, Simon Humphries, Ray Potter
Centres: Andrew Grant, Manny Geritz, Andrew Tinkler
Half-forwards: Trevor Sinclair, John Geritz, Ron Faulds
Forwards: David McLean, Geoff Davies, Gary March
Followers: Paul Bramich, Dean Shepherd
Rover: Michael Tinkler
Interchange: Barry Holland

Having endured the usual social diet of trots nights, cocktail parties, car rallies, quiz and band nights, the boys expanded their repertoire and experiences with an end-of-year trip to Tasmania that mirrored the infamous journey to Marysville of earlier days. Ambassador John Kingsley set the tone early on by asking a couple of locals whether incest was a bit of a touchy subject. He then shouted at a couple embracing in public to "leave your sister alone". Tony Gilchrist kept telling the team's ruckman to "Get awrf the Sawrce, Dawrce".⁵¹ More seriously Langford-Jones fielded

JEFFREY NEIL WOOD

Jeff Wood was a fine clubman and one of the few 1983 leavers to join the Old Haileyburians straight out of school, despite there being no under-nineteen team. Solidly built, with thighs of the John Nicholls variety, "Woody" played mainly on the half-back flank or back pocket. With a distinctive and slightly ungainly kicking style, Wood trained hard, played hard and always attended club functions.

*112 games (76 Reserves, 29 U19s, 7 3rds),
14 goals (10 Reserves, 4 U19s), 1984-92*

Jumper numbers 47 & 2

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1987

Vice-captain Reserves 1988

⁴⁶ *The Amateur Footballer* 1985 (Vol 85, No 11) p5

⁴⁷ *The Amateur Footballer* 1985 (Vol 85, No 15) p5

⁴⁸ *The Haileyburian*, Term 2 1985

⁴⁹ OHAFC 1985 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the Treasurer

⁵⁰ OHAFC Newsletter, October 1985, pp12-14

⁵¹ OHAFC Newsletter, October 1985, p16

calls from the Australian Federal Police over a missing aeroplane life-raft jacket,⁵² the whistle from which Roger Gerny would use at training sessions in future years.

The invitation for the Grand Final Breakfast reflected public confusion, and stated the venue for next year's would depend "on where the AFL decides to have the next Grand Final".⁵³

So after three years the Langford-Jones coaching era was over. Not always blessed with the numbers to truly enforce "no play, no train", like many other coaches he would also bend rules for favourite players with talent. And at a difficult time, he was prone to compromise. In the Annual Report Langford-Jones bemoaned the Old Haileyburians playing at other clubs such as Ian Herman, Phil Kingston, Nick Cameron and John Meckiff.⁵⁴ He believed the presence of these players would make the club a force to be reckoned with.

President Roger Paul's report took a more optimistic view, and noted that just a few more favourable results in close games could have seen the Bloods finish third. In his view, 1985 had been the club's best of the past five years.⁵⁵

Despite a relative lack of playing success and failure to make the finals, Langford-Jones should be proud of his time in charge, when he did far more than coach. He also ran and hosted social events, even the infamous "Gentlemen's Nights", kept an eye on the club's fragile finances and laid the foundations for future success by re-establishing relationships with school leavers that eventually bore rich fruit.

Make no mistake, along with his big mate McQueen, Langford-Jones was the man who saved the Old Haileyburians' Amateur Football Club when it was at its lowest ebb and in danger of folding. To say nothing of what he would do from a distance in the future, because there is a view in Amateur football circles (not just at Old Haileyburians) that Stink did his best work for the club after his stint as coach.⁵⁶

⁵² Interview with Roger Paul, 7 February 2010

⁵³ OHAFC Grand Final Breakfast program, 28 September 1985

⁵⁴ OHAFC 1985 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the Senior Coach

⁵⁵ OHAFC 1985 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the President

⁵⁶ Email communication, Andrew Langford-Jones, 5 March 2010

CHAPTER 7

GREEN SHOOTS

1986-88



1986 - The Arrival of Shand and the Class of '85

Wayne Shand's long-awaited arrival at Old Haileyburians was largely organised by his predecessor Langford-Jones, who gracefully stepped aside but only as far back as Chairman of Selectors and to play an unofficial "Graeme Richmond" role.¹ The 24-year-old Shand's VFL experience at Richmond included five years and fourteen senior games, reserves finals and sitting out the 1982 Grand Final as an emergency. His mentors included Tony Jewell, Francis Bourke, Mike Patterson and, in a final year at Footscray, Mick Malthouse.²

A member of the 1977 school APS premiership team, Shand had maintained a keen interest in the OHAFC, largely through playing cricket for the Old Boys alongside stalwarts such as Peter Mason, Andy Williams and Roger Gerny. Knee problems ended his VFL career, and Langford-Jones' offer of the coaching job at Old Haileyburians was timely for both parties. Shand's expectations were straight-forward - for players to "always have a fair dinkum go, to do their best, that's all".³ He looked forward to the blend of youth and experience, and also saw the value of enhancing the social side of the club by welcoming non-playing Old Boys.

Shand's appointment was confirmed in October 1985, subject to his re-instatement. It was "expected that Shand will play, but not as captain",⁴ but come the start of the season the big blonde left-footer also took over as skipper. The new coach received great support from club greats Gerny, Schmidt and Paul. On the bench Peter Mason also provided substantial backup, essential for a playing coach.⁵

Great coup as it was, Shand's appointment was only one piece of the jigsaw. No doubt it helped the other, a massive influx of recruits from the school, probably the best crop since the late-1960s. If it was good enough for an ex-VFL player to play for the Old Boys, then surely it was good enough even for superstars of the school First Eighteen. And 1986's influx was just the start of five or so great years.

The under-nineteens were comfortably re-formed and blessed with substantial numbers. Over fifty recruits joined from the school and four played regularly in the firsts. After missing out on the Team Manager's job at another of his old clubs, Fitzroy, one time senior coach Max Lyon accepted the under-nineteen job. Former school First Eighteen coach Ken Phillips clearly had a change of heart about the Old Haileyburians once his eldest son Garry joined, and became Team Manager.

Soon the likes of Andrew Baxter, Paul Bennett and Garry Phillips were arriving to matches and training in Mark Orton's "Fun Bus", a venerable Toyota Tarago, ready to play after the strains of "Eye of the Tiger" and "All Fired Up".⁶ Geoff Sincock took over the reserves.

Early-season tasks for the administration included further steps to incorporation and the usual argy-bargy with St Pauls over the sharing of facilities and catering. Roger Paul contacted the offshoot Bloods in January but again nothing eventuated; Langford-Jones took charge of fund-raising and Terry Bouris ran the social sub-committee.⁷

BERNARD PETER LADDS

Honest as the day was long, the eternally loyal Bernie Ladds smiled constantly and was the most willing worker on or off the field. A short ruckman with a large rear but an even bigger lion heart, he would always compete grandly despite hardly leaving the ground. Even-tempered in the tradition of Gil Urquhart, "Laddsy" reminded some of Barry Round in his physique and movement.

An unglamorous player and never really considered for senior selection, such was Ladds' form in the reserves in the mid-1980s that eventually he simply demanded to be promoted to the firsts. He was always committed, attended training religiously and was a good Catholic drinker to boot. Unfortunately much of Laddsy's hair was in the wrong place, on his shoulders and not his head, and it was rumoured that he could comb his back after a shower!

Bernie's younger brother Chris was also ever-smiling, but quieter, and a central figure of the Third Eighteens of 1980's.

For a club with relatively many Life Members, Bernie Ladds was one of the truest.

201 games (2 1sts, 161 Reserves, 17 U19s, 21 3rds), 34 goals (25 Reserves, 9 U19s), 1982-97

Member 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 57

Best & Fairest Reserves 1985, 1986

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1997

Captain Reserves 1988

Vice-captain Reserves 1986

Deputy vice-captain U19s 1982

Committee 1988

¹ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

² OHAFC Newsletter, October 1985, p1

³ OHAFC Newsletter, October 1985, p3

⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 16 October 1985

⁵ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

⁶ Personal email communication from Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 8 January 1986

The poorly attended pre-season BBQ was “ordinary in all respects” and raised a meagre \$93 profit, not helped by the “wastage of drinks” by two senior players. Treasurer Jeff Taylor sought \$10 restitution from each.⁸

After solid but unspectacular practice match form (wins against Old Camberwell and St Kevins and a loss to Old Brighton) the Bloods opened their season in a high standard match against Old Trinity at Bulleen that must have had Shand thinking he was back playing VFL. Trinity were on the rise through the grades and despite the new coach’s four goals his side suffered an 85-point thrashing. Debutants Andrew Baxter and Mark Orton verged on tears, having rarely experienced a loss in their school days, let alone like this. It was also a rude return for Greg Meadows in his first senior game since 1979.

Three encouraging wins followed - an amazingly accurate score of 20.2 (122) against old nemesis Hampton Rovers (Noske seven goals); then 27.16 (178) against Kew, led by six goals from both the coach and debutant John Bingham; and a Lazarus-like performance against top-placed Melbourne High inspired by John Constable’s departure by stretcher.⁹

The Bloods sat pretty in fourth place before the journey to bottom team Old Camberwell. No wonder Peter French in *The Amateur Footballer* boldly predicted, “now that they’ve joined the big 3 they will not falter”,¹⁰ which of course they did by 47 points and further bolstered their reputation for potential over performance. Over the season they defeated every other team in the competition except Banyule. The problem was they also lost to every team bar one.



It might look like Captain-coach Wayne Shand is leading the Bloods out at McKinnon in 1986, but Neville Schmidt has already broken the banner for his 200th game held by Tony Doyle. Paul Brewer and Mark Orton follow the veterans out..

⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 19 March 1986

⁹ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 May 1986

¹⁰ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer* 1986 (Vol 86, No 6) p5

Great performances such as wins at home over top teams Thomastown, Old Trinity and AJAX in front of a huge crowd, and a flogging of Melbourne High by 12 goals in a “must win” game had French lauding “a new spirit at McKinnon”.¹¹ But then the Bloods staggered in visits to less fancied opposition such as Hampton Rovers (a disastrous three-point loss after Robertson’s late-game miss from twenty metres). They also lost at home to Kew, admittedly in the worst mud seen at McKinnon, and surrendered a six-goal lead over Banyule.

Old Haileyburians were frustratingly erratic and seemed incapable of capitalising on any progress. Their better days were characterised by vigour, fierce tackling, speed and an aggressive attack on the ball.

The club’s potential was clearly evident in the VAFA representative matches played in June. Andrew Langford-Jones coached, Roger Paul captained, Wayne Shand and Roger Gerny played for, and Peter Mason helped select the CDEF team that demolished the Monaro League by over 20 goals. Even the physiotherapist Mark “Herr Doctor” Schneider was an Old Haileyburian. The VAFA under-nineteens coached by Max Lyon included John Bingham.



Captaining the VAFA, Roger Paul lines up another collarbone at Elsternwick Park in 1986.

WAYNE JAMES SHAND

The Bloods welcomed Wayne Shand with great excitement to amateur football. Ignoring constant pain from a debilitating knee injury, “Shandy” routinely delivered raking, smooth left-foot passes and roosts from the half-back flank and up forward when kicking for goal. Shand was a truly beautiful, towering kick, although almost exclusively on the left foot.

Shand’s arrival at McKinnon in 1986 was an important part of the club’s renaissance and eventual deliverance from C Grade. Younger team mates looked up to Shand with his VFL experience, despite multiple bruised and broken noses as a relatively unprotected “marquee player”. Having never belted anyone in the VFL, Shand found himself having to retaliate many times to fullbacks from the northern suburbs. Solidly built, the wetter the day the better he performed, but with that beautiful delivery Shand was no slouch in the dry either.

As his first season as coach, Shand nearly brought the senior team to its first finals appearance in eight years. He lifted the club’s professionalism by bringing in VFL contacts such as Mick Malthouse and Phil Stevens to training. On retirement, Shandy became the most regular of observers at McKinnon after his Saturday morning game of golf, and in 2010 was a valuable Chairman of Selectors to rookie senior coach David Lappage.

41 games (all 1sts), 83 goals (all 1sts), 1986-88

Jumper number 11

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1987 (25 goals), 1988 (32)

Captain-coach 1sts 1986-87

VAFA Representative 1986 (CDEFG)

¹¹ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer 1986* (Vol 86, No 8) p5

Eight representatives was not bad, but more disturbing were the Old Haileyburians involved in these games who weren't playing for the OHAFC. Giles Borten played in the under-nineteen team with Bingham, while Brett Hutchison and Ross Hetherington played for the VFA against the senior VAFA team. The VAFA squad that won the Australian Amateur Football Carnival in Adelaide included Old Boys Ian Herman, Philip Kingston and Darrell Gust.¹²

An important antidote to this leakage were the Old Haileyburians' matches against the school First and Second Eighteens in June at McKinnon. Neville Schmidt was comfortably (by six years) the oldest man on the field as an "Old Boys" team made up mainly of under-nineteens overcame a sluggish start and six-goal half-time deficit to sneak home by 11 points.¹³ The other major effort to introduce potential recruits and their parents to the club was the invitation to a "Fathers and Sons" Sportsman's Night at McKinnon hosted by Stephen Phillips that featured Mick Malthouse, Don Scott and Kevin Bartlett.

Communications to members were more regular and, at times, more ribald, thanks to the work of Steve Marshall. There was "Snagger's Gallery", a series of caricatures that defamed club identities. "Punchlines" featured salacious rumour and reports of social events such as the riotous Cocktail Parties. These were expertly run and marketed by Gary March and his off-sider Trevor Sinclair, and regularly attracted crowds of over 200, despite the health hazards inherent in Andrew Tinkler's infamous "Dickie Dips".



Trouble at the Mill for Wayne Shand in his first game as captain-coach, as Old Trinity already hold a handy lead at their Bulleen playing fields, 1986.

¹² *The Old Haileyburian*, September 1986

¹³ *OHAFC Newsletter*, June 1986, p2

By June old-stager Langford-Jones commended March and Sinclair on their efforts with the year's social functions. He claimed they were unsurpassed in the club's history, "even legendary".¹⁴ It was around this time some were saying, "If they played like they partied, they'd be in A Grade". Perhaps this didn't include the more staid quiz night under quizmaster and truly legendary Vice-Principal Frank Northcott that raised nearly \$900.¹⁵

The Cocktail Nights had a lasting effect. Interviewed for the club newsletter two decades later and asked to nominate his favourite club function, ruckman Mark Orton plumped for "the Cocktail Nights at Southa's in Ashburton in the mid-1980s".¹⁶ Garry Phillips was another who felt the effect of these events should not be under-estimated.

March and Sinclair very quickly turned the OHAFC's social life around and made its events the place to be. Both had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and March had something of a model to follow in his childhood club Noble Park, one of whose characteristics was its vibrant social life. He saw no reason why the Old Haileyburians shouldn't be the same. Part of the secret lay in inviting people from outside the playing group, and March appreciated the openness of club stalwarts like Andrew Langford-Jones towards this.¹⁷

The social events, in particular the cocktail nights, saw the club in a healthy financial position, despite reports in April that fundraising was extremely disorganised and well behind schedule while Langford-Jones was overseas. The club's approach to Bond Breweries for sponsorship was unsuccessful, but Coca-Cola joined the party instead.¹⁸

At the end of the season Treasurer Jeff Taylor could announce an operating profit of around \$4,000, a very strong result against early expectations and one of the club's best to date. Helped by Roger Gerny's efforts in collecting player subscriptions, "with all the flair one would expect from an official of the Australian Department of Taxation".¹⁹



Presentation Night follies in the McKinnon social rooms, featuring 1980s fashions, president Roger Paul and his wife Bronwyn in the centre of the action and assorted Dales, Bonwicks and Corrigan's.

¹⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 23 June 1986

¹⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 15 April 1986

¹⁶ Mark Orton, Interview in Bloodlines (OHAFC Newsletter) No 2, 2009

¹⁷ Interview with Gary March, 23 September 2010

¹⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 2 April 1986

¹⁹ OHAFC Inc 1987 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 October 1987), Report of the President

There was strong opposition on the Committee to holding the regular Gentlemen's Evening at McKinnon. It would be nice to think that they were mindful of how the club would appear in the eyes of prospective school leavers and their parents. But given the Committee also investigated Sierakowski's as an alternative venue it is more likely that concerns for the consequences for the McKinnon liquor permit were primarily responsible.²⁰

Other matters debated by the Committee included Langford-Jones' push to consider an alternative jumper design after remarks attributed to the school Principal Michael Aikman.²¹ As usual, many players were slow to pay their subscriptions and the Committee decided that no unfinancial player would be permitted to attend the Grand Final breakfast; this was about as serious a sanction possible. Some also pushed their luck with their behaviour at the Breakfast, including the early-season "drink wasters".²² The postal ballot that sought members' approval for the club to incorporate was secured when the 47th vote arrived in April.²³

Notable on-field happenings included Col "Flame" Davies' first game since 1968. The strawberry blonde was a ring-in along with Ken Allison and OHA President Russell Sincok when the reserves ventured to Thomastown and unsurprisingly were caught short. The Parkside Hamstring lived on!



The 1986 First Eighteen.

Back row: Peter Noske, Ian Campbell, Steve Bell, Michael Garland, Wayne Smith, Paul Brewer and team manager Col Bowman.

Centre row: Chairman of Selectors Andrew Langford-Jones, Andy Wilson, Jeff Robertson, John Bingham, Mark Orton, Andrew Baxter, John Kingsley, Kerry Sawtell and Commissioner Grant Hattam.

Front row: Scott Grenda, Dave Allison, Roger Gerny, captain-coach Wayne Shand, president Roger Paul, Neville Schmidt, David Miller and John Constable.

²⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 23 June 1986

²¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 23 June 1986

²² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 6 October 1986

²³ OHAFC Newsletter, April 1986, p3

Despite regularly contributing players to the firsts, Max Lyon's under-nineteens headed strongly for the finals. Against University Blacks in round fourteen they conceded a miserly behind. They played again four weeks later and followed up with a 218 point win, booting 37.23.245, skipper Robbie Stewart's return from injury highlighted by twelve goals (on the way to 35 in seven games) while Will Cox contributed a lazy ten. Cam Gregson also managed double figures earlier in the year against Thomastown.

Not for the first time there was friction between the respective coaches about whether under-nineteen players (and how many) should be drafted into the firsts. The crafty Max somehow managed to keep the talented Garry Phillips away from the senior team for the whole year, but six juniors still played in the firsts. And although Shand was at times irritated by Max's reluctance to give away players, he appreciated the importance Max placed on his football and expected his players to place on theirs.²⁴

The Bloods' finals aspirations expired at Banyule in a virtual elimination final in the penultimate round, for which they lined up as follows:

Backs: David Allison, John Constable, Tim Snowball
Half-backs: Danny Scaunich, John Kingsley, Anthony Holohan
Centres: Wayne Smith, Roger Paul, Roger Gerny
Half-forwards: Michael Garland, Neville Schmidt, Andrew Baxter
Forwards: Peter Noske, John Bingham, Scott Grenda
Followers: Mark Orton, Wayne Shand (captain)
Rover: Paul Brewer
Interchange: Andrew Hicks, Greg Meadows



Could the spirit of amateur football and joy of victory be captured any better than in this shot of the Old Haileyburians' reserves after a romp in the McKinnon mud in 1986? The victors standing are Roger Loosemore, Rod Wise, Richard Kingston, John Corrigan, Greg Taylor, Andrew Hicks, Nick Peasley, Phil Derham and Geoff Sincok. On the ground are Drew Stuart, Andrew Brown, Peter Flockart, Chris Lane, Bernie Ladds, Tony Taranto, Rob Wilson and Craig Bottomley.

²⁴Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

In sloppy conditions the Bloods momentarily clawed to a 4-point lead with ten minutes remaining, until two “disgraceful hometown goal umpiring decisions”.²⁵ Shand unsuccessfully asked the field umpire to have the goal umpire replaced, but it was too late anyway.²⁶ And certainly a damper to reserves coach Geoff Sincock’s hilarious pre-match address about his nocturnal activities before the game.

In the final round the firsts dropped their bundle to lowly St Kevins in Shand’s best game of the season, while in the reserves John Corrigan clocked up his 200th game, as had his great mate Neville Schmidt earlier in the season. As Peter French had predicted some weeks earlier, “The Old Haileyburians’ race has been run and they must now start preparing for 1987 and a continuance of battles with old foes like Hampton Rovers”.²⁷ Don McQueen played his absolutely final game in the Corrigan testimonial.

The juniors’ season ended in straight sets; they lost to Collegians by ten goals then Old Melburnians at Hampton Rovers’ David Street home for yet another unhappy Old Haileyburian memory. Barry McDonnell’s Socials again made it to the Grand Final despite playing up a division.

The end of year reports conveyed disappointment with the opportunities lost, but optimism for the future. Roger Paul, who played out the season with a broken kneecap but still won a record sixth Best and Fairest, highlighted the potential of the under-nineteen group to lay the foundations for A Grade, a marked turnaround from the previous season. And he could point to a vibrant social scene, an improving relationship with the school, healthy finances, and the increased involvement of parents, who provided a vital stabilising influence and contributed significantly to a desirable family atmosphere.²⁸

Shand was re-appointed for 1987, noting the contribution of the new blood as well as significant improvement in players such as John Kingsley, who enjoyed a terrific year at centre half-back, Wayne Smith, Dave Allison and runner-up Best and Fairest Paul Brewer. Shand’s new recruiting committee included Roger Paul, Andrew Langford-Jones (inevitably), Will Cox and school masters Ken Phillips and Nick Tonkin. One of their goals was to entice Old Haileyburians who were not at the club to join.²⁹

The ladies made quite a mark in 1986. There was the “Ladies Luncheon”. Mino Bonwick became the OHAFC’s first female life member at Presentation Night in front of 200 people packed into the McKinnon rooms. And the Hilly Houghton Ladies’ Award was created to commemorate the contributions of the larger-than-life Hilly who did much to bring people together in the Keysborough days. Jill Phillips was the inaugural winner.

²⁵ David Southgate, *Match report in OHAFC archives*, 16 August 1986

²⁶ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

²⁷ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer 1986* (Vol 86, No 18) pp4-5

²⁸ OHAFC 1986 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 10 November 1986), *Report of the President*

²⁹ OHAFC 1986 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 10 November 1986), *Report of the Senior Coach*

1987 - One Last Backward Step

Given the advances made the previous year, the Old Haileyburians looked forward to 1987 with great optimism. The gush of talent from the school continued in a year where twelve players still eligible for junior football played in the firsts. The closer relationship with the school was bolstered by the election of Nick Tonkin as Vice-President and the appointment of Ken Phillips to the recruiting sub-committee.

Before 1986 was over "Mr Fixit" Langford-Jones was assigned the task of answering the VAFA's "please explain" about the veterans who played unregistered in the Thomastown reserves match.³⁰ This was one of the poacher's last official duties before he turned gamekeeper and joined the VAFA Executive in May 1987, precipitating his retirement from the Haileyburians' committee.³¹

In late 1986 the Bloods were not the only club concerned over the merging of the Club Eighteen into the VAFA competition, which introduced H Section to cater for the introduction of these teams.³² The competition swelled to 68 clubs, 176 teams and 8206 registered players.³³ One of the few other football competitions to be expanding at this time was the VFL, which introduced the Brisbane Bears and West Coast Eagles.



Season 1987 was disappointing for the Bloods after the promise they showed the previous year. The First Eighteen are:
Back row: Team Manager Tony Doyle, Al Mytton, Gary March, Steve Bell, Garry Phillips, Wayne Smith, John Fergusson, runner Michael Donaldson and selector Peter Mason.
Centre row: Neville Schmidt, Michael Constable, Tim Snowball, Mark Orton, Jeff Robertson, Andrew Baxter and John Kingsley.
Front row: Will Cox, Paul Brewer, Roger Gerny, captain-coach Wayne Shand, president Roger Paul, John Constable and Anthony Holohan.

³⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 25 November 1986

³¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 May 1987

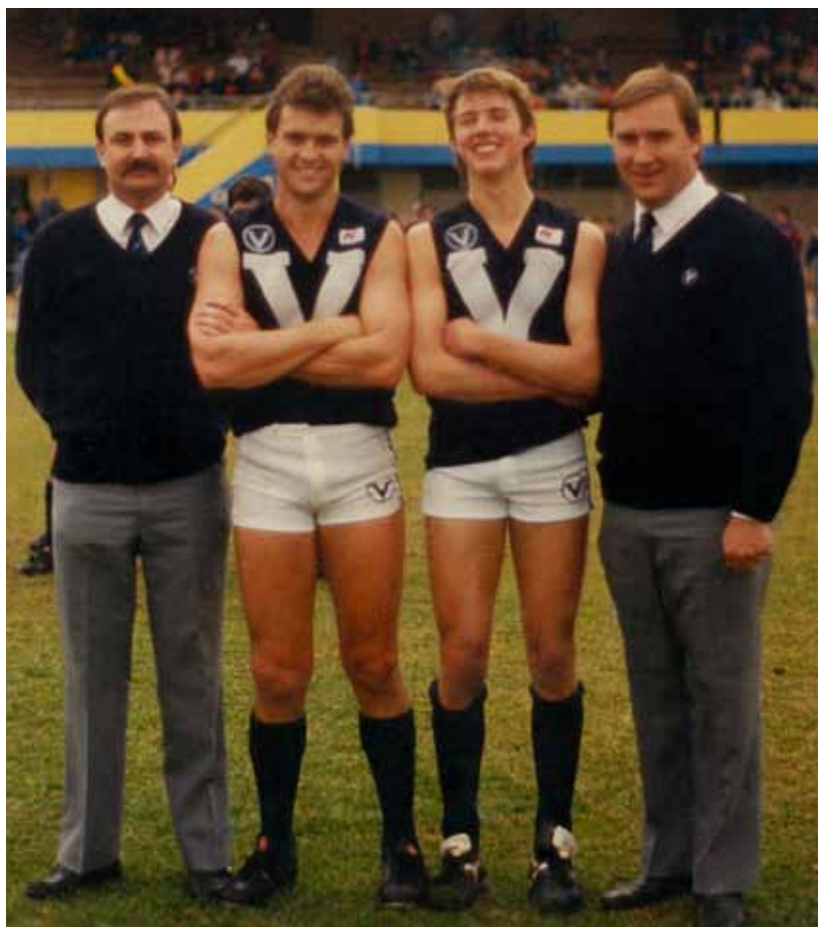
³² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 25 November 1986

³³ VAFA Annual Report 2008, p72

Further evidence the OHAFC was a far more acceptable destination for even the most talented school leavers was seen in the arrival of 1985's school captain of football, the electric fast Russell Phillips, John Fergusson and slightly older Rohan Hart. They, Garry Phillips, Will Cox, Mick Constable and schoolboys Glenn Tanner and Laurie Bingham all made their senior debuts in the first four rounds. Mark Seccull played the first of many games for the club when he made a guest appearance in the reserves in round one.

After four games, however, the Haileyburians' season was virtually over. On honeymoon, coach Shand missed a brave performance in the almost traditional season opener loss, against an Old Melburnians team that boasted five ex-VFL players. Miller's six goals had the Bloods five up just after half-time before OMs powered home to win by 41 points.

Just unable to steal the following game at a windswept Monash, the Haileyburians then put in a shocker against Balaclava at home, already beaten psychologically in the rooms at half-time despite leading by a goal. In his end-of-year coach's report, Shand referred to the need for greater leadership to lift morale in these situations.³⁴ He also felt the young Bloods were vulnerable against the more physical, bigger-bodied district teams.³⁵



The Haileyburian contingent at the 1987 VAFA match against the Monaro league at Canberra is still able to smile despite their famous and harrowing bus trip from Melbourne and 4am arrival. From left are selector Peter Mason, Roger Paul, debutant Garry Phillips and coach Andrew Langford-Jones.

³⁴ OHAFC Inc 1987 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 October 1987), Report of the Senior Coach

³⁵ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

The committee meeting minutes for April and May showed the strain, and concerns were expressed at the lack of camaraderie and on-field talking.³⁶ Under-nineteen coach Max Lyon's work commitments forced the seniors and juniors to train on different nights; by June the juniors attended senior training by roster, hardly ideal. No wonder the drinks list for the next Cocktail Night included the Wayne Shand Midori Sour - "this drink may leave you with the same look on your face as our effervescent coach after four straight losses".³⁷ Even the price of food, especially the chips, at McKinnon on Thursday nights was a source of discontent.

Remedies went so far as Langford-Jones suggesting a meeting with noted sports psychologist Noel Blundell.³⁸ Finally things clicked both on and off the field. The day after Frank Northcott and Tony Doyle's highly successful Quiz Night, the firsts broke their duck with a spectacular nine-goal last quarter against Melbourne High at McKinnon. Robertson's goal sealed a one-point win over AJAX, and a great final-term performance against the breeze and Thomastown sealed a third consecutive win and an outside chance of making the finals. The reserves won seven straight while the under-nineteens initially struggled.



Future AFL ruckman Laurie Bingham taps down in the under-nineteens' preliminary final win over Old Scotch at Albert Park in 1987.

³⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meetings, 15 April & 5 May 1987

³⁷ OHAFC Cocktail Night program in OHAFC archives

³⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 May 1987

Round eight against Kew loomed as a crunch game, and in his preview the VAFA's Peter French correctly leaned to Kew, "who might be that bit more direct when things get tight". He also looked forward to "young (Garry) Phillips' clash with Bradley, bound to be a beauty".³⁹ Garry's prowess was noted by the wider amateur football community and his star was on the rise. In his first year of senior football Garry represented the VAFA state team captained again by Roger Paul, and finished second in the competition Best and Fairest.

Paul, Phillips and state coach Langford-Jones' trip to Canberra to play the Monaro League is a story in itself. The trio endured a late-night bus trip after their flight was cancelled and arrived in the national capital at 4am on the morning of the game.

A rare win at relegation favourite Hampton Rovers in a "placid" match ("Goodbye David Street?" optimistically asked the match report)⁴⁰ preceded a run of five consecutive losses that included "shameful"⁴¹ efforts according to Peter French, who derided the Bloods' inconsistency.⁴²

These losses included Andrew Walden's debut against Balaclava at Elsternwick in the Haileyburians' first ever Sunday match, where they meekly surrendered a last change lead of five goals. Coach Shand still remembered one booming "eighty metre" Walden kick despite being king-hit and knocked out ten minutes from the end of a game in which he kicked a personal-best seven goals.⁴³



Max Lyon's 1987 under-nineteens made the Grand Final but just missed out on the chocolates.

Back row: Paul Sorati, Matthew Dickinson, Tim Jones, David Garfield, Chris Lane, Greg Lasscock, Tim Doran, Luke Elliott and Ward Caspers.

Centre row: Jeremy Rae, Peter Merrett, Matthew Larkworthy, Dean Lear, Mark Seccull, Richard Bowman, Will Cox, Peter Flockart, Darren Cotton and Andrew Wigg.

Front row: Robert Parton, Peter Bowman, captain Dave Merrett, coach Max Lyon, president Roger Paul, Paul Bennett, Paul Shinkfield and Danny Scaunich.

³⁹ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer* 1986 (Vol 86, No 8) p3

⁴⁰ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 13 June 1987

⁴¹ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer* 1986 (Vol 86, No 13) p3

⁴² Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer* 1986 (Vol 86, No 14) p3

⁴³ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

Walden's recruitment was foreshadowed in the June committee meeting minutes, which also identified Darren Seccull and Danny Scaunich as targets and sought to use Shand's VFL experience.⁴⁴ Seccull returned in the Balaclava game and Scaunich for the under-nineteens' last two finals matches. Unfortunately the Queen's Birthday match against the school was abandoned, but at least the boys and their fathers were again able to attend the club's Sportsman's Night.

The Haileyburians' only two victories in the last half of the season were by thumping margins against relegation-bound AJAX and, in the final round, Hampton Rovers in a "most fond farewell".⁴⁵ Darren Seccull was instrumental in these wins with a six goal haul and a best on ground performance respectively. Returned from his first suspension, Walden had a day out and booted five from a half-forward flank against the Rovers

An inability to kick goals and a debilitating injury list were major factors behind the poor season. These took great toll on the reserves after their fine start and by the penultimate round against competition leaders Kew, numbers were paper thin. Wayne Smith, Andrew Hicks, Bernie Ladds and Jeff Robertson all played in both the firsts and reserves, while Gentleman John Constable escaped with a rare reprimand from the VAFA tribunal after being found guilty of tripping.

At least the reserves heeded Peter French's very public warning about not playing "ring-ins" when they travelled to Thomastown.⁴⁶ And veteran forward Rod Wise completed a fine season winning the competition goal-kicking with 43 goals, two shy of Peter Atkinson's 1969 club record for the reserves.



In 1988 defender Michael Constable (left) made his debut for the VAFA in Adelaide alongside team mates John Bingham (centre) and Garry Phillips (right).

MICHAEL SCOTT CONSTABLE

Backman Mick Constable was from courageous stock. Like older brother John, he unfailingly kept his eyes on the ball while performing kamikaze runs back into packs to mark or spoil. He knew no way other than to run straight at the ball at full pace, regardless of any opponents. "Cunners" was prepared to pay the price for these sacrificial acts, as he did in 1989 when a ruptured spleen kept him out of the C Grade premiership team, but he more than made up for it in the following year's finals series.

A dead ringer for Mr Kelly in the TV show "Hey Dad", at six foot three Micky would have been the tallest player in many sides. But playing alongside the likes of Bingham, Kidgell, the Secculls and Darren Williams, he had to be adept at playing on smalls as well as tall. Constable was an outstanding one-on-one player, strong overhead and with bodywork that put many an opponent off balance just as the ball fell into his sure hands. He was also an outstanding bloke, and after retirement continued to help around the club, not least as a boundary umpire still as fit as many of the players.

167 games (118 1sts, 24 Reserves, 20 U19s, 5 3rds), 19 goals (7 1sts, 1 Reserves, 10 U19s, 1 3rds), 1985-99

Member 1990 & 1995 1sts Premiership teams

Jumper number 18

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1993

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1989-90

Committee 1992

VAFA Representative 1988 (CDEFG)

⁴⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 9 June 1987

⁴⁵ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 August 1987

⁴⁶ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer 1986* (Vol 86, No 16) p4

Max Lyon's under-nineteens improved so impressively that they lost only two games after Round eight, both against Therry. Unfortunately the second of these was in the Grand Final, after they had comfortably dealt with Uni Blues and demolished Old Scotch in the First Semi and Preliminary finals respectively. Greg Lasscock kicked six goals in the latter on the way to a season's total of 55.

In the junior Grand Final at the Harry Trott Oval the Bloods lacked only the suspended (again) Walden, and lined up as follows:

Backs: David Garfield, Matthew Larkworthy, Chris Lane

Half-backs: Danny Scaunich, Dave Merrett (captain), Rob Parton

Centres: Andrew Wigg, Paul Bennett, Jeremy Rae

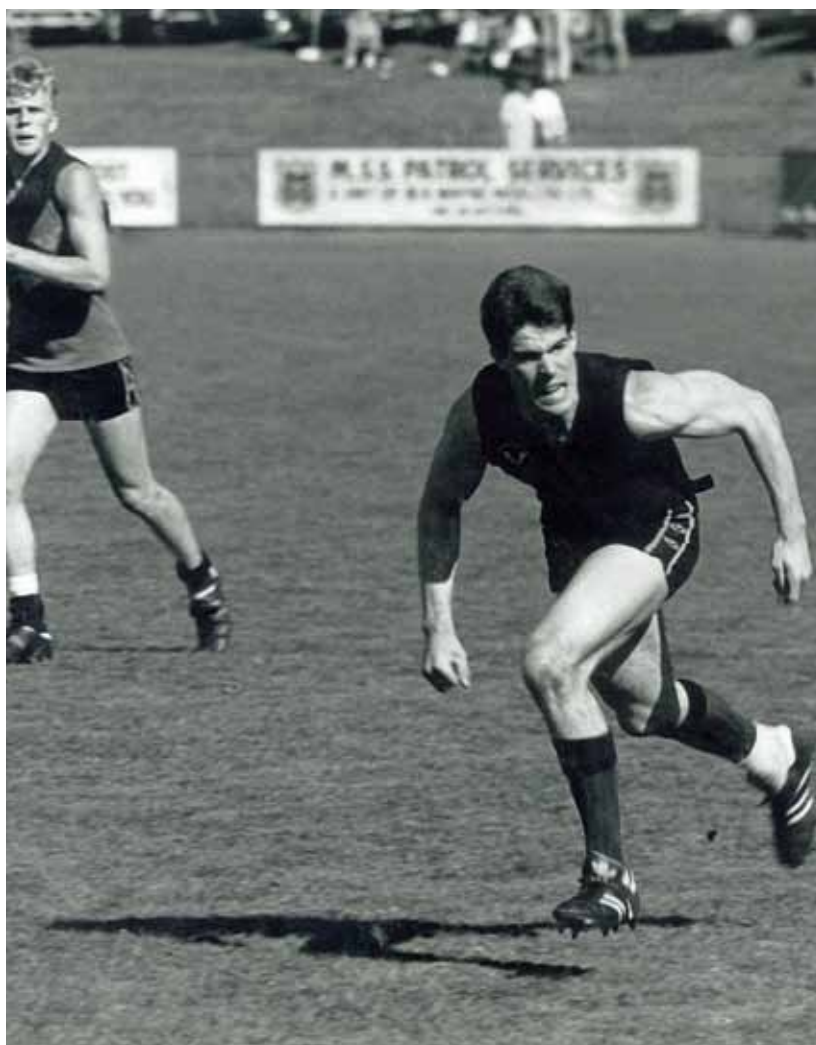
Half-forwards: Tim Doran, Mark Seccull, Paul Shinkfield

Forwards: Greg Lasscock, Darren Cotton, Will Cox

Followers: Laurie Bingham, John Fergusson

Rover: Tim Jones

Interchange: Ward Caspers, Peter Flockart, Peter Bowman, Peter Merrett



Best and Fairest in 1988, Wayne Smith on a typical Raines-like rampage down the Elsternwick Park wing in the following year's Grand Final. David Connell in support.

WAYNE RICHARD SMITH

"Rainsey" was an obvious nickname for wingman Wayne Smith, such did he resemble the Richmond champion Geoff Raines with his athleticism, pace, thumping kicks and straight dark hair. A highly entertaining player and a joyous sight in full flight, Smith was one of those fellows who made everyone around him laugh. He had a decided liking for the grandstand wing at McKinnon and preferred to play all four quarters on that side just to be closer to the crowd.

Smith gave his all on the ground, never shut up and always put his body on the line for the jumper. He loved a run, but did not believe in giving off to the first option and rarely handpassed, just like another Richmond legend. Smith's spectacular goal on the run in his hundredth game, the 1990 Grand Final massacre of OMs, was typical of his play.

Rainsey fancied himself as a ladies' man and regularly greeted each season with a new filly in tow. He took pride dating girls a little younger than himself - but not too much younger. Smith also dabbled in part-time work as a DJ, thinking he might kill two birds with one stone by being able to pick up while making cash at the same time. He still made occasional appearances in the reserves as he approached his mid-forties, albeit thicker of girth. Smith's father Wal also served as club Treasurer.

249 games (118 1sts, 130 Reserves, 1 U19s),
109 goals (58 1sts, 49 Reserves, 2 U19s),
1985-2010

Member 1989 & 1990 1sts Premiership teams

Jumper number 6

Best & Fairest 1sts 1988

Best & Fairest Reserves 1993

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1995, 1997

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1998

Old Haileyburians opened up a three-goal lead at quarter time, about par for the breeze. Therry took a grip on the game with four successive goals just before half-time, however, so the mood in the half-time rooms was gloomy. Although the Haileyburians regained the lead by the last change and rover Tim Jones' goal extended it further, their inaccurate kicking (9.16) and Therry's five last-quarter goals were too much. Further galling was the umpire's report and sending off of Mark Seccull ten minutes before the end, especially when he was later acquitted at the tribunal.⁴⁷ The loss was a bitter disappointment to Lyon in his last match as coach.

Undoubtedly 1987 was another wasted season. In his preview of the final match, Peter French tipped Hampton Rovers as in his view Old Haileyburians would "look towards more social happenings".⁴⁸ Although inaccurate on this occasion, French noted their erratic form and warned they faced a crucial season in 1988.

In the club newsletter, President Roger Paul was quick to concede how disappointing 1987 had been. He linked the lack of success to lack of numbers on and off the field, and lack of commitment to preparation, playing and winning.⁴⁹ These sentiments were mirrored almost exactly by Wayne Shand, who also noted the imbalance of workloads within the committee.⁵⁰



A typically spectacular mark from a young Garry Phillips in the 1988 First Semi-final against Old Brighton at Trevor Barker Oval, Sandringham. Dave Connell is yet to take over Roger Paul's famous jumper and wears his original number 36.

⁴⁷ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 September 1987

⁴⁸ Peter French, *The Amateur Footballer* 1986 (Vol 86, No 18) p6

⁴⁹ OHAFC Newsletter, August 1987, p3

⁵⁰ OHAFC Inc 1987 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 October 1987), Report of the Senior Coach

There were causes for optimism, however, in the promise and attitudes of the under-nineteens, who for the second successive year had been the club's most successful team. Many of this close-knit group lived in the Waverley area. Shand and Paul both felt that Max Lyon's dedicated approach had rubbed off on his young charges, who in turn were often setting a better example to their older team mates.⁵¹

Shand was convinced the club was not lacking in the basic building blocks of football ability, and that solid work and commitment would result in more wins. In his President's report, Paul anticipated that Lyon's disappointment in missing a junior flag would be overcome by a senior flag won by the same players in the near future.⁵²

There was further cause for confidence when the school First Eighteen shared the APS football Premiership with Xavier. Captained by Glenn Tanner, this team included future stars such as Brett Carty, Ian Kidgell, David Connell, Laurie Bingham, Wayne Phillips and Nik Morey. So there was a growing sense that the playing list would soon have enough talent to make finals football and break out of C Grade. Related to this was an increasing intolerance of mediocre results.

The sense of changing of the guard heightened when Garry Phillips became the first "new" Best and Fairest winner since John Corrigan in 1981, and Shand anointed the 22-year-old Darren Seccull as a leader on which the future of the club could be built.⁵³ Work commitments meant that Shand could no longer coach, despite having enjoyed his time in the role, and all three coaching positions were advertised by August, to be considered by Messrs Phillips, Paul, Gerny and Southgate.⁵⁴

The AGM held in October at McKinnon marked the end of an era as President Roger Paul and Secretary David Southgate both stepped down after three years in their respective roles. Their main achievements were probably the recruitment of people that gave a vastly greater sense of club compared to when they had started, and promoting the club more as a place to be seen rather than avoided. The club's social life was vibrant and, despite the perpetual concerns of too much work being left to too few, there was a significant jump in the involvement of supporters and especially parents.

After this period of consolidation, the Old Haileyburians needed a galvanising force to harness and release its considerable potential both within the playing ranks and also off-field. The OHAFC needed to learn how to be successful. Solid on-field results were a key to establishing a winning culture and unlocking its many associated benefits. Fortunately it had the right men in mind to accelerate the rebuilding process started by Don McQueen, who on Presentation Night was appointed a Patron of the club.

GARRY LEIGH PHILLIPS

Slight champion Garry Phillips burst onto the senior football scene with a standout season in 1987 after a year in the juniors under Max Lyon's protective gaze. His play on the wing featured spectacular high marking and courageous ball winning. Two years later he was recruited by Geelong, where his physique earned him the nickname "Bones". He played in their reserves Grand Final team and in 1990 made his senior AFL debut, playing alongside Gary Ablett Senior, Billy Brownless and Garry Hocking.

A cruel run of back and hamstring injuries at Geelong restricted Garry to three senior games, but was terrific for the Old Haileyburians as he was soon back in their colours. A very fair player, Phillips rarely missed the opportunity to reveal a quietly determined competitive streak with a vigorous bump or tackle. It took a bite on the arm from a dirty little St Bernards rover to provoke Garry into throwing a punch. He hated many sides north of the Yarra with a passion, no surprise given the attention they paid him, including a nose re-arrangement one day out at Therry.

Phillips had courage in bucketloads, loved running hard at the ball, and like little brother Wayne was an incredibly strong tackler. On his return from Geelong, that leap and sure hands were still his great feature, enabling him to take a screamer in the 1995 Grand Final right in front of the grandstand. Well presented on the field, Garry's dress sense off it could leave something to be desired, especially those favourite flannelette shirts.

Garry worked as an accountant for high profile companies such as Ernst & Young and Siemens. Laconically talented in many sports, he played State underage hockey, golf off a single figure handicap at Kingston Heath, and held his own on a surfboard. After his playing days, typically he put back into the club with a number of years on the committee, many as Vice-president.

*160 games (142 1sts, 18 U19s),
178 goals (170 1sts, 8 U19s), 1986-98*

Best & Fairest 1sts 1987, 1997

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1995

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1994 (40 goals)

*Member 1995 1sts Premiership team
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper numbers 5 & 26

Vice-captain 1sts 1988, 1997-98

Vice-President 1999-2003

Committee 1997-2003

*VAFA Representative 1989, 1993-95 (senior),
1987-88 (CDEF)*

⁵¹ Interview with Wayne Shand & Roger Paul, 7 February 2010

⁵² OHAFC Inc 1987 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 October 1987), Report of the President

⁵³ OHAFC Inc 1987 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 October 1987), Report of the Senior Coach

⁵⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 August 1987

1988 – Stevo’s Surge

Ken Allison and Phil Stevens were just the catalyst to finally lead the Old Haileyburians out of “shitty old C Grade” as Max Lyon once eloquently put it. “KA’s” previous 3-year term as President oversaw one of the club’s more successful periods while Stevens brought a wealth of experience in the form of over 150 VFL games with Geelong (mainly) and St Kilda, as well as coach of VFA team Sandringham. Although an “outsider”, like his predecessor Shand, Stevens also knew something of the OHAFC through playing in the Old Haileyburians’ cricket team.

Stevens was appointed after a relatively brief interview, at which Roger Paul was so sure the Bloods had their man he said, “Well I reckon you’ve got the job!”⁵⁵ Stevens confessed to initial doubts about coaching a C Grade team when he had offers at higher levels, but he had sensed an urgency at Old Haileyburians to remove themselves from their mediocrity.⁵⁶

As well as announcing Stevens’ appointment at the 1987 AGM, incoming President Ken Allison welcomed back newly elected Vice-president Robin “Rev” Boag and confirmed Wayne Shand’s prediction by highlighting Darren Seccull’s ascension to Senior Captain.⁵⁷



Phil Stevens in one of his last games coaching the Bloods at Elsternwick Park in 1989, where he would soon become General Manager for the VAFA. Billy Baxter stands up, runner Kerry Sawtell listens, Wayne Smith (6) and Brett Carty sit and Col Bowman checks out the weather rolling in.

PHIL BRUCE STEVENS

Recruited from South Warrnambool, Phil Stevens made his VFL debut for his beloved Geelong while still at school, wearing Bobby Davis’ famous number four. Like his predecessor, good friend and fellow blonde Wayne Shand as coach, Phil Stevens lifted the level of professionalism at Old Haileyburians another notch, and brought a profile and further presence to the club. He was a genuinely outstanding individual who galvanized the support of many in his eighteen months at the club, before taking the position of General Manager at the VAFA.

School master “Stevo” was ideally placed to coach. His work enabled him to be first to training. It also equipped him with the teaching skills so important in coaching. Players regularly received copious written feedback and instructions.

After fifteen-odd years at VAFA headquarters, Phil returned to teaching where he eventually found himself at Firkbank’s Sandringham House under Headmaster and fanatical Bloods supporter Tony Doyle. There was no more delighted man than Stevens at the 2009 AFL Grand Final when Geelong narrowly defeated St Kilda, where he played the final few years of his career. Paid out at a few cents in the dollar by the Saints at the end of his playing days, Stevo barracked for “Geelong and whoever’s playing St Kilda”.

Coach 1sts 1988-89

Committee 1988

⁵⁵ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁵⁶ OHAFC News, January 1988, p3

⁵⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 28 October 1987

President and coach saw a need to improve the attitudes around the club, on and off the field. Allison turned his mind to restoring pride and renovating the McKinnon clubrooms. Stevens' work as a schoolteacher gave him time to prepare meticulously for training which, as Shand noted, ran "just like a Grade 6 class"!⁵⁸ Stevens was influenced by Tom Hafey when he served as runner at Geelong and was still in magnificent shape.

Stevens didn't claim to know a lot about Amateur football, but was pleasantly surprised with the breadth and vibrancy of its network. He soon realised the need for different approaches for different players, and to balance his drive to increase the players' commitment with the understanding that football was an adjunct to their working lives. His training rules allowed players to miss one of the Tuesday or Thursday evening sessions provided they made up for it on a Sunday morning. The greater numbers at training also made it easier for Stevens to enforce the "no train, no play" rule than it had been for his predecessors.⁵⁹

The flow of recruits was enhanced by the efforts of the recruiting committee, which included Stevens, Seccull and the key contact for the 1987 school leavers, Wayne Phillips. Other than another abundant crop of under-nineteens, recruiting successes included 1982's school vice-captain of football, Paul Jury, 1983 APS premiership player Nick Cameron, the fit-as-a-trout Graham Smith, Carlo Taranto and, from Collegians, Bruce Van Twest. John Bingham returned from the UK (unlike Zeke without the "bumper bar") while Michael Garland headed north to Katherine. In anticipation of the rugged "Bristles" returning, which he did in 1990, the Territory club was asked to provide a letter stating that he would play as an amateur.⁶⁰

The club also sought to bolster its supply of junior players. It raised with local junior team St Paul's Demons the possibility of a joint under-17 team following Moorabbin councillor Alan Salter's football forum, but a lack of resources foiled this initiative.⁶¹

February's "Meet the Coach" BBQ gave players and especially school leavers the opportunity to meet Stevens, his blonde moustachioed "twin" and reserves coach Kerry Sawtell, and new under-nineteen coach and host for the day John "Ghost" Caspers, whose son Ward played in the juniors. Hard man and printing magnate Caspers had previously coached Old Caulfield Grammarians in A Grade and was assisted by All-Australian Amateur centreman Tony Lester.

To fund his renovation plans, Allison eyed the resources of the OHA, which at the time received around \$15,000 annually in subscriptions and held reserves of \$135,000. By April he had brokered a loan for \$6,000.⁶² In return the OHA expected substantial assistance from the OHAFC in filling tables at their Annual Dinners.⁶³ Allison also designed distinctive magenta and black with gold pinstripe ties and bow-ties. Club members could pay for these by credit card as the club acquired merchant status, mainly in an attempt to make collection of subscriptions easier.

The relationship with co-tenant St Pauls remained difficult, especially over catering, although they eventually agreed for this to be run by Brian Hume of South Yarra's Argo Hotel. The bar and funding of improvements remained contentious.⁶⁴ A round 18 clash where both clubs were

⁵⁸ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

⁵⁹ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁶⁰ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 10 February 1988

⁶¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 20 January 1988

⁶² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 12 April 1988

⁶³ Minutes of Old Haileyburians Council meeting, 21 March 1988

⁶⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 March 1988

drawn to play at McKinnon on the same day didn't help, and as the Haileyburians' opponents Old Brighton declined to play at McKinnon on the Sunday this match was moved to Elsternwick Park.⁶⁵

After solid practice match wins over 1987 C Grade premiers Monash, then Old Mentonians, the Bloods took on the strongmen of Balaclava at their windy Albert Park ground. Stevens was struck by the ferocity of these opponents,⁶⁶ against whom Roger Paul was the perfect inspiration for a 15-point come-from-behind win with less than a full strength team, the Old Haileyburians first in a season opener since 1980.

Next week a huge crowd at McKinnon, including over a hundred for the supporters' luncheon run by Zeke Davies,⁶⁷ greeted Banyule, down from B Grade and destined to be a finalist as well as a close rival for the Bloods over the next few years. Stevens identified the way they played their football - fast, running and carrying the ball, and pressing forward with confidence to a contest - as the way to play, and strived to develop good respect between the two clubs as he had for his opposite number John Simpson.⁶⁸ Banyule proved comfortably too good, however, as did Old Melburnians the following week by just over a goal in a high standard match.

With the top two teams out of the way, the Bloods won twelve of their next thirteen matches, none by less than 20 points. They belted Thomastown (106 points) at Elsternwick Park and Melbourne High (97 points), including a twelve-goal burst in the third quarter. At the halfway point of the season they sat third on the ladder, destined for the finals for the first time since 1978. In the under-nineteens Glenn Tanner slotted a leisurely thirteen goals against Old Paradians while in successive weeks David Connell, then Matthew Armstrong and Fraser Main made their debuts for the club.

Among the best of the wins was at St Kilda CBC's Murrumbeena oval, usually an unhappy hunting ground, where the returned Bingham enlivened the forward line. Less happily, Roger Paul's mother Lill had died the previous Thursday and the champion threw himself into the fray with even greater vigour than usual. He emerged with a broken jaw in the first quarter, but that didn't stop him playing until half-time. Paullly was the saddest of sights at the following week's funeral.

At least Paul had company as Andrew Walden, Neville Schmidt and Wayne Shand all broke their noses that season.⁶⁹ Given a flexible workload by Stevens, the veteran Shand felt more a marked man in his third and final season.⁷⁰ Especially against Thomastown at McKinnon when he responded to his rough treatment by slotting an inspiring goal and gesturing defiantly to the visitors' supporters. At least he played, unlike Peter Noske and Tony Gilchrist who, despite missing the Thomastown game through ill health were well enough to catch the annual Warragul train party. Some said it should have been a case of "no play, no train".⁷¹

None of this, nor the usual tension about under-nineteens playing in the firsts, deterred the still at school David Connell in a remarkable senior debut for an injury-depleted team against Old Ivanhoe Grammarians at their uninviting Chelsworth Park home in mid winter. Darren Seccull was assigned the task of minding Connell, who smoked incessantly in Secc's car all the way to Ivanhoe and back.

⁶⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 22 March 1988

⁶⁶ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁶⁷ The Old Haileyburian, August 1988

⁶⁸ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁶⁹ OHAFC Newsletter, July 1988, p5

⁷⁰ Interview with Wayne Shand, 7 February 2010

⁷¹ OHAFC Newsletter, July 1988, p5

Ivanhoe were captained by rugged former prison inmate Laurie Stretton. After Connell rapidly accumulated the first few of his 30-plus possessions, Stretton threatened all manner of injury should Connell go near the ball again. To Seccull's horror, Connell cheekily told Stretton he could keep knocking him down and he'd keep getting up again. Hardly your typical Old Haileyburian response. After his best on ground performance Connell enjoyed a few travellers in Seccull's car on the way home.⁷²

Stevens felt his players needed to learn about winning respect from opposition teams off the field, especially district teams, for a more rounded understanding of their sport. He hired a bus for one north-of-the-river game, when the players were keen to depart immediately after the match. Stevens insisted however that they stay back for a drink and a chat with their hosts.⁷³

Old Haileyburians players made their mark in the wider amateur ranks. Garry Phillips, Mick Constable and John Bingham all played in the CDEF team's win in South Australia, Glenn Tanner in the VAFA junior team, and Peter Wigg finished runner-up in the under-nineteen Junior Section 1 competition Best and Fairest.



Surrounded by four Banyule opponents and not a team mate in sight, the imperturbable John Bingham calmly kicks long downfield during his signature performance in the 1989 Grand Final at Elsternwick Park.

JOHN PRIESTLEY BINGHAM

Reclusive as Howard Hughes, John Bingham was one of the most talented players to pull on a boot for the Bloods, and played a major role in their dual premiership triumphs of 1989-90. He was an outstanding junior footballer as a medium sized centreman, playing in Richmond's under-age squads. In his last year or so at school, he suddenly shot up nine inches to six foot five, but lost none of his poise, balance or two-sided skills. This made him a unique talent, a player who could hold down centre half-forward or centre half-back, was quick across the ground, beautifully balanced, could leap high to mark or spoil and had great skills with both hand and foot.

Bingham made his senior debut as an 18-year-old out in the wilds of Kew's much-feared Victoria Park in 1986 and laconically reeled off six goals; he repeated this performance another three times that season and was clearly a match-winner. The Bloods missed him dreadfully when he travelled overseas the following season, but in 1989 he played probably his greatest game with a rampant performance in that year's Grand Final that included nearly fifteen marks and near on thirty possessions at centre half-back. The giant redhead was imperturbable and impassable.

No wonder North Melbourne selected Bingham (at number 94) in the National Draft, where he joined his fellow Haileyburian Warwick Angus. He handed his number sixteen jumper over to little brother Eddie, but halfway through the season rejoined his mates as they stormed towards their first B Grade premiership. Bingham played another dominant role in the finals, but sadly they were his final games for the club before he moved interstate. Like Peter Gadsden before him his career spanned only five or six years and a bit over fifty games, but he had been such a player that his selection in the OHAFC Team of the Century was a formality.

*52 games (51 1sts, 1 U19s), 72 goals
(67 1sts, 5 U19s), 1986-90*

*Member 1989 & 1990 1sts Premiership teams
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper numbers 16 & 40

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1989

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1986 (38 goals)

VAFA Representative 1986 (U19), 1988 (CDEF)

⁷² Interview with Darren Seccull, 28 February 2010

⁷³ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

In August, OHA Executive Director Brian Clark received a sternly-worded letter from school Bursar Brian Hardy, outlining the conditions for use of the College facilities by OHA sporting teams in hockey, soccer, tennis and cricket, but not including football.⁷⁴ These conditions included the appointment of a senior duty officer and a dozen further requirements such as teams consisting of at least 80% Old Haileyburians, playing in significant competitions against other APS sides. Teams would be responsible for removing litter and no alcohol could be consumed on the property either during or even after the game. It decidedly looked like Old Boys teams were not welcome, even though this letter didn't apply directly to the OHAFC.



The end of a great career. John Bingham consoles Roger Paul after the legend's 200th and final game ended in defeat to Old Brighton in the 1988 First Semi-final. Mick Constable and Neville Schmidt bring up the rear.

⁷⁴ Letter from Brian Hardy to Brian Clark, 17 August 1988

Ken Allison returned to the OHA well of funds, and sought a \$2,000 grant to pay affiliation fees; this was refused but instead the OHA agreed to halve the balance of the existing \$6,000 loan.⁷⁵ Greg Meadows' Auction Night hosted by Coodabeen Champion and future state parliamentarian Ian Cover raised over ten thousand dollars and his infamous raffle drawn by Wayne Shand at the Grand Final breakfast over four thousand. Treasurer Mark Dale eventually reported an operating surplus of \$1,605 but more importantly an increase of total income of about \$10,000 to nearly \$39,000.⁷⁶ It was no mean feat to keep pace with the additional expenses involved in attaining greater on-field success.

To further help the club's finances, David Southgate was given the task of returning surplus shorts to the VAFA, especially the smaller sizes, "that would only fit a baby".⁷⁷ Also unpopular were the Richmond guernseys the Bloods were directed to wear against Melbourne High to avoid a jumper clash. Such was the Melbourne High bog heap this measure enjoyed limited success as the Haileyburians scraped home by two points.

When Old Melburnians visited McKinnon in the penultimate round, the winner would take second place and the coveted double chance. In *The Amateur Footballer*, "Southa's C Section Selections" predicted a tie,⁷⁸ which remarkably was foiled only by OM's goal with the last kick of the day. Stevens was doubly unhappy to lose to his old VFL sparring partner Alan Stoneham.⁷⁹

No results in round 18 could prevent the Bloods' match against Old Brighton being a dress rehearsal for the following week's first semi-final. The selectors, who used to retire to Kerry Sawtell's nearby home on Thursday nights after training "for a bit of peace", decided to rest a raft of star players including Garry Phillips, leading goal-kicker Wayne Shand, Darren Seccull and Andrew Walden (although Roger Paul returned, his jaw healed). In hindsight Stevens admitted the resting was a mistake, as Old Brighton won easily and were "given a sniff" for the following week.⁸⁰

At Sandringham's Beach Oval, Old Haileyburians were clearly outpointed again by Old Brighton, whose four-goal lead at the first break reflected the wind advantage. Still within striking distance at three-quarter time, the Bloods failed to come home with a breeze they showed little tactical understanding of. Two early goals in the last term would really have made a game of it.⁸¹

It was a sad day for two veterans in their final games for the club. Wayne Shand retired with a cork in one of those generous thighs early in the game while Roger Paul was not a major influence in his 200th match. The club's future obviously lay with their talented youth such as Garry Phillips, Glenn Tanner and Andrew Walden, all of whom were in the team's best. Probably the only benefits of the game were some much-needed finals experience and a launch pad of unfinished business for the following season.

The under-nineteens captained by Wayne Phillips enjoyed a solid season and finished sixth in the VAFA's premier junior division. Late in the season they kept their opponents Bulleen-Templestowe scoreless, the only

⁷⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 September 1988

⁷⁶ OHAFC Inc 1988 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 25 January 1989), Report of the Treasurer

⁷⁷ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 5 July 1988

⁷⁸ David Southgate, *The Amateur Footballer* 1988 (Vol 88, No 17) p3

⁷⁹ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁸⁰ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁸¹ David Southgate, *The Amateur Footballer* 1988 (Vol 88, No 20) p4

instance ever of an OHAFC team achieving this feat. But the following week they kicked only four behinds themselves against De La Salle.

Kerry Sawtell's reserves team cemented a Grand Final place with sixteen wins and an impressive second semi-final win over Banyule. In a disastrous end to the season, however, somehow they surrendered utter control and a lead of over eight goals early in the third quarter as rain seemed to change the game.

The line-up that faded away so badly was:

Backs: Jeff Wood (captain), Paul Bramich, Greg Meadows
Half-backs: Ian Ridoutt, Jeff Robertson, Jeremy Rae
Centres: Alistair Mytton, Andrew Hicks, Peter Noske
Half-forwards: Tony Gilchrist, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Child
Forwards: Mark Orton, John Kingsley, Rod Wise
Followers: Graham Flavell Ball, Paul Bennett
Rover: Gary March
Interchange: Chris Lane, Craig Farr, Richard Kingston, Peter Merrett

Significant transformation took place in the Old Haileyburians' collective mindset as well as their on-field results in 1988. This was reflected in Ken Allison's comments in the Annual report which noted that the club had established a solid base for the future. Typically, KA tended to look forward rather than back, and anticipated another successful round of recruiting, especially through the "recent tradition of a solid contingent of school leavers". Allison's view was that much was achieved through "involvement", and that this would ultimately result in great success.⁸² Optimism prevailed in the lead-up to 1989.



Somehow the 1988 reserves conspired to surrender an eight-goal lead in the Grand Final. Here the squad lines up before the match.

Back row: Matthew Larkworthy, Andrew Child, Rob Wilson, Jeff Robertson, Paul Bramich, Graham Ball, Mark Orton, Andrew Wilson, Peter Flockart, John Hicks, Tony Gilchrist and John Kingsley.

Centre row: Trainer Vanessa Calvert, team manager Tony Mitchem, Ian Ridoutt, Peter Merrett, Craig Farr, Jeremy Rae, Richard Kingston, Ross Dobson, Drew Stuart, Runner Dean Lear and physiotherapist Mark Schneider.

Front row: Paul Bennett, Greg Meadows, Andrew Hicks, Chris Lane, coach Kerry Sawtell, acting captain Jeff Wood, Peter Noske, Rod Wise, Al Mytton and Gary March.

CHAPTER 8

GLORY DAYS 1989-92



1989 - Watershed

With senior finals experience under their collective belts, for the first time in many years the Old Haileyburians entered a season with realistic expectations of premiership success. Their planets were aligning with the stable leadership of Allison, Stevens and Seccull, impressive playing numbers and the vibrant involvement of past players, parents and supporters.

At the 1988 AGM Ken Allison announced the appointment of Max Lyon as the club's paid General Manager, "to run the club"¹, a first in amateur ranks. It was a move that had the VAFA referring other clubs to see just how the Old Haileyburians ran their affairs.²

There were significant losses in the playing stocks, however, including the retirement of the club's greatest ever player, Roger Paul, and their only player with senior VFL experience in Wayne Shand. Garry Phillips played only the first six games before heading to Geelong and Tim Snowball was unavailable for much of the season. Also missing were 1988 recruits Nick Cameron, Paul Jury and Carlo Taranto, while John Kingsley and the talented Anthony Holohan had played their last games for the club.

On the credit side, however, was the rapid development of the under-nineteens up through the ranks. Three ready-made running senior players also arrived; Wes Byrns from Oakleigh, Terry Lyell and Jamie Barclay, another member of Ken Phillips' 1983 school team. Most important, however, was the recruitment of Chris McKenzie from St Kevins.³ McKenzie was well known to the Bloods, not only for having played a blinder against them the previous year, but also for having grown up with many of the boys from the Waverley area. He became the vital link in the centre of the ground, and such was his influence that the impact of Paul's retirement was minimised.



Ken Allison (left) with his successor as President, Peter Bowring, at the unfurling of the 1990 premiership flag in the club's first home match in A Grade.

KENNETH KEITH ALLISON

One of the Bloods' pivotal father figures, Ken Allison served two highly successful three-year terms as President. During the second term in particular, he created a clear vision for the club of reaching A Grade and maintaining that standard. "KA" made the culture of the club more professional with processes and structures that included a paid General Manager, and instilled a sense of purpose that encouraged members to take responsibility and be accountable. Allison's dream was for the club to sustain four teams, and his selection as President of the Team of the Century was almost a foregone conclusion.

Allison saw how important recruiting and depth were for success, and concentrated his efforts to such effect in this area that they culminated in the halcyon premiership years of 1989 and 1990. One of his legacies was that he created great optimism about the club, successfully encouraging many to become involved, and he was probably the most effective delegator and organiser of all the club's Presidents. Allison helped establish the great cohort of parents that contributed so much to the club throughout the 1990s and beyond in areas such as the canteen and fundraising, and a vibrant, successful community resulted. Ken's experience in real estate no doubt helped his considerable networking skills.

Allison's towering contributions as President were perhaps in contrast with some of his more comedic performances as a player, although he had genuine talent and played on the half-forward flank with a laconic, easy competence. Noted for his beautiful left-foot torpedoes, he could also drop- and stab-kick with the best of them. On the cricket field KA was an accomplished left-arm swing bowler and compiled a sensational record for the Old Boys' cricket club in its early years, as well as playing golf to a high standard.

Continued over page...

¹ OHAFC 1988 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 25 January 1989) Report of the President

² Personal telephone communication, Ken Allison, 8 June 2010

³ OHAFC News, July 1989, p2

Despite enjoying “excellent practice match form”⁴ the club’s pre-season was marred by a terrible incident in the under-nineteen match against Old Brighton at Elsternwick Park, which saw Cameron Lasscock taken by ambulance to the Alfred Hospital and the game called off by field umpire Tony Doyle. Without a pulse when the ambulance arrived and unconscious for four hours, it was initially feared Lasscock might even die or be left paralysed with brain damage after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage.⁵ Darren Seccull’s memory of Lasscock fitting on the ground after the incident was his worst in all his years of football.⁶ Lasscock effectively lost a month from his life as he recovered at the Alfred Hospital with family and friends by his bedside.

The VAFA’s investigation into the incident resulted in Old Brighton’s David Fox, the son of former St Kilda player and President, trucking magnate Lindsay Fox, being suspended for a year. The police also charged Fox, who was convicted in the County Court of recklessly causing injury. Throughout the saga, which attracted wider media interest, the Lasscock family kept a dignified silence.

Coach Phil Stevens equated fourth place in C Grade in 1988 with a ranking of 24th in the VAFA, and felt this was a gross under-achievement for a club with the resources of the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club.⁷ In the season opener at Preston his team sounded an impressive warning to the rest of the competition where a ten-goal second quarter, the dominance of big men Dave Fletcher and John Bingham, seven goals to Garry Phillips and four each to Walden and Barclay saw the team to an easy 93-point win. This secured top place on the ladder, where they remained all season.

The Bloods followed up in emphatic style by drubbing Ivanhoe at McKinnon by 168 points. A dozen players kicked goals but no-one more than four. They sat atop the ladder with a percentage over 420%, but faced a sterner test the following week at Elsternwick Park against Balaclava, who were within five points just before the final change but still lost by eleven goals. Roger Gerny’s great performance on his wing kept the Bloods in the game in the first half. Young guns Greg Lasscock (seven goals) and Will Cox (four) then took over, helped by Balaclava’s indiscretions which reduced them to sixteen players and meant that Darren Seccull’s report and send-off for swearing had little consequence.

In the week leading up to the Balaclava game Phil Stevens announced his appointment as VAFA General Manager to replace Peter French, who had taken the position of CEO of VicSport.⁸ Stevens agonised over the decision as it meant resigning as OHAFC coach just when a premiership was clearly in the offing. Stevens was also concerned at the loss of security compared to his career in teaching, although this was eased by taking a year’s leave of absence to start the VAFA job. Stevens changed his mind back and forth before a visit from Langford-Jones, this time with his VAFA Executive hat on, sealed the decision. Stevens also had OHAFC President Ken Allison’s blessing.

Hampton Rovers stalwart Chris “Lofty” Rowston acknowledged his mistake in tipping his old team to sneak home against the Bloods in round four, writing “I’ve watched Old Haileybury for many years and this side is the best I’ve seen (what will Langers be like come September!).”¹⁰

Kenneth Keith Allison continued...

Normally of suave, leisurely demeanour, it was said of Allison that his pace was never in doubt when pursued. He was also a strict devotee of the Bartlett technique of throw-bouncing the ball for a free kick. Not a great trainer, the more delicate side of his nature showed when playing for the reserves long after retirement. He would sensibly tuck a \$20 note into the pocket of his shorts to offer his opponent in return for no tackling. Or, against Coburg in the early-1980s, famously cry “Don’t hurt me, I’m only filling in!”

Ken Allison remained involved and interested in the OHAFC long after retiring as President. This could take the form of recruiting new Presidents, sitting on coaching selection panels or helping the President of the day with a submission to local Council. His influence on the club remained for many years.

*84 games (40 1sts, 44 Reserves),
62 goals (33 1sts, 29 Reserves), 1966-86*

Member 1968 Reserves Premiership team

President OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 25

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1984

President 1978-80, 1988-90

Committee 1972, 1977-82, 1988-80

⁴ Chris Rowston, *The Amateur Footballer 1989* (Vol 89, No 1) p4

⁵ *The Sun*, 20 March 1989, p2

⁶ Interview with Darren Seccull, 28 February 2010

⁷ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

⁸ “Over the Fence”, *The Amateur Footballer 1989* (Vol 89, No 5) p11

⁹ Interview with Phil Stevens, 28 February 2010

¹⁰ Chris Rowston, *The Amateur Footballer 1989* (Vol 89, No 5) p3

No wonder given they kicked 28.25 (193), sparked by Glenn Tanner's brilliant first quarter that effectively ended the contest in 15 minutes.¹¹

Stevens' last match as coach, against main rivals and joint undefeated team Banyule at Warringal Park was a high standard classic, featuring all the traits that Stevens and his opposite number, John Simpson, drilled into their teams. The Bloods shot out to an early nine-goal lead, which Banyule managed to overhaul before half-time. Two points up at the last change, a sizzling last quarter burst of eleven goals to five saw the visitors home in an emotional finish to Stevens' coaching career. Walden's seven goals (six in the last quarter) were complemented by Garry Phillips' five and small forwards Matt Colston and Greg Lasscock ran riot with five and three goals respectively.

Stevens was so overjoyed by the victory that in the following week's *Amateur Footballer* he thanked club officials and "the twenty magnificent Old Haileyburians players who rallied together so well last Saturday to give their coach his "mini-premiership". Thanks boys for the greatest day of my sporting career."¹²



Coach Greg Meadows (right) celebrates the reserves' 1989 premiership with acting captain Peter Merrett and the cup.

GREGORY THOMAS MEADOWS

As a player the taciturn Greg Meadows was quick, fit and skilled on both sides of his small but muscular frame. He was perfect for the desire-fuelled teams coached by Michael Porter, who he admired enormously despite the love-hate nature of their relationship. Tireless on the track, "Meggsy" could also be an angry young man, such as the time he started walking home alone from a game at Keysborough after being dragged.

No stranger to conflict on the field, Meadows emerged much the worse for wear after laying a high tackle on one of Kew's smaller players at their Victoria Park home and finding he had stirred a brown and gold hornets' nest. At Old Melburnians' Fawkner Park ground his mother responded to Megs being crunched by mistakenly striking the OM player responsible not with her umbrella but her pack of Milk Arrowroot biscuits!

Meadows' perfectionist tendencies meant that he was superbly prepared both as player and sometimes-playing coach. No better illustration of his disciplinarian approach to the latter role was when his good friend Peter Noske kicked a "millionaire's torpedo" and Meadows roared, "Get bloody Noske off!" He also contributed much to the club off the field, especially at social events in concert with Mark Newton and the rest of the 75ers.

Like Sam Kekovich, Meadows was no slave to political correctness when it came to matters of race, religion or governments, and was a man of firmly held views. Highly successful in real estate, he played the Bill Wyman statue role on guitar in the "Sprocket Heads".

104 games (62 1sts, 42 Reserves),
50 goals (31 1sts, 19 Reserves), 1977-89
Coach 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 12

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1994

Captain-coach Reserves 1989 (Premiers)

Coach Reserves 1984, 1990

Vice-President 1985-86

Secretary 1983

Committee 1983-88

¹¹ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 6 May 1989

¹² Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer* 1989 (Vol 89, No 6) p13

DARREN PETER SECCULL

Replacing a coach of Stevens' stature might not have been easy, but the Bloods fell on their feet with former St Kilda rover Simon Meehan. Simon's involvement in Amateur football began at St Kilda CBC Old Boys and extended to VAFA State teams. Former OHAFC coach and dual Best and Fairest winner David Young was a long-standing family friend of the Meehans and one of Simon's early football mentors. Meehan and Stevens had also crossed paths over the years, but it was over golf at Royal Melbourne with the ubiquitous Langford-Jones that the prospect of coaching the Bloods was raised.¹³

Long-standing VAFA Treasurer Noel Rundle was not overly delighted with Meehan's re-instatement as an amateur, believing he had played professionally while away in the Northern Territory, a claim Meehan still denies vehemently.¹⁴ More fancy footwork from Langford-Jones helped the new coach's application through.

Having recovered from the shock of the cross-dressing night at McKinnon after the great Banyule win, and in particular Roger Gerny's outfit, Meehan turned his mind to his first match as coach - ironically against his old club St Kilda CBC. This was also Garry Phillips' last game for the club for nearly three years as he won a permanent place in Geelong's reserves team, having also represented the senior VAFA team against South Australia in May. Others who represented the VAFA in the CDEF team were Dave Connell, best-on-ground Chris McKenzie and Andrew Walden, while Matthew Armstrong played for Max Lyons' under-nineteens.

On arriving at Old Haileyburians, Meehan was impressed by the structure of the club, complete with General Manager. He could see that everyone desperately wanted success, and that the biggest hurdle was to overcome negative attitudes that prevented the players from believing they were as good as they really were.



An iconic image for the Old Haileyburians. Captain Darren Seccull displays the 1989 premiership cup to a rapturous throng after the club's first senior Grand Final win for twenty years.

Darren Seccull was an almost constant presence around the OHAFC for its second 25 years as a player, captain, Chairman of Selectors, Vice-President and man-behind-the-scenes. After captaining the school First Eighteen in 1984, Seccull made a notable debut for the Bloods the following year, before a spell at Frankston in the VFA. He returned late in 1987 and after only nine games for the club was appointed captain for the 1988 season. He had leadership written all over him.

An imposing dark-haired figure at six feet five he was well suited to the ruck, but in the style of a Peter Moore he was mobile enough to play as a key forward. Quick across the ground for his size, big "Secc" was a great reader of the play and adept at dropping into the right spot in front of the opposition's leading forwards when playing in defence. Seccull was capable of taking big, strong contested marks and was a booming kick off both feet.

Over time Seccull found himself in the last line of defence at full-back or in the pocket, generally pitting his attributes on the tallest forward. He was not one for taking a backward step when the going got tough and more than handy when it came to matters pugilistic.

As captain Seccull led the Bloods to two flags and into A Grade. The photo of him lifting the 1989 premiership cup, arms fully extended and roaring to the crowd, is one of the club's most iconic images and symbolised the joy at its final release from C Grade. In late career he enjoyed a resurgence in form, playing in defence, and was one of the very best in the successful 1995 finals campaign.

After his playing days, Seccull was responsible for recruiting many high profile players and coaches to the club. As Chairman of Selectors, on Saturdays in his black club shirt he could cut a brooding figure, but a smile and a laugh were never too far away. Secc had a keenly developed sense of mischief and was not averse to bending the rules when required, but his mindset was always one of the more positive at his beloved club.

*157 games (143 1sts, 14 Reserves),
71 goals (62 1sts, 9 Reserves), 1985-2001*

*Member 1989 (Captain), 1990 (Captain)
& 1995 1sts Premiership teams &
OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper number 12

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1988

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2002

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1994

Captain 1sts 1988-90, 1992

Vice-captain 1sts 1991

Vice-President 2004-07

Committee 1991-92, 2004-07

¹³ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

¹⁴ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

Meehan felt that the players' skills needed little improvement but they needed to be pushed to persist and never give in. Amongst his strategies for maintaining morale and reinforcing this message was a weekly recovery session at Sandringham beach at 8am on Sunday mornings. Then there was "The Bridge", a punishment for poor performances that involved the players completing fifty crossings of the pedestrian bridge over South Road in single file. In Meehan's view the benefit of this exercise was more mental than physical.¹⁵

On taking over from Stevens, Meehan provided a two-page manifesto of his aims and expectations, which also revealed his great passion for the game. He urged the players to set their sights high, to be proud, mentally tough and to be prepared to pay the price of winning.¹⁶ In a later "Coach's Corner" he warned that veterans such as Schmidt and Gerny were running out of chances, and younger players should not allow "history to treat you unkindly."¹⁷

The resurrection of the under-nineteens, coached by Gary March, over the previous few years proved highly important as they provided a regular supply of talent to the senior team. Eleven players still eligible for the juniors played in the firsts in 1989; Carty, Connell, Wayne Phillips and Tanner did so regularly. Despite providing all these players to the seniors, March's team eventually missed the finals of the VAFA's premier junior division by less than 3%.

The long-running Bloodbath Ball made its debut on the Old Haileyburians' Social Calendar in 1989. Organised by a group of five or six younger players including Andrew Baxter and Matt Colston, and named by Greg Lasscock, it was based on the University balls popular at the time. The event was an instant success with over 150 attending in each of the first two years, first at McKinnon and then in one of the rowing sheds on the Yarra near the Swanston Street bridge. The profits were originally earmarked for the players' end-of-year trip, but so lucrative was this function that within two years it became part of core club fundraising.



By 1989 the Old Haileyburians were making substantial contributions to the VAFA's representative teams, as seen by selector Simon Meehan, physiotherapist John Meckliff, players David Connell, Chris McKenzie and Andrew Walden, VAFA General Manager Phil Stevens and team manager David Southgate.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES LANE

Once described as "the human pear", Chris Lane was a focus for good humour. Opponents who under-estimated that figure with the low centre of gravity did so to their cost, as "Lobba" was deceptively skilled; he had more than a handy sense of where the goals were and how to get to them. Lane was also blessed with one of the more cherubic faces and was rarely seen without a smile, but he knew enough about his football to guide the under-nineteens to hold their own in the premiership division. He was very obviously happy to be part of his club and to put back into it.

124 games (76 Reserves, 31 U19s, 17 3rds),
120 goals (64 Reserves, 33 U19s, 23 3rds),
1986-94

Jumper number 38

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1988 (35 goals),
1994 (19)

Coach U19s 1993

Committee 1987, 1994

¹⁵ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

¹⁶ OHAFC archives

¹⁷ Simon Meehan, "Coach's Corner" in OHAFC News, July 1989, p7

"The Burner", Wes Byrns, made a spectacular debut with eight goals against Old Ivanhoe Grammarians, equalling Mike Storrer's 1973 record. But the veterans were not to be outdone, as Neville Schmidt booted nine the following week and in Round 12 against Balaclava broke the games record of 245 that had been held by Andy Home since 1978. On the same day Roger Gerny played his 200th game as the Bloods snuck away with their narrowest win of the season, eight points, after trailing by over five goals at the last change.

Unimpressive as the Balaclava win was, the team could perhaps be excused given its superlative performance the previous week against Ivanhoe at Ivanhoe as they registered a First Eighteen record highest score of 43.13 (271) and winning margin of 212 points. In the last quarter the forward and back lines swapped places and the team still kicked twelve goals.¹⁸ Roger Gerny, who had played the club's all time highest scoring team in 1978, was one of the few players not to kick a goal but was lucky still to be standing after early rough treatment. Glenn Tanner arrived hung over, started on the bench and recovered enough to kick four goals. It was a dream senior playing debut for Simon Meehan.

The Bloods' record fourteen-game winning streak and status as the only undefeated team in all of the VAFA ended in round 15 at the hands of Banyule in a low standard game at McKinnon, but they cruised into the finals three games clear on top of the ladder with that solitary loss and a percentage of 221.



Followed by his captain Darren Seccull, Roger Gerny runs out for his 200th game in 1989.

¹⁸ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 1 July 1989

A rude shock awaited at Sandringham's Beach Road Oval, venue of the previous year's disastrous first semi-final against Old Brighton. Despite Meehan's busy work in the middle of the ground and Walden's lone star seven-goal effort up forward, the Bloods were never really in the game. Banyule were seemingly untroubled by game-ending injuries before half-time to key ruckman Williams and defender Fraumano. Chris Rowston felt "a lack of discipline in the early part of the game was crucial, short passing across the ground became the pattern, one which led to their demise. Maybe their successful season to date has gone to their heads."¹⁹

A ten-goal third quarter (including four of Walden's five for the day) and 85-point win in the preliminary final against St Kilda CBC saw the Old Haileyburians roar back into B Grade and premiership contention. The selectors plumped for youth in the form of under-nineteen players Matthew Armstrong and Tim Chegwin, who were unfazed by St Kilda's efforts to rough them up at Brunswick's windswept Gillan Reserve. Wayne Phillips and John Bingham starred in the win, watched by Bob MacDonald who had coached the team down from B Grade ten long years beforehand.²⁰ Greg Meadows' reserves team also won their preliminary final against Hampton Rovers, which meant there would be two Old Haileyburians teams playing on Grand Final day 1989.



Paul Bennett clears from defence in the under-nineteens' 1987 preliminary final against Old Scotch, while an open-mouthed Peter Merrett watches on.

PAUL NICHOLAS BENNETT

An industrious mid-fielder, Paul Bennett shared the nickname "Diesel" with the great Greg Williams as well as many of his attributes, although Bennett preferred to kick with the left foot. Although no racehorse, "Benno" collected possession after possession, showing quick hands and a quick mind. He loved a wet track. Perhaps best placed in the pivot, he was a little unfortunate to play in the same era as the Bloods' great centreman Chris McKenzie, but was still adaptable enough to play in the back pocket in the Bloods' first B Grade premiership in 1990. Like many of his mates, he was a stalwart off the field and a regular at club functions.

137 games (43 1sts, 54 Reserves, 34 U19s, 6 3rds), 56 goals (11 1sts, 13 Reserves, 31 U19s, 1 3rds), 1986-94

Best & Fairest Reserves 1989

Runner-up Best & Fairest U19s 1987

Member 1990 1sts & 1989 Reserves Premiership teams

Jumper numbers 10, 12 & 47

Vice-captain U19s 1987;

Deputy vice-captain U19s 1986

Treasurer 1996

¹⁹ Chris Rowston, *The Amateur Footballer 1989* (Vol 89, No 20) p5

²⁰ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 9 September 1989

A sunny Saturday 16th September 1989 was easily the greatest day in the Old Haileyburians' history to that time, as it won both the C Reserve and its first ever C Grade premiership. Against a rugged Preston, for a time the reserves looked like suffering a repeat of the 1988 Grand Final disaster, after opening up and then nearly surrendering a substantial lead. They steadied, however, for a club record sixteenth successive win including three finals victories. It helped having four Preston players reported, which at one stage resulted in them playing with only sixteen men, but the efforts of ruckman Dave Fletcher, Jeremy Rae, veterans Peter Noske and Jeff Robertson, centreman Paul Bennett and the Wigg twins were all crucial.²¹

The Old Haileyburians' first open-age premiership team since 1973 read:

Backs: Alistair Mytton, Peter Merrett (captain), Darren Cotton

Half-backs: Peter Noske, Jeff Robertson, Steven Dangerfield

Centres: Tim Doran, Paul Bennett, Andrew Wigg

Half-forwards: Peter Wigg, Dave Fletcher, Jeremy Rae

Forwards: Greg Lasscock, Stewart King, Rob Parton

Followers: Bernie Ladds, Tony Gilchrist

Rover: Tim Jones

Interchange: Tony Hood, Andy McGorlick, Craig Farr, Ross Lavender



The 1989 First Eighteen, C Grade premiers.

Back row: Chris McKenzie, Matt Colston, Darren Cotton, Brett Carty, David Connell, Jeff Robertson, David Fletcher, Tim Snowball, Will Cox, Tony Gilchrist, Team Manager Rob Wilson and physiotherapist John Meckiff.

Centre row: Tim Doran, Paul Bennett, Wes Byrns, Wayne Phillips, Jeremy Rae, Terry Lyell, Glenn Tanner, Wayne Smith, David Merrett, Greg Lasscock, Roger Gerny, Tim Jones and press correspondent Allen White.

Front row: Runner Roger Paul, Neville Schmidt, Michael Constable, captain Darren Seccull, coach Simon Meehan, president Ken Allison, Andrew Walden, Andrew Baxter, John Bingham and Chairman of Selectors John Caspers.

²¹ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 September 1989

1989 C Reserve Section Grand Final at Elsternwick Park, 16 September 1989

Old Haileyburians	4.5	5.11	8.14	13.16 (94)
Preston Marist Brothers Old Boys	0.1	2.4	7.6	9.6 (60)

Goals: King 3, Lasscock 2, Parton 2, Gilchrist, A Wigg, Fletcher, Rae, McGorlick, P Wigg

Best players: Fletcher, Rae, Noske, P Wigg, Bennett, Parton

The huge banner that greeted the firsts as they ran onto Elsternwick Park for their first Grand Final since 1976 boasted "The Bloods will bellow Bowl 'em Over!", and they did so comprehensively. The injured Tim Snowball was unable to take his place and his great preliminary final turned out to be his last game for the club. Veteran Roger Gerny was perhaps lucky to play having injured his knee prior to the game, but Meehan felt the veteran's many years of service deserved selection.²²

Again the selectors led by chairman John Caspers chose youth for Elsternwick Park's great spaces and brazenly promoted not only Fraser Main but also emergency Chris Mackenzie for his first senior game, taking the under-nineteen count to seven. Meehan took the two tyros out for dinner the night before the game along with Matthew Armstrong, while in its player profiles the next day *The Amateur Footballer* cheekily claimed he was the "first Catholic to coach Old Haileyburians!"²³



Andrew Walden in a close contest on the forward line in the 1989 Grand Final against Banyule.

ANDREW JOHN WALDEN

One of the last of the Old School, Andrew Walden was tough and intimidating, with a steely determination. But above all he was a brilliant player, especially around goals, who often won a game off his own boot. Perhaps the most memorable example was that snap over his shoulder at McKinnon in his 150th game against Uni Blues in 1997, with a minute left on the clock. Team mates loved playing with and especially alongside Wal for the best seat in the house and a little added protection.

At school Walden was a star not only at football, but also in cricket and as a middle-distance runner, although he was more noted for brilliant bursts than endurance for the Bloods. He combined his gifts and sublime skills with incredible strength and will to win. Wal was the closest the Bloods had to another Michael Porter in the 1990s.

Walden's two years at Footscray before rejoining his mates at the Bloods included a famous televised Reserve Cup game where he thrashed Melbourne tough man Rod Grinter both in possessions and punches. On his arrival in the Amateurs other sides, especially Old Melburnians, soon dreaded playing against him, fearing not just his goal kicking ability but his sheer physicality. To say nothing of his cheek and ability to remind them of their shortcomings, and the trademark Walden grin reminiscent of a crocodile anticipating a feed.

Late in his career Walden fulfilled a lifelong ambition to play alongside brother Shane, ten years his junior, in the Seniors against Collegians at Elsternwick Park. Both brothers kicked a goal to salute the occasion, and went on to play a further 40-odd games together in the magenta and black.

Throughout his brilliant career Walden was a conspicuous follower of the Sport of Kings, one day tucking the form guide into his sock before a game at McKinnon, and another having to be coaxed out of the toilets pre-match with a radio fixed to his ear. Another dream was achieved in 2010 when he obtained his horse training licence in Queensland.

Nearly two hundred games and four hundred goals, three premierships and wearer of the Big V. Wally was a true champion - The King of McKinnon.

189 games (181 1sts, 7 Reserves, 1 U19s), 396 goals (381 1sts, 11 Reserves, 4 U19s), 1987-2000

Member 1989, 1990 & 1995 Premiership teams & OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 21

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1989 (66 goals), 1990 (52), 1991 (41), 1997 (43)

Vice-captain 1sts 1989-90

Deputy Vice-captain 1sts 1988, 1993

VAF A Representative 1989 (CDEF)

²² Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

²³ *The Amateur Footballer* 1989 (Vol 89, No 22) p18

After the selectors' work, the team lined up as follows:

Backs: Brett Carty, Andrew Baxter, Tim Chegwin
Half-backs: Roger Gerny, John Bingham, Wayne Smith
Centres: Wes Byrns, Chris McKenzie, Matthew Armstrong
Half-forwards: Wayne Phillips, Glenn Tanner, Simon Meehan
Forwards: Neville Schmidt, Andrew Walden, Chris Mackenzie
Followers: Darren Seccull (captain), Dave Connell
Rover: Terry Lyell
Interchange: Fraser Main, Matty Colston

From the first bounce, "a totally committed Old Haileybury side were ready to answer any challenge from Banyule."²⁴ Connell was instrumental in revving them up, and Meehan roved brilliantly to set up many attacking moves as the Bloods steadily increased their lead all day. They finally won 23.20 (158) to 12.11 (83) with a host of great performers, none better than the impassable John Bingham at centre half-back.



Greg Meadows' reserves capped a great day for the Old Haileyburians by also winning their 1989 Grand Final.

Back row: Andy McGorlick, Matt Colston, Stewart King, Stephen Dangerfield, Tony Hood, Phil Derham, Bernie Ladds, Steve Fuller, Peter Flockart and Peter Wigg.

Centre row: Team Manager Rob Wilson, Andrew Wigg, Greg Lasscock, Cameron Waring, Ross Dobson, Al Mytton, Craig Farr, Tim Doran, Ward Caspers, Ross Lavender and boundary umpire Andrew Ladds.

Front row: Paul Bennett, Richard Kingston, Peter Noske, captain-coach Greg Meadows, Peter Merrett, Ian Ridoutt, Jeff Wood and Tim Jones

²⁴ Chris Rowston, *The Amateur Footballer 1989* (Vol 89, No 23) p7

The terrier-like Wayne Phillips continued his great finals form, Brett Carty and Terry Lyell completely blanketed Banyule stars Adams and Holt, McKenzie more than held his own with the dangerous Turnbull, the skipper was steady all day and Billy Baxter allowed Banyule's Weston only two goals in a season in which he kicked over ninety.²⁵

Meehan always regarded Andrew Walden as his prime match-winner,²⁶ and the bulky forward provided the spark in the Bloods' decisive seven-goal third quarter, kicking two of his four goals before being reported and sent off for rough play, falling over and kneeing his opponent in the back. The game finished symbolically with the team's oldest two players, Schmidt and Gerny resting on the sidelines.

1989 C Section Grand Final at Elsternwick Park, 16 September 1989

Old Haileyburians	5.4	11.9	18.16	23.20 (158)
Banyule	2.1	6.7	10.9	12.11 (83)

Goals: Walden 4, Meehan 4, Connell 3, Phillips 2, Byrns 2, Lyell 2, Armstrong 2, Tanner, McKenzie, Colston, Mackenzie

Best players: Bingham, Phillips, Carty, Lyell, Meehan, Armstrong, Connell, Seccull, McKenzie, Baxter

Hardly surprisingly after their first senior premiership since 1969 and two on the same day, the Old Haileyburians celebrated long and hard, at the McKinnon clubrooms and eventually the Merrett brothers' Cheltenham home. As Phil Stevens admitted the next week, "After Saturday night I wished I'd never had anything to do with Haileybury - boy my head still hurts!!"²⁷



The injured Michael Constable holds up his end of the massive runthrough banner prior to the 1989 Grand Final. Zeke would have been pleased at the urging to "Bowl 'em Over"!

²⁵ David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 September 1989

²⁶ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

²⁷ Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer 1989* (Vol 89, No 23) p12

No Old Haileyburians team dominated a season quite like the 1989 first eighteen. Amongst their feats were club records for the highest “points for” in a season (2992), most wins in a season (19) and fewest losses (2). They also had the highest season percentage for any firsts team (206.1%). Andrew Walden’s career highest 66 goals for the season in the firsts has only ever been bettered by Peter Bowring (three times, which just shows what a great goal-kicker the Golden Bear was) and Brett Voss. “Wally” was the first player to exceed 50 goals in a season for the firsts since Peter Gadsden in 1974.

Ken Allison could rightly claim in his President’s Report that 1989 “has been our club’s most successful season to date - not just because of the dual premiership triumph, but equally for the participation of so many.”²⁸ Attracting this level of involvement was of course Allison’s great skill as President. Finance Director Wal Smith’s report also reflected a buoyant club off the field. Income rose nearly 20% from the previous year to over \$45,000 and a record surplus of \$6,350 posted.²⁹

In his Senior Coach’s report, Simon Meehan presciently looked forward to the Old Haileyburians entering their most successful era. He also noted the involvement of many, especially parents “supporting and encouraging their sons, enjoying their company.”³⁰

Season 1989 and especially Grand Final day were highly significant in that they emphatically marked the end of Old Haileyburians’ days in C Grade. The club made the mental break from the Grade they had languished in for so long and to which they have not returned. Just as importantly, however, it set up a culture of success that lasted for nearly a decade afterwards. From this time they regarded themselves as a senior VAFA club, fit to compete with any other in the competition. This was reinforced to great effect in B Grade in 1990.



Small dog with a bone. The terrier-like Wayne Phillips shows why he was the best tackler of his era in the 1989 Grand Final against Banyule.

²⁸ OHAFC Inc Annual Report and Financial Accounts Season 1989 (submitted 6 December 1989) pp5-6

²⁹ OHAFC Inc Annual Report and Financial Accounts Season 1989 (submitted 6 December 1989) p11

³⁰ OHAFC Inc Annual Report and Financial Accounts Season 1989 (submitted 6 December 1989) p7

1990 – Straight Through

In the 1980s, Haileybury were a powerhouse in APS competition, winning 38 premierships in all sports (two in football). At the 1989 school speech night, Principal Michael Aikman described the Eighties as “a golden decade for Haileybury”.³¹ When Ken Phillips’ team won the 1983 APS premiership, there were another 15 football teams in the Senior School and 33 football teams overall. This sheer weight of numbers was assisted by enrolments peaking at over 1,800 boys in 1990 before declining, especially in the senior school.³² So perhaps the Old Haileyburians’ strength at the start of the new decade was no surprise.

The quality of footballers emerging from Haileybury was reflected in pre-season reports highlighting the anticipated AFL debuts of Laurie Bingham (Hawthorn), older brother John (North Melbourne), Garry Phillips (Geelong), 1989 school captain of football Brett Steenholdt (Richmond), Nik Morey (Melbourne) and Warwick Angus (North Melbourne). Ian Herman had already played over 30 games for Carlton.³³



OHAFC patriarch Tom Fisher and his wife Jo attend the flag unfurling at McKinnon at the start of the 1990 season.

³¹ Leigh Edmonds, *A Good School: Haileybury's post-war years*, Institute for Public History, Clayton, 2008, pp171-73

³² Leigh Edmonds, *A Good School: Haileybury's post-war years*, Institute for Public History, Clayton, 2008, p205

³³ *The Herald*, 31 January 1990, p26

Those “left behind” in the VAFA were about to show they were no chumps in Old Haileyburians’ first B Grade game since 1979, when they met the rugged but relegated (from A Grade) Kew outfit. Mick Constable, “Bristles” Garland and Nick Cameron made welcome returns to the ranks, along with a swathe of debutants including Darren “Pop” Williams, Grant Bennett and under-nineteens Chris Kraus and David Bugalski. Andy Home’s eldest son Richard also played his first senior game. Coach Meehan saw Kraus as a key recruit, having coached him at St Kilda CBC’s under-nineteens.³⁴

Pre-match entertainment included OHA President Dicky Metherall unfurling the 1989 premiership flag and possibly Tom Fisher’s last appearance at the OHAFC. In *The Amateur Footballer*, Tom “The Bomb” Johnston looked forward to a free lunch in return for tipping the Bloods on the basis of their youth and fitness, despite a light preparation.³⁵

The Haileyburians’ wasteful opening quarter of 2.13 kept Kew in the game until the hosts drew away late in the third term, led by Walden’s five goals, Home’s handy four and a great performance by ersatz centremen Carty. As ever the coach was a level above and Johnston immediately asked whether the Bloods were A Grade material.³⁶

Johnston was so moved by the second-round win at Monash that he named David Connell as his “adopted son”, although he warned that the youngster would “need extra make up as his good looks have taken a battering”.³⁷ Club insiders regarded the win as “unimpressive”,³⁸ however, but agreed on the quality of Constable’s game at centre half-back and the class of Meehan. While ahead in the final term, one Monash kick hit the very top of the goal post, before the Bloods sprung to life at the 20-minute mark to kick the five goals (Home two) that they won the game by. After two rounds, Old Haileyburians sat atop the B Grade ladder for the first time ever.³⁹



Forward Chris Kraus, Wayne Smith and Darren Seccull (12) are in control of the ball in the 1990 Grand Final, with not an OMs player in sight.

CHRISTOPHER AARON JOHN KRAUS

Recruited by Simon Meehan from St Kilda CBC, Chris Kraus was highly skilled and a prolific goal-scorer despite a slightly ungainly kicking style. Bloods’ supporters and, to their cost, opposition teams often under-rated him sitting out on the half-forward flank, but he was fit, had pace to burn and would swoop dangerously into the play. “Krausy” or “Bottles” could kick a goal with the best of them, as evidenced by his seven-goal second semi-final against Kew in 1990 and joint record nine goals in an A Grade game in 1993 against Ormond. Kraus’ father Ned de Raad also became a popular figure around the club and was still in good enough condition to play regularly with the third eighteen.

137 games (121 1sts, 11 Reserves, 5 U19s),
192 goals (166 1sts, 21 Reserves, 5 U19s),
1990-98

Member 1990 1sts Premiership team

Jumper numbers 11 & 20

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1993 (43 goals)

³⁴ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

³⁵ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer* 1990 (Vol 90, No 1) p4

³⁶ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer* 1990 (Vol 90, No 2) p3

³⁷ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer* 1990 (Vol 90, No 3) p3

³⁸ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 April 1990

³⁹ OHAFC News, June 1990, p1

Despite claiming familiarity given the Haileyburians had “played Parkside more times than any other”⁴⁰ in the VAFA, Johnston tipped against his old club, but only by 35 points, for the Sunday Elsternwick Park match. Hardly surprising when the Devils were missing eight players suspended! An eleven-goal third term and 112-point thrashing had Johnston tipping the Bloods for A Grade for the third time in as many weeks. Dave Connell’s endeavour and four goals earmarked him for the senior VAFA state team, while Darren Williams dominated the ruck again. Meanwhile schoolboy Gary Dewar successfully made a case for senior selection with eleven goals as Nick Tonkin coached the under-nineteens to a thumping win over Monash in the premier junior division.

Banyule kept the Bloods as honest as any team in the late 1980s. At Heidelberg Park in “the upset of the season”⁴¹ to date, Old Haileyburians reduced a 50 point deficit to draw within a kick with ten minutes left in the game. Skipper Seccull played up forward and booted five goals despite dropping “a number of marks in an uncharacteristic display”; his team mates “probably threw away their chance to steal the game by giving away a couple of silly free kicks in the forward line”⁴² as Banyule hung on to win by ten points. Injuries kept Home and Baxter off the field in the second half.

At home against an inaccurate (5.18) St Bernards the Haileyburians atoned by doubling the visitors’ score. Again they played the second half with the bare eighteen after Wayne Smith and Brett Carty’s first quarter collision. A long list of injuries did not take the toll it might have due to the Bloods’ depth; by the end of round eight, 36 players had played in the firsts (including ten under-nineteens). Forty-five players represented the senior team in 1990, the highest number since 1970 (50) and a tally not reached again until 2007.



“Play Hard and Play for The Game!” There’s nothing quite like singing the song after the game, especially when the defeated opponent is Old Melburnians. Players at full voice include (from left) Darren Seccull, Eddie Bingham, Wayne Smith, Mark Seccull, Mick Constable, Dave Connell, David Merrett (behind Connell), Ian Kidgell, Chris McKenzie, Andrew Baxter, Andrew Walden, John Bingham and Brett Steenholdt.

⁴⁰ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 3) p3

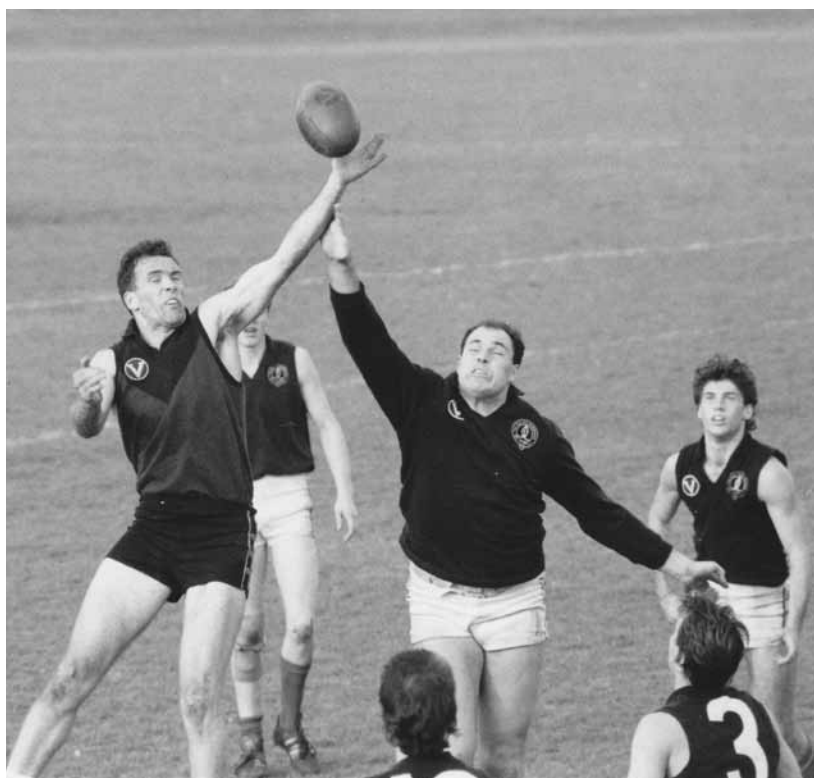
⁴¹ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 5) p4

⁴² Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 5 May 1990

The same day against Old Brighton, the under-nineteens found themselves playing against Hamish Aikman, Haileybury vice-captain in 1989 and the son of the OHAFC's Patron-in-Chief Michael Aikman! In a reflection of a relationship with the school that still required improvement, "hardened observers were not surprised", although they would have been amazed at literally fantastic rumours "within the club's inner sanctum that former St Kilda pin-up boy Trevor Barker was on the verge of joining the OHAFC".⁴³ Andrew Baxter became the Bloods' own pin-up boy, appearing in ads for woollen football jumpers in *The Amateur Footballer*.

Well as things were going on field, the perennial problem of finding enough helpers remained. The club newsletter urged supporters to give "beleaguered OHAFC General Manager Tony Gilchrist (who had taken over from Max Lyon) a hand" and to "go all the way with G-I-L-A!",⁴⁴ who had become the club "Guardian of Morale".⁴⁵ Morale on the ground was never a problem either, given the passion of strong characters such as Baxter, Connell and Carty.⁴⁶

Under Peter Bowring's directorship, pre-match luncheons at McKinnon were in full swing, especially when the Haileyburians took on old rivals and soul mates Old Melburnians and Old Brighton. Meanwhile "Grundy whiz-kid Steve Marshall ... ravaged the resources of (popular TV show) Fast Forward to muster an all-star cast of personalities"⁴⁷ for the annual Auction Night at McKinnon. Twenty dollars secured a place at the luncheons or the Auction Night, or a copy of the 1989 Premiership Souvenir book. Membership subscriptions were \$30, with the option of "VIP Membership" at \$100.



Darren "Pop" Williams making his considerable presence felt in the 1990 Grand Final.

PETER GEORGE MERRETT

Although not as talented or skilled as his wiry twin brother David, Peter Merrett perhaps surprisingly proved the more durable. All arms and legs in defence, "Tangles" resembled Stephen Silvagni in some of his less elegant spoiling attempts, and those left-foot kicks also took plenty of concentration. But Merrett had plenty of brainpower, continuing the line of OHAFC optometrists after Peter Cunningham and David Southgate, and showed enough leadership to act as captain for a reserves premiership. It was in the showers after the game, however, that Merrett showed even greater talent and reinforced his nickname, being one of the few who could give the likes of Geoff Sincock and Steve Marshall a run for their money. No wonder he was such a happy man.

136 games (103 Reserves, 30 U19s, 3 3rds),
4 goals (3 Reserves, 1 U19s), 1986-94

Acting Captain 1989 Reserves
Premiership team

Jumper numbers 3 & 48

Vice-captain Reserves 1989

⁴³ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 May 1990

⁴⁴ OHAFC News, June 1990, p3

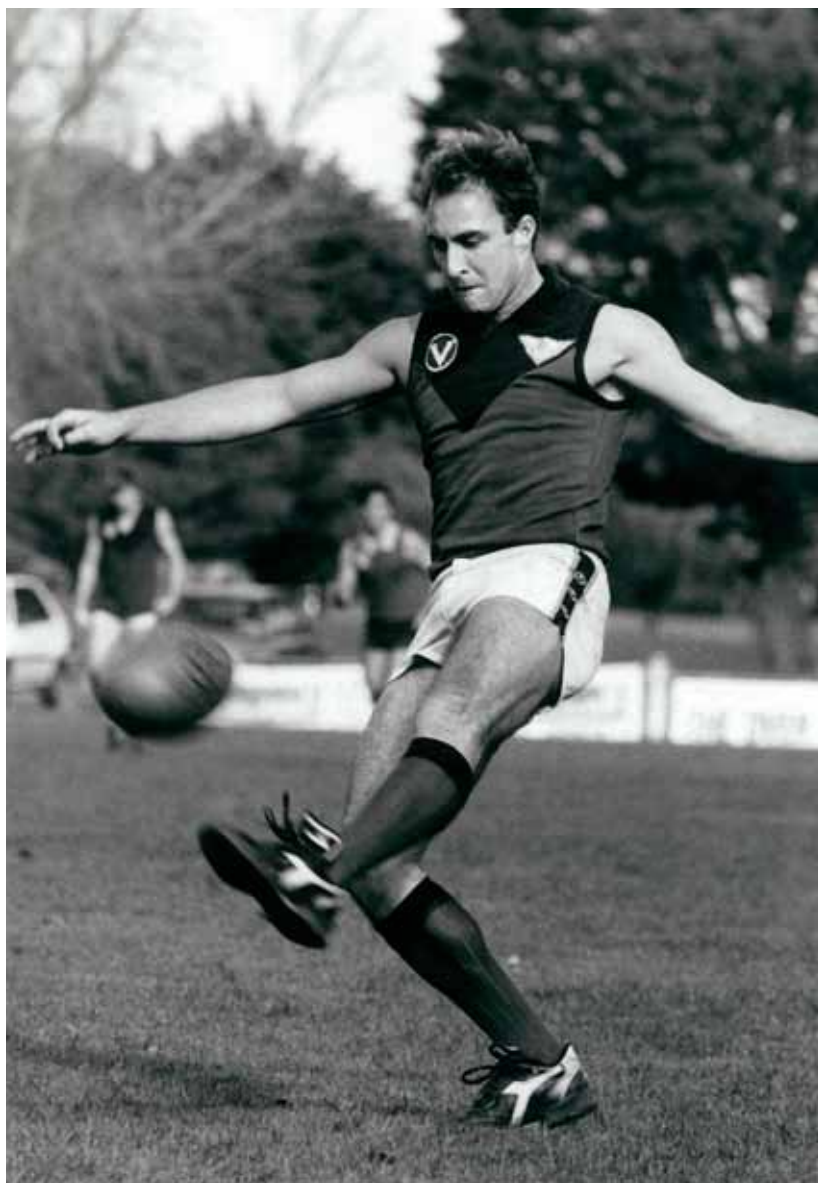
⁴⁵ OHAFC Inc 1990 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 28 November 1990) Report of the President

⁴⁶ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

⁴⁷ OHAFC News, June 1990, p3

An impressive glossy Sponsors' Manual showed the club's finances were bolstered by a diverse range of businesses. These included a courier, accounting and legal firms, a stationer, insurance and business agents, a lingerie shop, a caterer and a hotel. The major sponsor was Old Boy Robin Carroll's "Swagman's Hat" Leisure Park at Corinella, and Finance Director Geoff Sincock's accounts showed that sponsorship was responsible for just over a third of the club's total income of around \$45,000.⁴⁸

At Fawkner Park the Bloods fell to their tenth consecutive loss against Old Melburnians since 1976, before they recovered their poise with easy wins against Old Trinity and Bulleen-Templestowe. For Trinity they were boosted by nine changes, including giant ruckman Ian Kidgell "on loan" from Hawthorn and Brett Steenholdt from Richmond, as well as Wes Byrns' best-on-ground return.⁴⁹ Walden's seven goals in each game helped.



Glenn Tanner shows off his skills on the left foot in the great 1992 victory over Collegians at the Harry Trott Oval. The Herald and Weekly Times Photographic Collection.

GLENN DAVID TANNER

Glenn Tanner was a highly polished and uncanny player, especially when it came to taking a mark one out against an opponent. This ability was no fluke but due to the wingman and half-forward's habit of practising one-handed marks for fifteen minutes before every training session, a lesson learned in his two years training with Collingwood in the late-1980s.

The star player and captain of Haileybury's 1987 APS Premiership team, "Spanner" made his debut for the OHAFC in the seniors as a 17-year-old against Balaclava (of all teams) the same year. Shoulder problems cut short his prospective AFL career and on his return to the Bloods' under-nineteens he underlined his abilities with an effortless thirteen-goal haul.

Tanner's short passing, marking and goal kicking skills made him a human highlights reel. In eight years of senior football in Melbourne, interstate and overseas in the 1990s he won five Best and Fairests, including two with the Bloods. Opposition teams who decided to concentrate on keeping Andrew Walden quiet on the forward line soon found they had another superstar to deal with in Glenn Tanner. Both hailed from the Waverley area and loved a punt.

On moving to Sydney, Tanner continued his involvement in the game. He was Assistant Coach at the East Coast Eagles then Eastern Suburbs/UNSW in the NSW AFL. He returned to Melbourne to take up the position of Sponsorship and Sales Manager at St Kilda, having played a similar role at the Sydney Swans.

*97 games (87 1sts, 5 Reserves, 5 U19s),
155 goals (128 1sts, 5 Reserves, 22 U19s), 1987-96*

*Member 1989 & 1990 1sts Premiership teams
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper number 33

Best & Fairest 1sts 1990, 1993

VAFA Representative 1991 (senior), 1988 (U19)

⁴⁸ OHAFC Inc 1990 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 November 1990) Report of the Finance Director, pp11-13

⁴⁹ OHAFC News, June 1990, p2

Once again the Haileyburians couldn't win at Old Brighton's tricky Beach Oval in "a woeful performance ... where a major blunder in basic tactics" in dealing with the sea breezes, despite Chris McKenzie's long-awaited return from injury and a belated eight-goal burst in the second half of the final term.⁵⁰ To Johnston it proved "the Bloods are very vulnerable in the big games which count"; he noted they had "lost three big away games".⁵¹

To complement the seniors' successes, Greg Meadows' reserves steamed towards the finals, kicking their highest ever score 26.20 (176) and greatest ever winning margin (168 points) against a hapless Banyule. Returning from a knee injury and having started the year in the thirds, Heath "Jabba" Broadbent kicked eight goals in this his second reserves game to earn senior selection the following week. The thirds finished a credible third in H Section under Chris Ladds after near-extinction.⁵² Later in the year the reserves failed to equal both these recently established records by a single point when they demolished Old Brighton; this time it was Jeff "Sticks" Robertson who kicked eight.



Premiers for the second year in succession, the 1990 First Eighteen.

Back row: Team Manager Peter Seccull, Richard Home, Scott Devenish, Darren Ray, Darren Williams, Eddie Bingham, Brett Carty, Matt Colston, Cameron Gregson and committeeman Keith Schilling.

Centre row: Committeeman Roger Gerny, Paul Bennett, Chris McKenzie, Wayne Smith, Glenn Tanner, Robert Plecher, Michael Garland, Fraser Main, Blair Main and major sponsor Robin Carroll.

Front row: Chris Mackenzie, Matthew Armstrong, captain Darren Seccull, president Ken Allison, coach Simon Meehan, selector David Young, Andrew Baxter and David Connell.

⁵⁰ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 June 1990

⁵¹ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 10) p3

⁵² OHAFC News, June 1990, p5

Tom Johnston felt the Bloods may have taken their match against Monash “lightly” in front of their “parochial supporters”.⁵³ But it was the first of eight successive wins, including a display against Parkside that “gave encouraging signs that they may be emerging from their mid-season slump” and saw the return of Mark Seccull from Springvale.⁵⁴ Defenders Fraser Main (VAFA state under-nineteen vice-captain) and “Bristles” Garland led the way against Banyule. The following week at St Bernards, Old Haileyburians stormed home with the wind in the last quarter to bridge a 22-point deficit and register a nine point win courtesy of a late Eddie Bingham goal, but at the cost of a knee injury to Simon Meehan that saw him out of action until the finals.⁵⁵

To celebrate the victory the boys caught a bus down to Simon Meehan’s mother’s house at St Leonards. Reviving the spirit of Marysville ‘63 and Tasmania in the mid-1980s, the trail of havoc included Orton and Baxter’s heist of a letter box and Bingham and Kidgell dancing on the tables at the local pub.

The injury toll rose further the following week with Garland’s broken thumb in what became his last match for the club. But Big John Bingham returned from the football wilderness, Chris McKenzie returned to form and Broadbent kicked three goals on senior debut to complement Walden’s five as the OM’s hoodoo was finally broken with an eight-goal final quarter in “arguably the best performance of the season”⁵⁶ to date. Johnston thought the team “had a Grand Final look about it”.⁵⁷

The team’s game plan under Meehan sought quick ball movement through running and handball, then bringing the ball over centre half-forward to “the spot” fifteen metres in front of the goal square, the most dangerous area for scoring goals.

McKenzie in the middle and Tanner alongside on the wing led the Bloods through the late rounds. Steenholdt’s six goals proved the difference against Bulleen-Templestowe. In the last home-and-away game at a desperate Kew’s Victoria Park, atrocious conditions in the form of a sea of mud extending the length of the ground kept goals to two apiece by half time, including one soccer by “Darren Maradona Williams”.⁵⁸ No one read too much into Kew’s four-point win.

The reserves’ season ended disappointingly with a six-goal loss in their first semi-final against Bulleen-Templestowe. The extent of generational change in the club was clear to see as club stalwarts Roger Gerny and Neville Schmidt lined up in defence, having played only one and six games respectively in the seniors. Another giant, Ben Armitage, toiled hard in the ruck and along with the robust Darren Lay was best on the day.

In their thirtieth year, Old Haileyburians finally achieved their long-cherished goal of promotion to A Grade in most magnificent style. Their thrashing of Kew by 113 points in the second semi-final at Elsternwick Park was easily a record for a side gaining promotion to the premier division.⁵⁹ Kew suffered a set-back at the tribunal, their sole ruckman Peric suspended for striking Matthew Armstrong in the mudbath game. Coach Simon Meehan helpfully provided the tribunal with footage of the incident.

⁵³ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 11) p3

⁵⁴ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 30 June 1990

⁵⁵ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 14 July 1990

⁵⁶ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 July 1990

⁵⁷ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 15) p2

⁵⁸ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 August 1990

⁵⁹ Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 21) p2

Perhaps the Bloods' only worry for the week was the three-hour investigation into Andrew Walden's actions in the Round 16 Old Trinity match, held after two weeks of argument at the VAFA. Walden's opponent O'Shaunessy was knocked out 100 metres behind play when they were the only two players on that half of the ground. Andrew Langford-Jones believes the Trinity defender ignored Walden's warnings to stop holding his jumper and suffered the consequences.⁶¹

Walden's bacon was saved by the significant role played by self-monikered "Commissioner" Grant Hattam. Hattam was highly respected by the VAFA's legal advisor and former President John Dillon, who was made acutely aware that should any aspects of Walden's hearing be out of order the matter would finish in the Supreme Court. Finally the case was heard based on the facts that O'Shaunessy remembered nothing and crucially no-one else saw the incident, leaving the investigation panel with little option than to clear the burly forward. But his cards were marked, and "there was also no doubt that the next time Wal looked sideways he was gone, and when he did he went".⁶²



The 1990 reserves made the finals but bowed out in the first week.

Back row: Physiotherapist Tracey Jukes, Peter Merrett, Jeremy Rae, Will Cox, Mark Orton, Darren Ray, Anton Sher, David Merrett and Tony Gilchrist.

Centre row: Matt Colston, Ross Lavender, Jeff Wood, Robert Parton, Darren Cotton, Greg Lasscock, Craig Farr, Blair Main and Peter Wigg.

Front row: Chris Lane, Gary March, Peter Noske, coach Greg Meadows, captain Jeff Robertson, Neville Schmidt and Al Mytton.

⁶⁰ Personal email communication, Andrew Langford-Jones, 3 July 2010

⁶¹ Personal email communication, Andrew Langford-Jones, 3 July 2010

In the semi Kew were in awe of the Bloods from the start, hardly surprising given the big man riches included Kidgell, Bingham, the Seccull brothers and the 6' 4" Williams on the bench (Williams racked up ten possessions on the wing in the last quarter!). Kew's tactic of roughing up the favourites at the start of the game backfired, and resulted in their captain being sent off and a nine goal opening for the Haileyburians. Chris Kraus kicked seven goals, a club record for a finals match which could have been Walden's had he kicked more accurately than 5.8. But Glenn Tanner and Kidgell were clearly best afield in the perfect conditions despite McKenzie's 30-plus pinpoint possessions.⁶² Exuberant celebrations followed at Brian Hume's Flower Hotel in Port Melbourne.

A fortnight later, again in perfect Elsternwick Park conditions, Old Haileyburians celebrated their ascension to A Grade with a massive 136-point win over OMs, quadrupling their traditional rivals' score. The squad of twenty were unchanged from the semi-final and despite complaints of the Haileyburians' recruiting, all but three had attended the school - coach Meehan, his recruit Kraus and fellow Catholic McKenzie (St Kevins). Only the three backline players had not played VFL, VFA or VAFA state representative football or won a club Best and Fairest. One of the Bloods' most powerful line-ups ever was:

Backs: Paul Bennett, Andrew Baxter, Brett Carty
Half-backs: Fraser Main, John Bingham, Mick Constable
Centres: Darren Williams, Chris McKenzie, Glenn Tanner
Half-forwards: Chris Kraus, Mark Seccull, Matthew Armstrong
Forwards: Darren Seccull (captain), Andrew Walden, Wes Byrns
Followers: Ian Kidgell, Dave Connell
Rover: Simon Meehan
Interchange: Wayne Smith, Brett Steenholdt



Approaching the peak of his career, Andrew Baxter wheels around onto his left foot against De La Salle in 1991.

ANDREW MURRAY BAXTER

Andrew "Billy" Baxter was a fixture at full-back during the Old Haileyburians' premiership years of 1989-90 and beyond, but was also a capable and enthusiastic forward when given the opportunity. Captain of Athletics at school, he was one of the prize recruits of the intake that so invigorated the club in 1986, and slotted straight into the seniors and the number one jumper as a slender wingman.

As Billy thickened up over the next few years, he found his position in the last line of defence, where his judgement, calm and beautiful kicking made him a natural. Supporters became used to seeing Baxter running serenely out of defence and instigating many attacks, that ample backside proudly jutting out behind him like the stern of an ocean liner. He was eminently reliable.

One of the club's great organisers and socialisers, Baxter was also the driving force behind the players' social itinerary which generally began at South Yarra's Saloon. These nights would be particularly successful, jovial and extended if the boys had won earlier in the day. Billy gave much back to the club each side of a stint in Sydney and coached both the reserves and the under-nineteens. He eventually returned home to watch his beloved St Kilda and run a busy social life and the Melbourne office of Badjar Ogilvy, whose resources were often put to use for the benefit of the OHAFC. Baxter's father Murray was also a keen supporter of the club.

195 games (176 1sts, 18 Reserves, 1 U19s),
 94 goals (65 1sts, 27 Reserves, 2 U19s), 1986-98

Member 1989 & 1990 1sts Premiership teams &
 OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 1

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1995 (14 goals)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2004

Vice-captain 1sts 1992; Coach Reserves 1997

Coach U19s 1996

Vice-President 2004; Committee 1991-94, 2004

⁶² Tom Johnston, *The Amateur Footballer 1990* (Vol 90, No 21) p2

Against an OM's outfit that clearly lacked tall players, the start was strangely subdued and the first half one of squandered opportunities, reflected by a 43-point lead at half time despite eighteen more scoring shots. Halfway through the third quarter the floodgates opened, sparked by the dominant Kidgell's knock to Wayne Smith, who ran through the centre and kicked an outrageous 60-metre goal.

Dave Connell was clearly best on ground despite a broken hand and stellar performances from a host of team mates including the usual suspects in the midfield Meehan, McKenzie and Tanner, and defenders Baxter and Constable. Walden's five goals took him past fifty for the season again, but there were twelve goal-kickers including Wes Byrns' dashing display with three. The final score of 26.25 (181) and winning margin were records for an A or B Grade Grand Final.⁶³

1990 B Section Grand Final at Elsternwick Park, 22 September 1990

Old Haileyburians	4.7	9.14	16.19	26.25 (181)
Old Melburnians	2.0	4.1	5.3	7.3 (45)

Goals: Walden 5, Kraus 4, Connell 3, Byrns 3, Smith 2, Meehan 2, M Seccull 2, Armstrong, D Seccull, McKenzie, Steenholdt, Tanner
Best players: Connell, Tanner, McKenzie, Kidgell, Baxter, Byrns, Meehan, Constable



Simon Meehan makes a typical clearance through the centre of the ground in the 1990 Grand Final massacre of Old Melburnians, with OM's Jeremy Nichols literally and metaphorically put on his backside.

SIMON HENRY MEEHAN

The Old Haileyburians dodged a bullet when Phil Stevens resigned as coach to run the VAFA, thanks largely to former St Kilda rover Simon Meehan's availability as a replacement. Meehan became the Bloods' most successful and longest serving coach.

During Meehan's first term as coach he had the Bradman-like advantage of playing himself in the team. He was an extraordinarily destructive player, and if ever the Bloods needed a lift he could move himself into the centre, win three or four consecutive clearances, stream downfield at searing pace and set up a string of match-turning goals; he never minded kicking a couple himself either. Meehan was easily one of the quickest players on the burst in the VAFA despite having already played his best football at higher levels.

As a coach "Scrapper" instantly won the players' respect and, like Michael Porter before him, they typically played above themselves when he was in the side. Meehan did his best work with the club's younger players, letting them be themselves and seeing them as the key to current and future success. Second time around as coach of a more mature, even ageing team in the late 1990s he took the Bloods to their first ever A Grade finals win and preliminary final.

His amateur days behind him, Scraps continued to pull the boots on and represented Australia in Super Rules in Ireland. Also a single-figure golfer, he forged a successful career in property and split his time between Melbourne and the Gold Coast.

55 games (54 1sts, 1 Reserves),

91 goals (90 1sts, 1 Reserves), 1989-92

Member & Coach 1989 & 1990 1sts Premiership

teams & of OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper numbers 20 & 36

Coach 1989-92, 1997-98

Captain-coach 1991

VAFA Representative 1990, 1991

⁶³ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 September

Understandably the size of the win raised the possibility of a hat-trick of C, B and A Grade premierships unprecedented in the VAFA at the time (since achieved by St Bede's Mentone Tigers). This must have particularly concerned VAFA Treasurer Noel Rundle given his ten dollar, 300 to one wager with Langford-Jones!⁶⁴

Rundle and Ormond and VAFA State coach Mike McArthur-Allen saw great talent in the Haileyburians' line-up. Asked to select their VAFA "dream teams", Rundle included Andrew Baxter, Andrew Walden and Dave Connell; McArthur-Allen plumped for Glenn Tanner, Ian Kidgell and Simon Meehan. Both agreed that Chris McKenzie was unlucky to miss selection.⁶⁵



Darren Seccull (left) and Simon Meehan share the spoils of the 1990 premiership cup, presented by VAFA President David Scott. As usual, there's no keeping former coach Andrew Langford-Jones (right) out of the action!

It was hardly surprising in his last report as President, that Ken Allison looked back “with great satisfaction”. He warned, however, to ensure that this was “far from our final pinnacle, and (to) strike while the iron is hot”. Again he noted the extensive participation by many players, supporters and parents, and urged them to “protect and nurture the precious family atmosphere we have created together”.⁶⁶

In his Coach’s report, Simon Meehan revealed his satisfaction at 1990’s success, having been in control for the whole season. His confidence was evident when he stated “that not for a moment did I believe we would not win another flag this year”.⁶⁷ Reflecting on his team’s development, he saw how they improved throughout the year, helped significantly by their expectation of winning and their obvious desire to reach A Grade for the first time. Meehan also believed the team’s personnel was good enough to have won that year’s A Grade flag by ten goals.⁶⁸

The day after Old Haileyburians’ massive win, Ormond took out their fourth successive A Grade premiership, captained by Philip Kingston. Fate would see the Bloods mix it with the competition yardstick in their long-awaited first game in A Grade in 1991.



A great mark from David Connell, broken hand and all, in the goal square in the 1990 Grand Final. He goaled with the kick.

⁶⁶ OHAFC Inc 1990 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 November 1990) Report of the President, pp5-6

⁶⁷ OHAFC Inc 1990 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 28 November 1990) Report of the Senior Coach, p7

⁶⁸ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

1991 – Mixing it with the Big Boys

Some of the most famous and long-standing clubs in amateur football awaited the arrival of Old Haileyburians in A Grade, including Collegians, Old Scotch, University Blues, De La Salle and of course Ormond. They were daunting names, and the Blood's task of mixing in such company was not helped by the departures of giants Ian Kidgell (Brisbane), John Bingham (Sandringham) and Mark Seccull (Chelsea Heights). Even though it gave Mark Orton an opportunity he took with both hands. Wes Byrns was also sorely missed in 1991.

Midway through 1990 Ken Allison approached Peter Bowring to succeed him. It was always going to be a hard act to follow the club's most successful President, and Bowring found it difficult to believe what he saw as a dropping off of interest by many of the players after the 1990 triumph.⁶⁹ He said as much in his President's Report at the end of the year when he stated, "the club may have been in a hiatus after achieving the long-held goal of reaching A Grade".⁷⁰



A muddy Mark Orton in action against University in 1991, the year the ruckman won the Bloods' Best and Fairest. While he runs down the ground, Fraser Main stands the mark in the background.

ANTHONY MARK ORTON

Mark Orton always played with passion, both on the field and no less so off. Inheriting his great rucking predecessor John Houghton's famous number eight jumper, "Orts" impressed immediately with his tireless work rate as the seniors' first choice ruckman even though just out of school and pitted against men. His other important responsibility in those early days was driving the "Fun Bus" that transported so many of the Waverley crew to training.

Orton's decorated career included over 200 games, a senior Best and Fairest and a B Grade premiership. He always played with great courage, hated losing and in true Nick Tonkin fashion never gave anything less than his best. Opponents universally respected him and team mates loved playing, if not rooming, with him. Whilst rarely a goal kicker, his Warwick Capper like technique was reliable enough to "kick them when needed", as evidenced by his match-winner in the remarkable "meeting behind the scoreboard" match against North Old Boys at McKinnon in 1994. Orts was also a handy if unwilling step-ladder for many of the club's smaller aerialists.

With a heart as big as his six foot five inch frame and an omnipresent smile, everyone respected and admired Orton. If only "Houghton and Orton" had played in combination together.

204 games (148 1sts, 56 Reserves),

26 goals (12 1sts, 14 Reserves), 1986-98

Member 1995 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 8

Best & Fairest 1sts 1991

Best & Fairest Reserves 1996, 1998

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1988

Committee 1992

⁶⁹ Interview with Peter Bowring, 28 February 2010

⁷⁰ OHAFC Inc 1991 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 20 November 1991) Report of the President, pp3-4

Bowring was pleasantly surprised, however, at the VAFA's Presidents' and Secretaries' Dinner held to open the season. He found the other Presidents were very complimentary about the Haileyburians' rise up the ranks, and especially about their Grand Final win over OMs. He sensed a real respect for the club, not necessarily the reaction he had expected, and felt this was a great reward for all those who had put in so much over many years to climb the huge mountain of making A Grade.⁷¹

Like Bowring, Simon Meehan also noticed a drop in momentum after the retirement of the flamboyant, charismatic Allison. Although Bowring was a different president to Allison, Meehan liked and admired him for taking on a job that no one else was prepared to do, and felt that he coped as well as anyone could have in challenging circumstances that sometimes made it a thankless task. But Allison was a hard act to follow and despite the hard work of helpers like Keith Schilling, Meehan felt the level of professionalism fell a notch or two.

The drop-off in people involved in the club was compounded by the economic recession of the early 1990s. Had it not been for the substantial influx of the younger players and their parents who formed the base of the team and club for many years, the Old Haileyburians might have faltered badly. And Meehan saw the loss of Gary March as being critical to the health of the under-nineteen team.⁷²

Despite having captained the team to two premierships in the previous two years, Darren Seccull found himself vice-captain at the start of the 1991 season, with Meehan taking over as skipper. Disappointed with his form in the finals in 1990 in particular, and in 1989 to a lesser extent, Seccull was nonetheless unhappy with his demotion. Missing much of the pre-season and the first two games due to cricket finals probably didn't help the big fellow's position.⁷³ Roger Gerny and General Manager Tony Gilchrist took over the coaching positions for the reserves and the under-nineteens from Greg Meadows and Nick Tonkin respectively. Meadows retired after a horrendous cycling accident where he broke a leg and his helmet was split into four pieces.⁷⁴

Over summer 35 school leavers joined the club, including star goal-kicker Gary Dewar, David Lappage and Greg Anderson; "The Old Firm" of Danny Scaunich and Carlo Taranto popped up after missing the previous two seasons and rover David Bugalski returned for a second stint.

To celebrate entry into A Grade, a black-tie dinner was held in the McKinnon clubrooms on the Friday night before the first game against Ormond at Elsternwick Park, played on a Sunday. Ormond were coached for the first time by Hawthorn premiership player Michael McCarthy; previewing the game, McCarthy's predecessor Mike McArthur-Allen doubted the Bloods would "have the fitness or experience to match Ormond, especially at The Park. If they do, they have come of age".⁷⁵ No doubt McArthur-Allen was influenced by Ormond's twelve-goal win in the teams' practice match.

Wingman Glenn Tanner's goal after 30 seconds set the scene for an auspicious, even astounding A Grade debut, as Old Haileyburians' running midfielders in particular made Ormond "strangely sluggish". Walden "looked quick and strong" in kicking four goals,⁷⁶ including two

⁷¹ Interview with Peter Bowring, 28 February 2010

⁷² Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

⁷³ Interview with Darren Seccull, 28 February 2010

⁷⁴ OHAFC News, March 1991, p3

⁷⁵ Phil Stevens and Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 1) p2

⁷⁶ Phil Stevens and Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 2) p4

incredible efforts just before half-time, and Gary Dewar also chipped in with four. But again it was McKenzie's drive in the centre that really set the Bloods on their way.⁷⁷

The following week, McKenzie's and Armstrong's absences helped former Collingwood defender Robert Hyde's North Melbourne Old Boys quickly bring the newcomers back to earth. The sending off of North full-forward Tony Egan in the third quarter after an altercation with Andrew Baxter appeared to inspire his team,⁷⁸ and the Bloods wasted chances in front of goal while letting their hosts in for two vital majors just before three-quarter time. Walden, shifted to full-forward in the second half, was dangerous with six goals but also one of the main culprits.

Worse followed in the first home game for the season when, in the "upset of the round ... the cunning planning of (Therry coach) Tony Crotty"⁷⁹ spoil the unfurling of the Old Haileburians' 1990 flag by former wingman and OHA President, Dicky Metherall. Meehan roved well and Carty again showed he was more than a serviceable replacement for the injured McKenzie, but to no avail as Therry led all day on the way to a 26-point win. Walden had a poor day, failing to goal until the second half, missing an easy snapshot from the goal square, being benched, giving away a 50-metre penalty that resulted in a Therry goal and finally having his number taken and being sent off.⁸⁰



Jeremy Rae takes one of his favourite classic chest marks against University Blues at McKinnon in 1991.

JEREMY ALAN RAE

The very fit Jeremy "Jezza" Rae was one of the large group of 1985 school leavers that propelled the Old Haileburians into the higher grades. A perfect example of a "utility" player, he spent time in the back pocket, half back line, wing and even full forward, and was an excellent reader of the play. Rae's trademark was the footy card perfect chest mark, particularly in wet conditions. "Jezza" played his last game in the 1995 Grand Final, returning from a leg injury to displace Travis Boothman, who hadn't missed a game for the whole year. Typically, Rae let no one down and played an excellent game.

With tight-ringed curls that rivalled Jim Bonwick's, Jeremy was a born and bred bayside boy and had sailing in his blood. After football, Jeremy raced yachts all around the world, including over fifteen Sydney to Hobart races. Used to being part of winning teams, he was a member of the Skandia Wild Thing crew that won line honours in 2003.

155 games (71 1sts, 46 Reserves, 36 U19s, 2 3rds), 122 goals (35 1sts, 59 Reserves, 28 U19s), 1986-99

Member 1995 1sts & 1989 Reserves Premiership teams

Jumper number 11

Best & Fairest Reserves 1988

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1991 (26 goals)

⁷⁷ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 7 April 1991

⁷⁸ The Sunday Age, 14 April 1991

⁷⁹ Phil Stevens and Mike McArthur-Allen, The Amateur Footballer 1991 (Vol 91, No 4) p4

⁸⁰ Wal Bright, The Sunday Age, 21 April 1991

Much worse followed at De La Salle's Waverley Road Oval stronghold in the form of a 97-point thrashing. Meehan played an almost lone hand.⁸¹ The dream debut had rapidly faded and a quick exit from A Grade was forecast with too many players displaying no pride, apparently demoralised by De La's speed and skill.⁸² One consolation the Bloods didn't know at the time, however, was that they'd played the season's eventual top three teams and at least were through a rugged introduction.

Recovery began in "Billy" Baxter's hundredth game as McKenzie's much-awaited return saw Old Haileyburians shrug off their lethargy in "a 13-goal upset" as they romped home over Marcellin. Determined from the first bounce, they set the pattern in the first 15 minutes. "Giant" ruckman Mark Orton dominated all day and continually provided first use of the ball.⁸³

Exemplary defenders Mick Constable and Peter Thiessen (in his second game back at the club) were largely responsible for a gritty, rare win at University Blues' spacious oval; the ball was in the Blues' forward zone often enough but swept away by this tough defence.⁸⁴ The win would have been easier had the Bloods kicked more accurately than 5.13 in the second half. Fill-in full-forward Glenn Tanner booted four goals. In the reserves, Neville Schmidt played the last of his club-record 280 games in a career that stretched back to 1974.⁸⁵

A third successive win, over relegation-bound OMs, saw the Old Haileyburians back in the four, but only after they unleashed a nine-goal final quarter having wasted many opportunities earlier in the game. The midfield were returning to fitness and form, especially McKenzie, Connell and Tanner. The following match against third-placed Collegians promised an excellent guide to the Bloods' finals prospects.⁸⁶

It was a test they failed dismally, "blown off the Harry Trott by nearly 14 goals ... a mismatch not expected by two teams in the four".⁸⁷ Richmond premiership player Stephen Mount dominated with seven goals after a relatively even first half in which the Bloods trailed by only 22 points. Baxter showed great form at both ends of the ground while Peter Thiessen remained prominent.

Old Haileyburians lined up for the return match against Therry without Simon Meehan, Glenn Tanner, David Connell and Chris McKenzie, all selected in the VAFA team playing in the AAFC carnival in Perth. Not all wanted to go, especially Tanner, who was advised just to go along with things and take it easy. At the team's windup, "Spanner" facetiously thanked the Amateurs "for the interstate holiday!"⁸⁸ Tanner may have hit a nerve, as some weeks later President David Burnes made an impassioned defence of the VAFA's participation in the carnival and denying it was "a free holiday".⁸⁹

Tanner's sense of humour may not have been missed, but he and his team mates certainly were as those left behind at Therry endured shocking conditions, a "ball like a piece of soap from the opening bounce"⁹⁰ and a wind that neither team managed to score against after half-time. Therry's third quarter was decisive as they kicked five goals with the breeze to overcome a 15-point deficit, and held on to win by eleven points despite Orton and Armstrong giving their all and Baxter's cameo at centre half-forward.⁹¹

ROBERT NORMAN PARTON

Son of a preacher, Robert "Dolly" Parton spent three years as a student at Scotch and three at Haileybury; to balance the books he played cricket for Old Scotch and footy for the Bloods. The talented Peter Pan, Parton played a then club record 49 games for the under-nineteens and under Gary March's coaching captained the team that provided so many players to the seniors' 1989 premiership team. He was a very handy player around the flanks, won lots of ball and had a good sense for the goals.

*104 games (9 1sts, 40 Reserves, 49 U19s, 6 3rds),
92 goals (1 1sts, 23 Reserves, 63 U19s, 5 3rds),
1987-92*

Member 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 19

Captain U19s 1989

Deputy vice-captain U19s 1988

⁸¹ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 April 1991

⁸² Phil Stevens and Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 5) p4

⁸³ Phil Stevens, *The Sunday Age*, 5 May 1991

⁸⁴ Phil Stevens and Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 8) p4

⁸⁵ OHAFC Newsletter, July 1991, p7

⁸⁶ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 May 1991

⁸⁷ Phil Stevens and Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 10) p5

⁸⁸ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

⁸⁹ David Burnes, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 13) p3

⁹⁰ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 June 1991

⁹¹ Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 11) pp4-5

Winter had “really hit Melbourne ... and games ... were played in difficult conditions with wind and grounds still suffering from the deluge of the previous fortnight”.⁹² The “resurrected Baxter”⁹² kept his place in the forward line when top team North Old Boys visited McKinnon and were held to a slender two point lead at half-time. A poor third quarter saw another game slip away; various positional changes, injuries and a high turnover of players seemed to have an unsettling effect and the Bloods again had not been able to maintain their work rate over four quarters. Observers noted “fielding players who are not fully fit cannot help”.⁹³

At least Roger Gerny’s reserves held their form with a fifth successive win and a run of six wins in seven games. If Baxter was resurrected in the firsts, then defender Jeremy Rae was reborn as a forward in the reserves, with two bags of eight goals in three weeks. The consistent Blair Main, Darren Lay and Adam Kirkwood-Scott led their charge.



The 1991 reserves.

Back row: Trainer Matthew Brotheridge, Peter Thiessen, David Kretchmer, Brendan Herbert, Tim Chegwin, Anton Sher, Peter Merrett, Wayne Smith and physiotherapist Nigel Rose.

Centre row: Robert Plecher, Tim Doran, Blair Main, Brett Steenholdt, Mark Fisher, Darren Cotton, Peter Noske, Andy McGorlick, trainer Wayne Foenander and runner Scott Doran.

Front row: Peter Robinson, Nick Irvine, Darren Ray, captain-coach Roger Gerny, Robert Parton, Adam Kirkwood-Scott and Ross Lavender.

⁹² Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer 1991* (Vol 91, No 12) p4

⁹³ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 June 1991

Late in the season the under-nineteens were still a chance for finals action, despite coach Tony Gilchrist's claim that they were a bunch of "Young Idiots"! Amongst their best were skipper Dale Andersen and "Beastie Boys" Paul Anderson and Darren Naisbitt.⁹⁴ Greg Anderson, Richard Home, Matt Phillips, David Lappage and Eddie Bingham all showed sufficient promise to win selection in the senior team; the long-sleeved Anderson proved especially impressive with his calm in the backline. The club would have hoped that the stream of players from the school would continue with the appointment of old boy and former OHAFC player Andrew Lynch as Director of Sport. By July, twenty boys in their final year had already signed up for 1992.⁹⁵

Off the field the support of parents continued to swell and Geoff Wigg's barbecue became a permanent fixture outside the front door of the McKinnon social rooms. Under the direction of Peter Bowring's wife Kristina, the culinary offerings in the clubrooms extended to a President's Dinner "Italiane".

In one of Melbourne's wettest Junes on record, the McKinnon Reserve was placed off-limits for training, so for a time this was conducted back at the school's Fisher Oval and the excellent gymnasium. Ground conditions also led to the round 15 match against Old Scotch being moved to Elsternwick Park on Sunday; a bonus was that the players could perhaps enjoy themselves a bit more at the Old Boys' dinner on the Friday night!⁹⁶



The 1991 under-nineteens photographed in the Gadsden Pavilion.

Back row: Paul Dow, Gary Dewar, David Naisbitt, Eddie Bingham, Ashley Fothergill, Andrew Whitelaw, John Panetta, Brett Canobie and physiotherapist Vanessa Calvert.

Centre row: Peter Thiessen, Matthew Phillips, David Kelly, coach Tony Gilchrist, captain Dale Andersen, Scott O'Brien, John Delalande and Simon Healey.

Front row: Daniel Hoare, Naushad Mistry, Scott Harrop, Jason Parton, Shannon Lyons, Andrew Henderson and Matthew Allen.

⁹⁴ OHAFC Newsletter, July 1991, p4

⁹⁵ OHAFC Newsletter, July 1991, p6

⁹⁶ OHAFC Newsletter, July 1991, pp1,6

In an appropriate end to the sodden month, the Bloods ventured to the “dreaded” EE Gunn Reserve to face an improved Ormond team hell-bent on revenge for their opening round thrashing and having “recaptured the meanness for which they became rightly known”.⁹⁷ In heavy conditions, “on a surface that bore striking similarities to a cow paddock”,⁹⁸ former Melbourne and Collingwood player Danny Seow, recruited by Glenn Tanner, made an impressive debut. However, the Bloods registered only two goals in a performance that former Ormond coach Mike McArthur-Allen described as “disgraceful”.⁹⁹ In the reserves, Peter Noske played his 200th match in conditions that would not have been to his liking.

Demoralising as the 75-point thrashing at Ormond was, it seemed to serve as a wake-up call as the Bloods recovered to win five of their next six games, including narrow victories at Elsternwick Park against fellow finals contenders Collegians and Old Scotch. Simon Meehan publicly pleaded with his players to recover the desire they had shown in 1989-90. He remained optimistic, however, that there was nothing ahead that the team could not conquer and still saw “an opportunity” for creating an incredible achievement.¹⁰⁰



Defender Brett Carty (right) in the thick of the action against De La Salle in 1998, with assistance from Andrew Walden.

BRETT CHRISTOPHER CARTY

Under-sized and mainly confined to the lower grades at school, Brett Carty's growth spurt turned him into a regular senior player for life as well as one of the great characters around the club. Tough, durable and a great tackler on the field, the Damian Oliver and Nick Del Santo look alike was always scheming off it.

“Carts” owned the back pocket and half-back flank, fought above his weight and was rarely beaten in a contest. For many years he claimed he was an even better forward and no one believed him until he kicked those seven goals against Collegians, his actions speaking louder than his words yet again.

Carty might have added VAFA representative selection to his honours, but Sunday morning training wasn't really his go. Selectors didn't appreciate him arriving under the weather for one session, in a cab straight from Joey's in Toorak Road. Thick as thieves with Andrew Walden and Glenn Tanner, the trio always had an excuse for arriving late to training, a form guide tucked down a sock and a hard luck story to tell. They just loved a cold one and a laugh on a hot day.

The merchant in Carty saw him supply the whole club with orange Nike football boots. No question was asked other than your foot size, and for your \$40. He also hawked silk ties, up-selling the top brands and ensuring team mates looked the part at club functions. More importantly his relationship with Astoria Honda saw them sponsor the club in a major capacity for over fifteen years.

*153 games (128 1sts, 3 Reserves, 19 U19s, 3 3rds),
38 goals (30 1sts, 1 Reserves, 2 U19s, 5 3rds),
1988-2000*

*Member 1989 & 1990 1sts Premiership teams
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper number 13

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1991

Runner-up Best & Fairest U19s 1988

⁹⁷ Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 12) p5

⁹⁸ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 June 1991

⁹⁹ Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 13) p5

¹⁰⁰ Simon Meehan, “Coach's Corner”, OHAFC Newsletter, July 1991, p2

Since the breakthrough year of 1990, OMs had become favourite prey for the Bloods, and despite McArthur-Allen's tip of a costly defeat the Haileyburians led comfortably all day and stormed home in the last quarter to win by eleven goals. In "a strange move"¹⁰¹ by OMs the game was played at Toorak Park and any home advantage they may have had had been lost, but this may have been unavoidable given 1991's winter rains.

More impressive was the seven-goal opening and storming finish to narrowly defeat second-placed Collegians in a high-class match. McArthur-Allen and Meehan disagreed whether this constituted an upset,¹⁰² but Walden at his bullocking best with seven goals, Seccull and Anderson on the backline and big Darren Williams shepherded the Bloods to victory despite finishing with only seventeen fit men.¹⁰³ The line-up for the team's best win of the season was:

Backs: Fraser Main, Andrew Baxter, Darren Seccull
Half-backs: Dave Merrett, Ben Armitage, Greg Andersom
Centres: Matthew Armstrong, Brett Carty, Dave Connell
Half-forwards: Brett Steenholdt, Danny Seow, Glenn Tanner
Forwards: Darren Williams, Andrew Walden, Richard Home
Followers: Mark Orton, Chris McKenzie
Rover: Simon Meehan
Interchange: Wayne Smith, Jeremy Rae

De La Salle were next on the menu in "Antarctic conditions" at McKinnon, missing Meehan, McKenzie and Seccull. An even performance typified by Danny Seow's tackling and the courage of rookie backman Greg Anderson, then another strong last-quarter finish signalled that the Bloods had regained their poise and appetite for success.¹⁰⁴

The action was not confined to the field for the De La game. The "Gold Pass and Parents Luncheon" was too successful for watchful VAFA Treasurer Noel Rundle's liking. Noting some of the old "Cookie Games" regulars still imbibing after the start of the game, Rundle announced he was "closing this place down!"¹⁰⁵ A stern editorial followed a fortnight later in *The Amateur Footballer*.¹⁰⁶

At a subsequent VAFA investigation the club was found guilty "on a charge of conduct unbecoming a member club in relation to poor behaviour of ... spectators and supporters"¹⁰⁷ (but not of serving alcohol after the start of the game) and fined \$400. It was an expensive day, as a melee in the senior game resulted in another fine of \$100. Andrew Dunn was no spectator when it came to defending his twin brother Cameron who played in the game. Opponents De La Salle were fined \$300 for a third offence.

The club wriggled out of the "serving alcohol" charge only because Rundle, in his evidence to the investigation, repeatedly maintained that he had seen jugs of beer on the tables. When President Peter Bowring pointed out that the club had no jugs and served beer only in bottles or glasses, Rundle's case fell apart. But this victory of sorts had repercussions a few years later.¹⁰⁸

DARREN ANDREW COTTON

For the under-nineteens Darren Cotton was an accomplished spearhead, lightning fast on the lead, a sure mark and a deadly kick, booting over forty goals in his debut season. "Cotts" subsequently carved out a useful career at both ends of the ground, despite frequent attacks of White Line Fever that also earned him the nom de plume "Mad Dog", although he was not a violent man and his bark was far worse than his bite. Dark, rangy and swarthy, his enthusiasm enabled him to rejuvenate a third eighteen for the Bloods for a season in 1999. Cotton also maintained a keen involvement in the Old Haileyburians' Cricket Club.

121 games (22 1sts, 53 Reserves, 32 U19s, 14 3rds), 66 goals (3 1sts, 9 Reserves, 44 U19s, 10 3rds), 1987-99

Member 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper numbers 9 & 14

¹⁰¹ Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 14) p4

¹⁰² Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 15) p4

¹⁰³ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 20 July 1991

¹⁰⁴ Allen White, Match report in OHAFC archives, 27 July 1991

¹⁰⁵ Interview with Peter Bowring, 28 February 2010

¹⁰⁶ Phil Stevens, Editorial - "Alcohol and the VAFA" in *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 18) p3

¹⁰⁷ Investigations Report, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 17) p37

¹⁰⁸ Personal telephone communication, Peter Bowring, 5 October 2010

A ninth consecutive win at Elsternwick Park against Old Scotch saw the Bloods seriously challenge for a finals berth. Armitage was impassable at centre half-back and fellow big men Orton, Seccull and an inspired "Pop" Williams played their part. Half a game out of the four in fifth position, the run home could hardly have been better - they would make the finals if they defeated Marcellin (8th), University (9th) and Scotch (7th) again, provided Therry also lost one of their three games.

They fell at the first hurdle, when at Marcellin's soggy Bulleen oval, they "confirmed their dislike of wet weather conditions",¹⁰⁹ certainly a considerable disadvantage in 1991, and fell to eighth on the ladder. A comfortable win over University Blues at McKinnon with Anthony Phillips starring was little compensation. The final match of the season saw a nostalgic return to the school Main Oval due to the shocking surface at McKinnon.¹¹⁰ Old Scotch, playing for a place in the four, were far more determined and won easily.

Summing up Old Haileyburians' first year in A Grade, Mike McArthur-Allen noted they had, not unexpectedly, been inconsistent in trying to make the quantum leap from B Grade.¹¹¹ Despite bemoaning injuries and missed opportunities, most club insiders appear to have been reasonably happy with the team's progress. They might have finished eighth, but were only a game outside the final four. The reserves and under-nineteens had both finished in very creditable sixth placings.

President Peter Bowring noted the team's effort in defeating three of the year's finalists and looked forward to 1992 as the centenary of both Haileybury College and the VAFA. He confirmed Simon Meehan's reappointment, albeit as a non-playing coach, and that of Dennis McGrory to coach the reserves.¹¹²

Although Simon Meehan was left unsatisfied by the 1991 season he still noted many positives, including the performance of big men Seccull, Best and Fairest winner Orton and Armitage in filling the large shoes of their predecessors. He hoped that the year had at least been a great learning experience and looked forward to seeing the development of the many younger players. Meehan's expectations remained high and he believed an A Grade premiership was still achievable.¹¹³

Two players who could hold their heads particularly high were Mark Orton and Matthew Armstrong. Orton played only the first two senior games in 1990 but made such a stunning comeback in 1991 that he won the club Best and Fairest. Armstrong flagged what a consistent vote-getter he would be in coming years by finishing second in the competition Best and Fairest, beaten only by a solitary vote on the last count of the night.¹¹⁴

The Old Haileyburians enjoyed a very different Grand Final breakfast, due to the AFL Grand Final being played at Waverley, while the MCG's Southern Stand was being rebuilt. The lack of suitable facilities near VFL Park saw the breakfast relocated to the McKinnon clubrooms, which could accommodate only 200 instead of the previous year's 520.¹¹⁵

The lower attendance saw profit drop substantially from \$4,035 to \$835 to compound the club's financial difficulties, which reflected general

¹⁰⁹ Allen White, *Match report in OHAFC archives*, 10 August 1991

¹¹⁰ Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 20) p4

¹¹¹ Mike McArthur-Allen, *The Amateur Footballer* 1991 (Vol 91, No 20) p4

¹¹² OHAFC Inc 1991 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 20 November 1991) Report of the President, pp3-4

¹¹³ OHAFC Inc 1991 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 20 November 1991) Report of the Senior Coach, p5

¹¹⁴ Message from the President, Fifteenth Annual OHAFC Grand Final Breakfast program, September 1991

¹¹⁵ The Fifteenth Annual OHAFC Breakfast program, September 1991

economic conditions during Paul Keating's "recession that we had to have". Sponsorship income halved (a drop of \$8,000) and when it became clear that funds committed in 1990 were not going to be received a further \$6,700 was written off. Although the club reported an accounting loss of over \$8,000 for the year, it still managed to derive a small trading cash surplus, no mean feat and testimony to the hard work of the President and his committee.¹¹⁶

So there was no "three-peat", but the Old Haileyburians still had a talented list, further strengthened by the return of Wayne Phillips from a summer of professional cricket in England, and an A Grade premiership was still seen as a realistic and achievable aim.

¹¹⁶ OHAFC Inc 1991 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 20 November 1991) Report of the Finance Director, pp9-13

1992 – Another Step Up

In the last year of Simon Meehan's first term as coach, the Old Haileyburians finished in their highest ever position in amateur football to that time. They also participated in their first ever A Grade finals series, even though Meehan himself felt they were eight to ten goals inferior to the 1990 B Grade premiership line-up.¹¹⁷ The senior team participated in a number of high standard matches and showed they truly belonged in elite amateur company.

Expectations remained high. According to Meehan, "It was not so much weight of expectation from the club but expectation from us all! We had a goal which was to win an A Grade flag. We believed in ourselves, and knew after winning the B grade flag two years earlier by a record margin that we were good enough to succeed at the highest level".¹¹⁸

As had been the case over the previous few years, the team's hard-running, durable midfielders were at the core of its success. Especially Chris McKenzie directing traffic in the centre, Simon Meehan brilliantly sparking match-winning bursts of scoring out of the centre whenever the team was in trouble, Glenn Tanner's dangerous skills across the half-forward line, Matthew Armstrong's constant running at pace and David Connell's run-straight-at-them-and-knock-them-over ethos. Baxter and Carty held the backline together, Walden was always dangerous up forward and the Phillips brothers added great grit and talent to the team. Orton was a reassuring constant in the ruck. And they all loved a contest!

But beneath this veneer of success, concerns arose over playing depth. The reserves and under-nineteens both finished bottom of the ladder with three and two wins respectively; the thirds finished ninth (out of thirteen) and lost more games than they won. The senior team found themselves at the very base of the ladder after six games due to an ordinary pre-season, poor attendances at training and low numbers even as the season got under way.¹¹⁹

In Meehan's view, depth was a huge problem. "The seniors had some fantastic talent but injuries were always going to be a worry. Lack of under-nineteens and seconds created complacency amongst the senior side, and 1992 was a real worry. This was a bit of a sour point with me as I believed the club as a whole had let me down with this".

"Players were becoming focussed on other aspects of their lives. Keeping the team together was becoming more difficult and the introduction of the police random breath testing booze buses meant that staying long periods on a Thursday night after training was not possible".¹²⁰ The strong family feeling, with many staying after the game, had faded just a little.

Lack of depth became a recurrent theme over subsequent seasons, as the Bloods also acquired a reputation for inconsistency. Shallow playing lists left them more vulnerable than other clubs to injuries, and probably played an important part in their more erratic performances.

The committee also had an unusual, possibly unhealthy, look to it. Six positions were occupied by regular senior players, when in most years

ROSS BRADLEY LAVENDER

McKinnon local Ross Lavender came to the OHAFC via a different path. Although his workmate Geoff Sincock had suggested he have a run with the Bloods, folklore has it that he was just running laps with that rocking gait at a local oval while Phil Stevens conducted a grueling pre-season session. Lavender supposedly found himself invited by the coach to join training, after which he stayed for nearly a decade. He became "Rossy Rover", one of the most likeable and popular characters at the club, and was possibly the first Old Haileyburian player to wear a helmet. The mild-mannered Lavender played over eighty reserves games before making his senior debut at the start of 1995 under new coach Neville Taylor. His fine play and brace of goals further enhanced his cult status, but after a handful of senior games he returned to his beloved Reserves for the rest of his career.

*135 games (4 1sts, 127 Reserves, 4 3rds),
65 goals (3 1sts, 61 Reserves, 1 3rds), 1989-97*

Member 1989 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 24

Best & Fairest Reserves 1994

Vice-captain Reserves 1992

Secretary 1994

¹¹⁷ Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

¹¹⁸ Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

¹¹⁹ OHAFC Inc 1992 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the President, p3

¹²⁰ Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

one or two would be the norm. For Armstrong, Connell, Constable and Orton it would be a one-year stint, and only Baxter remained on the committee the following year. This raises the question of whether there was sufficient support off the field.

Following Simon Meehan's retirement as a player at the end of 1991, Darren Seccull was reinstated as captain, but he was unable to play the opening round, suspended along with Andrew Walden. Also missing were Garry and Wayne Phillips, Tanner, McKenzie, Carty, Orton, Main and Home.

Not quite compensating the absence of this talent was the return of Ian Kidgell and new blood including former Old Brighton state ruckman Paul Woff (briefly, before work prevented him playing) and reserves coach Dennis McGrory's flock of De La Salle recruits. These included Matt DeMattia, who would lead the 1992 goal-kicking, rugged defender Josh Hayter, pacy little rover Glenn Borg and Rob Makinson.



Wayne Phillips takes his great mark against Collegians in 1992 despite the best efforts of former Richmond premiership player Stephen Mount and team mates Mark Orton and Dave Connell. The Herald and Weekly Times Photographic Collection.

WAYNE ASHLEY PHILLIPS

Many felt Wayne Phillips had the talent to play AFL football just like his father Ken and older brother Garry. "Weedy" had pace, nous, skill and tenacity to burn, but unfortunately also chronic shoulder problems. These were less of an obstacle to his burgeoning cricket career, where he compiled over four thousand District runs for University, won selection in the Victorian second eleven and enjoyed a stint in the UK's famous Lancashire League.

Football training was never high on the Weed's agenda; his idea of a pre-season meant turning up the Thursday night before the first game. Naturally fit and speedy, Phillips' size was no barrier to him being the best tackler in the club, nor taking a leap over bigger team mates. A brilliant decision maker with the ball in his hands, he was a natural on-baller but equally dangerous on the half-forward flank, ahead of his time with his small forward's defensive skills.

Phillips lifted notably for the big games, his 35 possessions in the 1989 Grand Final overshadowed only by John Bingham's rampant performance. Those dodgy shoulders meant he only played another 25 games in the six years before his second premiership, but again he was among the Bloods' best.

A trademark smile and quiet voice belied Wayne Phillips' fierce determination. He was also a man of firm opinions about sport and life, many of which he shared with his father. Like the rest of the family his talents were outrageously spread across many other sports including golf, tennis and athletics, where at APS meetings he was regularly on the podium for the hurdles, sprints and relays.

*72 games (51 1sts, 8 Reserves, 13 U19s),
60 goals (37 1sts, 9 Reserves, 14 U19s), 1987-98*

*Member 1989 & 1995 1sts Premiership teams
& OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper numbers 15 & 40

Best & Fairest 1sts 1992

Captain U19s 1988

Treasurer 1997-98

Pre-season training involved another trip to St Leonards and further mayhem. Public telephones disappeared, a pool ball sailed through a window and ping pong bats vanished into an open fire. Enough fun was had for President Peter Bowring to write a letter to Mrs Meehan apologising for the way in which they had (not) looked after the place.¹²¹ Ironic shades of the 1963 incident involving the electric razor of Peter's father Geoff!

Previewing the season opener in *The Amateur Footballer*, Adam Kenyon saw Old Haileyburians and their opponents Therry as "the teams with great promise", especially given they had had "a season to settle and now know what is required to be successful".¹²² Life looked far more promising for Therry after they won by eight goals despite the efforts of Peter Thiessen and Woff.

The poor start to the season increased the pressure on Simon Meehan from other players and supporters.¹²³ Almost inevitably for the Round 2 match against defending premiers De La Salle, "Meehan made a playing comeback and booted four goals from half forward ... in what must rank from the shortest retirement from the game of all time".¹²⁴ Despite the returns of Meehan and Wayne Phillips, the Bloods suffered another eight-goal loss.

Spirits rose a little with a three-goal upset win over North Old Boys at Brunswick. Kenyon observed that Old Haileyburians "lack goal kicking power and rely on small players such as Meehan and Thiessen to score majors - this is no way to beat North".¹²⁵ But it was the hosts who lacked a dominant forward whereas DeMattia starred at full-forward for the Bloods with six goals. This was Old Haileyburians' only win in the first six rounds, after which they languished a game clear at the bottom of the ladder. While Paul Woff shone in the ruck, Kidgell "was yet to show very much form at all"¹²⁶ after four games and missed the next nine in the seniors.

Although they lost to Old Xaverians, St Bernards and Collegians, at least the Bloods steadily regained the services of their prime movers including over three weeks Carty, Walden, Orton and, in his first game for the club since 1989, Garry Phillips. Fraser Main and Richard Home made only short-lived returns, but the inclusion of McKenzie and Tanner for the Round 7 clash at Marcellin really gave the team a stronger look. It was also timely given the Bloods had become "favourites for relegation"¹²⁷ despite the gallant efforts of centre-line players Thiessen, Wayne Phillips and Jeremy Rae. Thiessen's outstanding form saw him selected for the VAFA.

Recovery began with a slender three-point victory at Marcellin, whose Slattery late in the last quarter kicked the ball the wrong way from the centre bounce into the grateful arms of Andrew Walden, who duly kicked a goal.¹²⁸ Memorably, Wes Byrns kicked the winning goal with a 45-metre torpedo just over the fingertips of the pack.¹²⁹ For once the Bloods "had goal kickers all over the place, but still lacked a key forward. David Connell at centre half-forward and Andrew Walden at half back set up this most important victory".¹³⁰

After a loss to Old Scotch, it took another victory to climb off the bottom of the ladder. "Led by star centreman Chris McKenzie (they) produced 'one out of the bag' to down Ormond (at Ormond) by six goals. Ormond

ADAM LEIGH KIRKWOOD-SCOTT

Accountant to the stars, Adam "Fingers" Kirkwood-Scott was a major influence on and off the field for the Bloods from the day he arrived in 1988. As a player his lack of pace was well disguised by an ability to read the play and excellent kicking skills. Were there a Reserves Team of the Century, "Scotty" would be one of the first picked. Even late in his career he was capable of playing a cameo off the bench for an under-manned senior team. Fading redhead Kirkwood-Scott loved the club's social functions and was one of the great footy trip tourists in company with Dave Connell and Matthew Armstrong.

147 games (12 1sts, 91 Reserves, 33 U19s, 11 3rds), 75 goals (6 1sts, 28 Reserves, 33 U19s, 8 3rds), 1988-2000

Captain Reserves 1993-95

Treasurer 2005

Committee 1999, 2005-06

¹²¹ Interview with Peter Bowring and Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

¹²² Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 1) p4

¹²³ Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

¹²⁴ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 3) p4

¹²⁵ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 3) p5

¹²⁶ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 4) p5

¹²⁷ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 7) p4

¹²⁸ *The Haileyburian*, September 1992, p18

¹²⁹ Interview with Darren Seccull, 28 February 2010

¹³⁰ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 8) p4

capitulated in the final quarter when they only managed four behinds while the Bloods kicked 4.4 (28). Wes Byrns, Mark Orton and Glenn Borg refused to let this game go once they had a sniff of victory".¹³¹

Fortunes slowly turned, in Meehan's view due to his introduction of more physical training, and especially a session of tackling practice every night. Meehan believes "this created toughness and confidence amongst the whole team. The players were not all that happy initially to have to do this but once they realised there was no backing out and that they were not getting hurt they became very competitive and actually went even harder to put each other onto the ground".¹³² Meehan also felt that greater efforts were needed to recreate team spirit, which eventually was achieved admirably.

If the seniors struggled, the reserves, under-nineteens and third eighteen did it even tougher. McGrory's reserves endured losing streaks of eight and seven games. Gilchrist's under-nineteens didn't taste victory until Round 15. The thirds under Cam Gregson lasted the season and at least won seven matches before being disbanded at the end of the year.

The proverbial corner was not quite turned, however, as evidenced by a three-goal loss to new cellar dwellers Therry. This led Adam Kempton, in previewing their clash with De La Salle the following week to "feel sorry for the Bloods - this could be their death knell".¹³³ Instead it was the start of a storming finish that saw them win seven of their last eight home and away games.



A large squad for the 1992 First Eighteen greets the camera at McKinnon.

Back row: Brett Canobie, Cameron Dunn, Matt DeMattia, David Connell, Ian Kidgell, Mark Orton, Tim Chegwin, Michael Constable and Greg Anderson.

Centre row: Reserves coach Dennis McGrory, David Lappage, Wayne Smith, Brett Carty, team manager Peter Seccull, Brett Steenholdt, Chris McKenzie, Gary Dewar, Josh Hayter, Garry Phillips, Jeremy Rae, Rob Makinson, Fraser Main, Chris Kraus, Peter Thiessen, Glenn Borg, Wes Byrns and runner Matt Colston.

Front row: physiotherapist Nigel Rose, selector Roger Gerny, Andrew Walden, Glenn Tanner, captain Darren Seccull, president Peter Bowring, coach Simon Meehan, Andrew Baxter, Matthew Armstrong, Wayne Phillips and Daniel Hoare.

¹³¹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1992* (Vol 92, No 10) p4

¹³² Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

¹³³ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1992* (Vol 92, No 11) p5

First, "De La, with a reported 21 injuries, were flogged ... The Bloods kicked eleven goals to two after the long break. Chris McKenzie dominated the middle as the Bloods got their running game going".¹³⁴ Then, in a return to Keysborough's Main Oval, "despite atrocious kicking (17.21 versus 19.8) Old Haileyburians ... defeated a disappointing North Old Boys by one point. Matthew Armstrong was in dashing form on his wing for the Bloods as they now pushed for a spot in the four as opposed to looking at relegation only a month ago".¹³⁵ Stripling forward and future coach David Lappage made his senior debut in this game. The players had been very keen for a match at the school and in something of a turnaround from previous years Principal Michael Aikman was also very supportive of the move.¹³⁶

The winning form continued against a "lethargic" Old Xaverians in a 75-point canter. Andrew Baxter felt the win gave the team confidence it was a top side.¹³⁷ Adam Kenyon noted how the Bloods' "dramatic turnaround in form has coincided with the return of Chris McKenzie, Glenn Tanner and Garry Phillips. Wes Byrns, Connell and Phillips have formed a most dangerous half-forward line".¹³⁸ That is when Connell was not playing in defence as one of coach Meehan's "bald-headed half-backs" along with Baxter and Andrew Walden.¹³⁹

To celebrate their winning form the players had a well-established social routine. Their quadrella typically started at The Saloon hotel, where Tim Chegwin ruled the pool tables (until 11pm), followed by the New Orleans Tavern (1am), Joey's (3am) and finally Jake's (5am).¹⁴⁰

Meehan sought greater commitment from his players and asked them to refrain from drinking after leaving training on Thursday evenings until their Saturday game. Not all complied, some with guile and others, notably Andrew Walden, less so.

As the run continued, games became bigger, but not much bigger than that against competition leader Collegians at their Harry Trott Oval stronghold, for which Old Haileyburians were virtually at full strength with Kidgell's return. Kenyon clearly understood the stakes, noting "this game will show whether the Bloods are contenders or pretenders".¹⁴¹ The match turned out a classic, and one of the best the Bloods ever played in amateur football. Their team lined up as:

Backs: Josh Hayter, David Dean, Greg Anderson
Half-backs: Andrew Walden, Dave Connell, Andrew Baxter
Centres: Matthew Armstrong, Chris McKenzie, Peter Thiessen
Half-forwards: Glenn Tanner, Garry Phillips, Wayne Phillips
Forwards: David Lappage, Ian Kidgell, Glenn Borg
Followers: Mark Orton, Chris Kraus
Rover: Simon Meehan
Interchange: Darren Seccull (captain), Brett Carty

Simon Meehan's pre-match preparations were disrupted by his search for Messrs Carty, Tanner and Walden. He found them hiding together, listening to radio coverage of Walden's horse Qubeau's Daughter running at Flemington.¹⁴² Despite this, Old Haileyburians "dominated the first half ... and led at half time by 33 points. However, a seven-goal third-quarter Collegians onslaught wrested the lead from the Bloods. Instrumental in

¹³⁴ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1992* (Vol 92, No 12) p4

¹³⁵ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1992* (Vol 92, No 13) p4

¹³⁶ Personal email communication, Peter Bowring, 27 July 2010

¹³⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 19 December 2009

¹³⁸ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1992* (Vol 92, No 14) p4

¹³⁹ Personal email communication, David Connell, 26 April 2010

¹⁴⁰ Personal email communications, Andrew Baxter, 28 & 29 June 2010

¹⁴¹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1992* (Vol 92, No 15) p4

¹⁴² Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 29 June 2010

the first half ascendancy ... were rover Glenn Borg, who shut down the dangerous Matt Galbraith, wingman Matt Armstrong and backmen Greg Anderson and Dave Connell. Wayne Phillips, Chris McKenzie and coach Simon Meehan were also fine contributors".¹⁴³

On the scoreboard the match was poised for a great finish, but so overwhelming was the Collegians third-quarter fightback, they looked likely to run away with the game. Although a goal from David Hoyle put Collegians ten points up with only three minutes to play, Chris Kraus' reply and another from Dave Lappage - a magnificent left-foot snap while running towards and close to the boundary line - gave the Bloods "a superb victory"¹⁴³ by 3 points.

Wayne Phillips was Old Haileyburians' best, and took a magnificent mark that featured in the next day's *The Sunday Age*. He remembered seeing the photo in a 7/11 store at about 3am after a celebratory night out with team mates. They included big Mark Orton, who decided to start up the floor polisher after accidentally tipping over a bottle of strawberry Cottee's topping.¹⁴⁴ Phillips went on to win the Best and Fairest ahead of Peter Thiessen.



Dennis McGrory coached the 1992 reserves team before taking over the senior position the following year.

Back row: Michael Krause, Peter Merrett, Cameron Dunn, Eddie Bingham, Tony Whelan, Robert Parton and Tony Gilchrist.

Centre row: Team manager Heath Broadbent, selector Roger Gerny, Scott Spiers, Wayne Smith, Peter Evers, Tim Chegwin, David Kretschmer, Matthew Baxter, Dale Andersen and physiotherapist Michelle Hade.

Front row: Jason Parton, president Peter Bowring, captain Darren Ray, coach Dennis McGrory, Ross Lavender and Blair Main.

On ground: Daniel Hoare.

¹⁴³*The Sunday Age*, 26 July 1992

¹⁴⁴Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 19 February 2010

David Lappage also remembered the clash well and kicked five goals, including that sealer, in only his third senior game. Lappage described it as “my greatest moment in my 14 years of playing”, no mean boast given he also played in the 1995 premierships team. The Collegians game was also the “most memorable in all the games I played. High scoring, fast flowing, exciting football. Nail biting footy. I suppose it was also the fact that I’d just really cemented my spot that it stands out so much”.¹⁴⁵

Despite a most unlikely loss when “Marcellin pulled one out of left field”,¹⁴⁶ the Bloods refused to accept Adam Kenyon’s prediction that their (finals) “charge is now finished”.¹⁴⁷ In a high scoring game against Old Scotch, a nine-goal second quarter and a last term run on saw them home by 44 points. Full-forward Garry Phillips was dominant, finishing with six goals. Mark Orton in the ruck “fed his small men all day which set up numerous forward thrusts”.¹⁴⁸

This win set the Bloods up for a virtual elimination final in Round 17 against Ormond, who had not missed the A Grade finals for nearly a decade. They responded with a “magnificent” performance and “showed great desperation and composure”¹⁴⁹ to win by seventeen points and move into the top four for the first time all season. As reported in *The Sunday Age*,

In very heavy conditions, the game remained in the balance virtually all day with less than a goal separating the teams at each break. It was not until twelve minutes into the last quarter that the first goal was registered - a brilliant snap by Bloods half-forward Glenn Tanner. Three minutes later Tanner kicked another, and although the lead was only ten points, Old Haileyburians had the match in its grasp.

Brett Carty in the back pocket and David Connell at centre half-back were clearly the best players. Glenn Borg and Josh Hayter, playing tagging roles ... were also invaluable, as was the experienced crumbing work from coach Simon Meehan. An ecstatic Meehan spoke glowingly of the efforts of his team ... “We are really giving it a go now. We’re not there yet, but I think we have a sniff. We were written off earlier this year, so we’ve a lot to prove”.¹⁵⁰

To make A Grade finals for the first time, the Haileyburians had to defeat third-placed St Bernards at McKinnon in the last home-and-away game. Their 16-point victory “showed enormous character”; despite having “only an 11-point three-quarter time lead, the Bloods booted four goals against the wind”¹⁵¹ and kicked more accurately (4.1 to 2.8) in the last quarter.

For the first semi-final at Elsternwick Park the Bloods again faced St Bernards without injured captain Darren Seccull and, crucially, prime mover Chris McKenzie. McKenzie’s absence was doubly felt when three minutes into the third quarter and playing well, Simon Meehan was knocked out by his opposing captain-coach, Frank Dunnell.¹⁵²

Injuries to Thiessen and Tanner compounded the Bloods’ plight, and although scores were level at the last change, St Bernards kicked 2.3 with the wind in the last quarter against Old Haileyburians’ five behinds. What had really cost the Bloods, however, was their wasteful third quarter, when they “tried to kick goals from too far out and hence they registered 3.8 for the term”¹⁵³ (they kicked 3.13 for the second half).

¹⁴⁵ Personal email communication, David Lappage, 30 April 2010

¹⁴⁶ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 17) p4

¹⁴⁷ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 17) p4

¹⁴⁸ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 18) p4

¹⁴⁹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 19) p4

¹⁵⁰ *The Sunday Age*, 16 August 1992

¹⁵¹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 21) p4

¹⁵² Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 February 2010

¹⁵³ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1992 (Vol 92, No 21) p4

For the quietly but fiercely competitive Wayne Phillips, “I only had one frustration in my time at Old Haileyburians, which was 1992. I felt we were the best team in A Grade and let it slip”.¹⁵⁴

Despite the early exit from the finals, the Old Haileyburians had much from the 1992 season they could be proud about, especially their fightback from the lower reaches of the ladder. Change was in the air, however. Simon Meehan’s employer Valvoline re-located him to Wodonga, Darren Seccull’s term as a dual premierships captain was over and Peter Bowring stepped down from the Presidency after steering the club through its first two years in A Grade.

At least relations with the school and in particular Principal Michael Aikman continued to be on the improve, as evidenced by Bowring’s meeting with him at Keysborough, his opportunity to speak at assembly about the OHAFC and Aikman’s attendance at a McKinnon clubroom dinner.

In his final President’s Report, Bowring made special mention of the efforts of the parents. The mothers, led by Felicity Wigg, Dawn Carty and Sue Connell, were once again “show stoppers” and Bowring described them as “the jewel in the crown” of the club, their involvement evidenced by Nan Home’s canteen roster for 42 mums.¹⁵⁵

Tony Gilchrist showed he was more than just the Club Joker as he took out the Barry Berggy Trophy. Other than keeping spirits up he had performed a power of work in two year terms as General Manager and coach of the under-nineteens; in 1991 these terms over-lapped.

Bowring also noted the impetus developed around the club by a “Coterie” group, consisting mainly of players’ fathers and formed largely as a result of discussions with David Connell’s father John after the Ormond game. The dads were already responsible for culinary delights on Thursday nights after training (particularly Rod Tanner’s special soup) and were providing much needed “moral and financial support”¹⁵⁶, as well as a new video recorder. Bowring saw them as a “terrific influence” and never felt that they interfered with the running of the club.¹⁵⁷

These remarks in Bowring’s President’s Report perhaps provide a clue to his legacy of accepting and encouraging parental involvement to the point that they were ready to receive the baton of responsibility for running the club. By the time he finished as President, Bowring felt that the mums and dads were the real glue that held the club together.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁴ Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 28 September 2010

¹⁵⁵ OHAFC Inc 1992 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the President, p3

¹⁵⁶ OHAFC Inc 1992 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the President, p3

¹⁵⁷ Personal email communication, Peter Bowring, 17 May 2010

¹⁵⁸ Personal email communication, Peter Bowring, 17 May 2010

CHAPTER 9

THE REBOUND 1993-96



1993 - “Dads’ Army” and the Meeting Behind the Scoreboard

Old Haileyburians entered the 1993 season with a new President in Ken Phillips, new coaches for all three teams and a new senior captain, but no longer with a third eighteen. Chris McKenzie became the first non-Haileyburian (other than playing coaches Max Lyon and Simon Meehan) to captain the club.

Peter Bowring had made it known he would not be continuing as President late the previous year. He couldn’t believe his luck when Ken Phillips approached him and indicated his interest. Bowring vacated the presidency content it had been a smooth transition to someone who really wanted the job.¹

Involvement with the OHAFC was clearly a family affair when it came to the Phillips clan. The boys played in the firsts, sister Kylie was a drink runner, future son-in-law and former player Cam Lasscock was on the horizon and Jill helped with the President’s luncheons. For Ken, the most important challenge was for the club to establish itself in A Grade, especially since as First Eighteen coach at the school in the 1980s, he had advised talented school boys to aspire to a higher standard of football than C Grade.²

In recognition of Phillips’ appointment, he was formally invited to honorary membership of the Old Haileyburians’ Association by his former teaching colleague, OHA President Jim Brown.³ The former Box Hill High School student was chuffed.⁴

The committee was substantially re-jigged as five senior players still playing stepped down and “Dads’ Army” stepped into the breach. New vice-president John Connell and Geoff Wigg were joined by Dennis Carty, John Caspers and Wayne Walden. The following year Ray Steenholdt and Rod Tanner would complete this enthusiastic crew.

New senior coach Dennis McGrory served as Simon Meehan’s under-study in 1992, so both parties knew what they were letting themselves in for. In announcing McGrory’s appointment, outgoing President Peter Bowring stated he had “the total support of the players and the committee”.⁵ McGrory’s impressive record as a junior coach included mentoring future AFL players Stuart Maxfield, Simon Garlick and Andrew and Duncan Kellaway, and success with De La Salle’s under-nineteen team.

Subsequent events would be at odds with Bowring’s welcome. Peter Carlson, like Phillips an APS football premierships coach, was appointed McGrory’s Chairman of Selectors and occasionally served as his runner. Carlson remembers Phillips asking him to “keep an eye” on the new incumbent.⁶ Although few new players were recruited, expectations were high that the club’s existing pool of talent would again see it to the A Grade finals.

Leading into the season, McGrory provided the committee with a detailed written report outlining ten areas requiring attention.⁷ Top of the list were ground availability for training and concern over the falling

BLAIR PATERSON MAIN

Ever cheery, Blair Main quickly showed in the under-nineteens that he was a wonderful reader of the play with great skills who could play forward, back or on the ball. The game in which he kicked six goals against Therry was the first he had ever played with younger and quieter brother Fraser, who went on to play VAFA representative football as well as in the 1989 and 1990 premierships for the Bloods.

Blair’s appearances in the seniors were relatively restricted due to the strength and depth at the club in his prime years, but “Mainy” plugged away in the reserves, rarely missing a game on the way to his first hundred. As the years wore on and the beers beckoned, both Blair’s smile and his girth widened as he became a champion clubman and a key figure at the Saloon. He remained fond of a punt, a beer with former team mates, his cricket and his golf. In the corporate world he rose to senior executive ranks at BP before joining Fraser again in the family’s property and construction services company.

*177 games (5 1sts, 135 Reserves, 30 U19s, 7 3rds),
44 goals (3 1sts, 17 Reserves, 23 U19s, 1 3rds),
1988-99*

Jumper number 31

Best & Fairest Reserves 1991

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1992, 1993

Captain Reserves 1996

Vice-captain Reserves 1993-95

Deputy vice-captain Reserves 1992

Committee 2005-07

¹ Personal email communication, Peter Bowring, 17 May 2010

² Personal email communication, Jill Phillips, 25 October 2010

³ Letter from Jim Brown to Ken Phillips dated 8 December 1992 in OHAFC archives

⁴ Personal email communication, Jill Phillips, 25 October 2010

⁵ OHAFC Inc 1992 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the President, p3

⁶ Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

⁷ Dennis McGrory, submission to OHAFC Committee, 2 October 1992

number of players. Last but not least was “umpire relationships”, where McGrory urged the committee to rectify the ongoing abuse of umpires by club supporters. McGrory also warned against excessive focus on the seniors winning the premiership to the blatant exclusion of other teams, and sought to concentrate on process as much as outcome.

McGrory’s support included another of Phillips’ 1983 APS premiership players, Mick Carty, as coach of the reserves. When he played at Sandringham, the Old Haileyburians fantasised about having him play for them for years; perhaps this made them tend to overlook just how good younger brother Brett was (Brett also played in an APS premiership-winning team, under Peter Carlson in 1987). Chris “Lobba” Lane took over the juniors.

A tough, physical player in the mould of Andrew Walden, Mick Carty was one of eleven players who made their senior debut in 1993. Eight would not return the following year. By 1995 Carty was the sole survivor, and no longer played in the firsts. Only Fraser Bayne played more than ten senior games. Chris Lovell played five senior games, represented the VAFA under-nineteens, and departed to Queensland with his family at the end of the year.

So recruiting was particularly unsuccessful, but not for lack of effort. In 1993 and 1994 Mick Carty in particular worked his backside off but, as often as not was thwarted by potential recruits deciding to play in the then-VFA. Amongst those he couldn’t quite drag over the line were Ian Kidgell, Ian Herman, Travis Hopgood, Andrew Hassett and Simon Hansen. Carty contacted many players de-listed from AFL ranks but again found they preferred the VFA, at least partly due to reservations about how they might fit in with an Old Boys club. Another the Bloods missed out on was Peter Carlson’s former House Captain at school, Jon Rowe, who departed to Perth after winning St Kilda’s Under-19 Best and Fairest.⁸

One side-effect of the AFL’s ground rationalisation in the 1990s was that VAFA clubs found themselves playing at famous old venues such as North Melbourne’s Arden Street (Old Trinity), the Junction Oval (Old Melburnians), and Glenferrie Oval, Hawthorn (St Kevins). In 1993, before Albert Park’s Lake Oval was converted to the Bob Jane soccer stadium, it was Old Xaverians’ base, and in the opening round the Bloods were the first visitors. Having played fifty-odd games for South Melbourne in the 1960s, President Ken Phillips must have felt at home.

In *The Amateur Footballer*, Adam Kenyon saw Old Haileyburians would greatly miss Simon Meehan, but he would be covered by “a fit Chris McKenzie”.⁹ Unfortunately he was exceedingly accurate on the first statement but just as far out on the second, and the new skipper was unable to take the field until round 10 due to a badly broken scaphoid bone. Kenyon also believed the Bloods would be among the winners on a regular basis in 1993, having learnt how to play as a team.

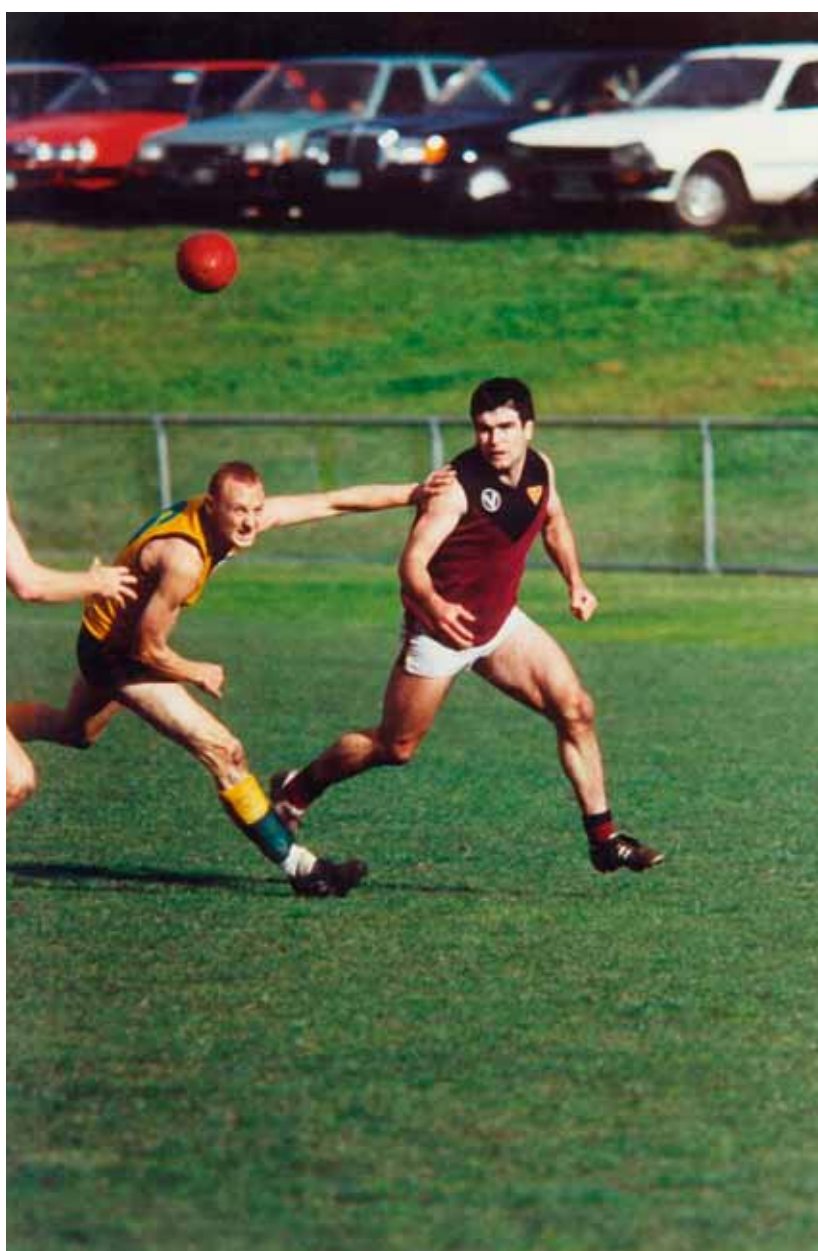
Xavs won a “high-standard game by 27 points ... set up by a devastating seven-goal first quarter, the first five of which were slammed on before Old Haileyburians had scored”.¹⁰ They maintained this lead at every change and the final siren, “although the Bloods made a charge in the third quarter to draw within four points”. The Bloods were well served by

⁸ Personal telephone communication, Peter Carlson, 25 October 2010

⁹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 1) p4

Jeremy Rae and Brett Canobie on the wings and half-back line, DeMattia's five goals and Brett Carty's efforts at full-back. McGrory was not happy, saying "It was a good-quality game and probably highlights how even the competition will be this season. In some way we may benefit from the loss more than a win".¹⁰

Despite warning the Bloods they couldn't "play one quarter of football and expect to win",¹¹ Kenyon also acknowledged they would be a far better team when the Phillips brothers, McKenzie, Glenn Tanner and Billy Baxter returned. He also pulled out what became a favourite description of the team for his preview of the next match against St Bernards - that old "unpredictable" tag.



Chris McKenzie has just dished off yet another handball to a team mate on the Elsternwick Park wing against Old Trinity in 1990.

CHRISTOPHER GERRARD MCKENZIE

After stints at Footscray and St Kevins Old Boys, Chris McKenzie wanted to play at the highest level of amateur football. Having played all his junior football with Andrew Walden since the age of seven made his decision to join an Old Haileyburians team clearly on the rise an easy one. A lovely man devoid of enemies, the swarthy McKenzie slipped straight into the Bloods' culture of play hard and party even harder. He quickly earned the nickname of Spider for climbing to the ceiling of Chapel Street's New Orleans Hotel.

McKenzie was a natural choice as captain at the end of the Meehan-Seccull era, having established himself as the engine room of the team. Loved by his team mates, he was tough and led by example. Like a number of team mates but easily the best of them, what "Macca" lacked in pace he made up for with a smart football brain and the ability to know where the ball was going. Unfortunately later in his career his calves and Achilles troubled him and reduced his durability.

Another keen punter and golfer, McKenzie remained fit after his playing days and ran a successful real estate agency in Oakleigh. The Bloods would be very happy if his two boys have half the talent of their old man.

107 games (all 1sts), 52 goals (all 1sts), 1989-97

Member 1989, 1990 & 1995 (Captain)
1sts Premiership teams & OHAFC
Team of the Century

Jumper number 4

Best & Fairest 1sts 1989

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1990

Captain 1sts 1993-96

VAFA Representative 1989 (CDEF), 1991 (senior)

¹⁰ Pat Maher, *The Sunday Age*, 4 April 1993

¹¹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 2) p4

Baxter and Wayne Phillips returned, along with Mark Seccull, although Phillips lasted only five minutes in his sole game for the year before ruining his shoulder. Peter Thiessen's brother James played the first of his two games for the club but despite kicking a brace of goals was not named in the best. His selection for Richmond later in 1993 meant the OHAFC received a very welcome \$3,150 through the AFL player payment scheme.¹² Five years on James played a notable role in Adelaide's second AFL premiership.

The Thiessen boys had handy football bloodlines; their father Tony played a handful of VFL games with Melbourne, Carlton and North Melbourne. They were hardly needed by the Bloods against an "unfit"¹³ St Bernards as they romped to a 72-point victory which Kenyon reported had them "back in touch", warning "watch out Brighton!"¹⁴ Ten players shared the 21 goals with no one kicking more than three.

Although the Haileyburians' talent was clear, three crucial losses in the first nine games ultimately cost them a finals berth; to relegation-bound Old Brighton and Old Trinity, and by less than a kick to Old Scotch at Elsternwick Park. Brighton's Beach Oval maintained its reputation as an unhappy hunting ground, after which a frustrated Adam Kenyon labelled the Bloods as "totally unpredictable"¹⁵ as they allowed Brighton to kick four goals against the breeze in the third quarter. McGrory noted he must "find a tougher team. Too soft mentally and physically".¹⁶

At McKinnon Collegians kicked eight goals before the Bloods scored, and although Chris Kraus showed great form they were "desperately missing"¹⁷ the Phillips brothers and Chris McKenzie, while the suspension of DeMattia for charging left them without a spearhead. The Old Scotch reversal by a mere three points in Darren Seccull's hundredth game in perfect conditions that "resembled a final"¹⁸ meant, just like 1992, the Bloods had won only one of their first six games. Although they "looked to have the game in control when they led by 17 points halfway through the last quarter ... Scotch refused to give in. Both teams had their chance to secure four points and a draw would have been a fitting result".

Garry Phillips finally returned in round 7 at Elsternwick Park and, with his five goals and Glenn Tanner's dominance in the centre, so did the Bloods' mojo. "Unpredictable ... (they) stormed home in the second half to defeat Ormond by 22 points - surprise, surprise!"¹⁹ More system was evident to McGrory, who remained concerned that the Bloods were not picking up loose players.²⁰ This was the first match played for the perpetual Connell Shield for OHAFC-Ormond matches, the brainchild of John Connell, who saw the fixture as a "local derby" and thought that both clubs "would be in A Grade for ever".²¹

Despite the Ormond win, Kenyon wasn't jumping back on the bandwagon, but promised to buy a ticket if they defeated De La Salle the following week. And of course they did, storming away in the second half again, which must also have been much to Dennis McGrory's delight. Not surprisingly he found his old club "very predictable" and felt his "tags that cut out the DLS engine room had a big influence on the result".²² He also believed his players were finally coming together as a unit.

¹² OHAFC Inc 1993 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the Treasurer, p8

¹³ Dennis McGrory, match review notes, April 1993

¹⁴ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 3) p4

¹⁵ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 4) p4

¹⁶ Dennis McGrory, match review notes, April 1993

¹⁷ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 5) p4

¹⁸ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 7) p4

¹⁹ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 8) p4

²⁰ Dennis McGrory, match review notes, May 1993

²¹ Personal telephone communication, John Connell, 17 May 2010

²² Dennis McGrory, match review notes, May 1993

Surely Adam Kenyon knew better than to select Old Haileyburians against bottom team Old Trinity. Or against them when they took on the joint ladder leader the following week. After they naturally lost the former and then handed out a flogging, no wonder he asked, "Haileybury, oh Haileybury - why or how do you do it? 129 point victory over the Old Xaverians - you've got to be joking! ... (Old Haileyburians) may have left their run too late, but if they can repeat this performance nobody will beat them in 1993."²³ And Chris McKenzie was finally back in the team, which against Xavs was:



Lunch with Collo. OHAFC President Ken Phillips (left) with a protagonist from his playing days in Ian Collins, who by the time of this photo at a club luncheon in 1993 had risen to Operations Manager for the AFL.

KENNETH FRANCIS PHILLIPS

By the time he took over as President, Ken Phillips was well known to many Old Boys, having taught them geography or accounting at Haileybury. Or, as he much preferred, having coached them in the First Eighteen football team before he left for the corporate world. Most would have been too young, however, to remember his 60-game VFL career dashing down the wing for South Melbourne between 1963 and 1969.

A trademark of Ken's stint of coaching at the school was his ability to create a "football club" atmosphere around the team. He gathered a close, highly opinionated and expert band of assistants such as Nick Tonkin, John Masters, Peter Carlson and Tim Parkes to develop his young players. Many robust post-match discussions would be held at the Phillips family home in Waverley, to say nothing of rowdy singing from the school hymn book later in the evening. Ken's vibrant wife Jill, no mean sportswoman herself (she played cricket for Australia), played a major role in helping him also muster a close-knit group of parents to support their boys, a tradition they carried over with significant success when Garry and Wayne joined the Old Boys. Even daughter Kylie was in on the party.

All the Phillips were undemonstrative, but like younger son Wayne, Ken tended to have strong opinions and most things tended to be black and white. Those views usually had a conservative slant too - not such a bad thing when looking after young men was concerned. It was sometimes hard to tell, but he was immensely proud of his sons on the football field as well as those he had taught. A quiet "well done" or nod of approval from Ken meant a lot.

As President, Ken Phillips formed an important bridge between "Dad's Army" and the rest of the club, and ensured their efforts were generally channelled in the right direction. Although his sudden passing prevented him from seeing his sons play in a premiership team together, Ken is remembered every year in the annual Ken Phillips Day when the Old Boys and school teams take each other on in the best of spirit.

President 1993-95

Committee 1987-91, 1993-95

²³ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer 1993* (Vol 93, No 11) p4

Backs: Brett Carty, Andrew Baxter, Jeremy Rae
Half-backs: Dave Connell, Darren Seccull, Greg Anderson
Centres: Peter Thiessen, Chris McKenzie (captain), Matthew Armstrong
Half-forwards: Garry Phillips, Mark Seccull, Chris Kraus
Forwards: David Lappage, Matt DeMattia, Wes Byrns
Followers: Mark Orton, Jonathan Rowe
Rover: Glenn Borg
Interchange: Fraser Bayne, Tim Chegwin, Andrew Walden

McGrory noted the “frenzied atmosphere in the rooms carried out onto the ground ... resulting in a furious start”.²⁴ Four goals each to small forwards Byrns (all in the first quarter) and Kraus helped the Bloods to 22 goals while DeMattia and Lappage also contributed three. Despite the cost of the massive victory in Darren Seccull’s and Dave Connell’s two-match suspensions for striking, the next week poor Adam Kenyon was entitled to think, “If they were racehorses, they would be swabbed. How can a side go from winning by 129 points over the Old Xavs to losing to the bottom side (St Bernards) by 55 points in the space of eight days?”.²⁵ At least he was able to report his “yo-yo team”, led again by the brilliant Tanner in a second Best and Fairest season, solid unit Josh Hayter and handy contributor Tim Chegwin, had performed somewhere near expectations in defeating Old Brighton at home in a “fairly unimpressive”²⁶ match.

This background of highly erratic performances was compounded by a 51-point loss to Collegians that Kenyon felt meant the Bloods could “start making some plans for 1994”; he predicted they would be “angry”²⁷ for their match against North Old Boys the following week. It was little wonder things came to a head when they trailed by 67 points just before half time, resulting in the infamous “meeting behind the scoreboard” at McKinnon.

Chairman of Selectors Peter Carlson was well aware of the misgivings Ken Phillips and other members of “Dad’s Army” such as Dennis Carty and Rod Tanner held about coach Dennis McGrory. He didn’t anticipate, however, being bailed up behind the McKinnon scoreboard and asked whether he was prepared to coach the team should they sack McGrory after the game, as they intended to do.²⁸ To his credit Carlson resisted these overtures and convinced the aggrieved fathers to let McGrory see the season out.

Dennis McGrory was one “outsider” who was never completely embraced by the Old Haileyburians. It may not have helped him that he’d brought a number of ex-De La Salle recruits such as DeMattia, Borg and the Hayter brothers, fine players as they were and ungrateful as this may have seemed on the Haileyburians part. Carlson felt there were occasions where McGrory should have been more demanding of his players; McGrory tended to refrain from serious dressing-downs.²⁹

During the game McGrory and the players were blissfully unaware of the meeting. Their attention was clearly on reeling in North’s lead which, ironically with McGrory’s critical move of Peter Thiessen to full-forward, they did to such effect they ultimately stole the game by a point. Thiessen’s freakish seven and Mark Seccull’s five goals, along with the efforts of Baxter, Armstrong, Borg and Chegwin were crucial in the thrilling victory.

²⁴ Dennis McGrory, match review notes, June 1993

²⁵ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 12) p4

²⁶ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 13) p4

²⁷ Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 14) p4

²⁸ Interview with Peter Carlson & Chris McKenzie, 28 March 2010

²⁹ Interview with Peter Carlson & Chris McKenzie, 28 March 2010

Despite the murmurs, at least one player showed significant support for his embattled coach. In a passionate letter to Dennis McGrory,³⁰ young veteran Matthew Armstrong praised his moves in the North Old Boys game, reassured him of his total support and urged him to ignore the knockers. Disturbingly, Armstrong also noted that the club was not totally united, with abusive supporters a common trait when the chips were down. Andrew Baxter was another who believed the players were united behind McGrory, and appreciated his efforts in preparing for each game using resources such as video reviews.³¹

Who knows whether the subsequent 57-point demolition of Ormond, clinging to fourth place, helped or hindered McGrory's long-term prospects of survival as it only served to underline how wasteful the Bloods had been. Chris Kraus dominated his half-forward flank and "the Bloods piled on eight goals to one in the final term to prove their point ... but had (they) kicked straight, the game would have been over at half time".³²

Somewhat inevitably the *Herald-Sun* reported that the "unpredictable" Old Haileyburians had "raced into finals contention", having "turned the final term into a procession with a vintage display of running football". A particular highlight was Garry Phillips' goal just before the last change, when he "unleashed one of the best torpedoes seen in peace time to clear the pack".³³

Kraus' nine goals were a record for an Old Haileyburian in A Grade (equalled by the mercurial Andrew Walden the following year and Brett O'Farrell in 2006). Wins like this only reinforced Ken Phillips' view that "with the talent at the club, it was a disappointment not to be part of the finals".³⁴

Daniel Hoare and David Kretschmer provided a lighter note when the club arranged to take a photograph of the sets of brothers playing at the club, such as the Baxters, Hayters, Merretts, Phillips, Secculls, Thiessens and Wiggs. Much to Ken Phillips' dismay, the great mates joined in, claiming "brother" status too!

The Bloods finished their wasted season with another loss at De La Salle's Waverley Road ground before drubbing Old Scotch and Old Trinity by 81 and 103 points respectively on Keysborough's Main Oval. Skipper McKenzie accumulated 46 possessions in the final game.³⁵ With nine victories (none away) the Haileyburians finished in fifth place, but two wins behind fourth. They had dropped games to the bottom four teams but also beat the top three.

Adam Kenyon summed up, "Old Haileyburians remain the enigma of A Section. A massive victory over Old Trinity capped off an impressive run home. Glenn Tanner (eight goals) had a field day as did Peter Thiessen, Chris McKenzie and Dave Connell - all the players they need firing next year! The Bloods lost track in the first ten weeks of the season and perhaps they need the services of someone to get inside their heads. Sure, the ability is there, but the application is the worst in the competition - they are capable of so much more, and have been so for two years - maybe next year?"³⁶ One who certainly applied himself was perennial umpires' favourite Matthew Armstrong, who finished third in the competition Best and Fairest.

DENNIS R McGRORY

Dennis McGrory arrived at Old Haileyburians in 1992 to coach the reserves, and succeeded Simon Meehan as senior coach the following year. He had an outstanding junior coaching record, including eight premierships, one with De La Salle's under-nineteen team, and mentored a number of future AFL players. From those days he knew a core of the Bloods' top players from the Waverley area such as McKenzie, Walden, Tanner and Byrns. He brought with him many recruits, especially from De La.

Keen on the punt like many of his players, McGrory's season as senior coach certainly had its moments. The faith the players had in him was not shared by all their fathers or the committee, who had high expectations of the team. Despite his meticulous preparations, injuries and a lack of depth resulted in some of the Bloods' more spectacular Jekyll and Hyde performances, and winning six of the last nine games was not enough for McGrory to retain his appointment.

Coach 1sts 1993

Coach Reserves 1992

³⁰ Letter from Matthew Armstrong to Dennis McGrory, 19 July 1993

³¹ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

³² Adam Kenyon, *The Amateur Footballer* 1993 (Vol 93, No 16) p4

³³ Michael Ashford, *The Herald-Sun*, 1 August 1993

³⁵ OHAFC Inc 1993 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the President

³⁶ Dennis McGrory, match review notes, June 1993

The scope of football talent emerging from Haileybury in the early 1990s was exemplified by three sets of brothers; Laurie and John Bingham, Garry and Wayne Phillips, and James and Peter Thiessen. Although only the first named of each pair played at senior AFL level, at Old Haileyburians there was many a discussion about whether the more talented but possibly less focussed of each pairing was playing for the Bloods.³⁷ *The Haileyburian* could look forward to James Thiessen (Richmond) and Paul Hopgood (Melbourne) playing directly against each other in the AFL.³⁸

What Adam Kenyon didn't mention was Old Haileyburians' shocking lack of depth. In 1992 the reserves and under-nineteens both finished bottom of their respective ladders, winning only three and two games respectively. The reserves duplicated this dreadful performance exactly in 1993 and the juniors improved only slightly to win six games and finish seventh, still in the premier section. Not surprisingly at season's end Ken Phillips promised to make a concerted effort to contact all senior squad players from the College from the previous six or seven years as well as recruit more of the 1993 APS team and further welcome "newcomers" (presumably this meant players from outside the ranks of the Old Boys).³⁹

The Bloods' second half of the season again showed they could match it with any team in the competition. Given their lack of depth, being at their best critically meant being without significant injuries.

After the season Dennis McGrory presented a detailed review to the committee. He outlined the substantial loss of many of the club's best players to injury and unavailability (especially in the first half of the season), the number of players who had retired or left the club, and the "deficiency in recruiting for their replacements".⁴⁰ So far as the Bloods' seemingly erratic performances were concerned, McGrory also noted that A Grade was a relatively "fragile" competition and that between them the four finalists managed to lose to every team below them. Despite his report, a disappointed but probably unsurprised Dennis McGrory was not retained as coach by the committee.

One area where the club made significant advances was its financial position. Treasurer Phil "Stretch" Derham reported a profit of nearly \$3,000; a turnaround of about \$10,000 over the previous year.⁴¹ In his President's Report, Ken Phillips echoed his predecessor Peter Bowring when he paid special tribute to mothers Felicity Wigg, Dawn Carty and Sue Connell, who ran the canteen and club lunches. Their speakers included Ian Collins, Stephen Phillips, Minister for Sport Tom Reynolds and Ian Meckiff. And the Old Haileyburians' Association agreed to forgo loans totalling \$4,500.

³⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

³⁸ *The Haileyburian*, 1993

³⁹ OHAFC Inc 1993 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the President

⁴⁰ Dennis McGrory, Report to OHAFC Committee, 8 September 1993

⁴¹ OHAFC Inc 1993 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

1994 - Carlson Cursed

Although many of the fathers were happy to see Dennis McGrory depart, their views were not necessarily shared by all their sons, so his sacking was not universally popular. Indeed stalwarts such as Chris McKenzie and Matthew Armstrong felt that significant momentum was lost.⁴²

Some players, however, looked forward to playing under McGrory's replacement Peter Carlson, especially those who had played in his 1987 APS premiership team. A relative of Collingwood and Fitzroy player Leigh Carlson, who also coached Collegians to multiple A Grade flags in the early 1990s, Carlson was a competitive and successful man. At the start of the season when players' skinfolds were measured, the new coach had the best results. As well as coaching the Bloods, he was engaged in his PhD studies.

Carlson held high expectations for his team, including finals appearances. He also felt the players were the fittest they had ever been after Jamie Barclay's rigorous pre-season training regime, including the training camp held at Ken Phillips' Main Ridge property.

Lack of depth and numbers made the Haileyburians particularly vulnerable to injuries; this had seriously threatened to derail the 1992 and 1993 campaigns under Simon Meehan and Dennis McGrory before they rallied in the second half of the season. David Connell for one felt that the club was struggling and perhaps due for a fall, despite the expectations of success in A Grade given the talent of their top bracket of players.⁴⁵

In 1994 Carlson was beset by these same difficulties to an even greater degree. Injuries saw over 40 players playing in the seniors, although this was also the case in the premiership years of 1989, 1990 and 2006. Carlson's assistant, reserves coach Mick Carty, regularly spent his winter Fridays on the phone struggling to put a team on the park and Carlson sometimes found himself goal umpiring the seconds' match, hardly ideal preparation for coaching the seniors.⁴⁶ Even so, relegation was a result the club thought "would never happen";⁴⁷ they felt safe before sizable losses in the final two rounds saw them back in B Grade by 2%.

To complement (or possibly counter-balance) the numbers of "Dad's Army", the committee received an injection of youth in the form of mid-1980s leavers Peter Flockart, Cam Gregson, Chris Lane and new Treasurer Alistair Mytton. After many years out of Melbourne, John Warnock joined as Vice-President and (apart from Richard Kingston) was the only committee member whose involvement with the club stretched further back than 1985. Past players of Warnock's generation were conspicuous by their absence.

Rover Glenn Borg departed to Mazenod and other McGrory recruits DeMattia, Makinson and the Hayter brothers (save for three reserves games) also left the club. But Don Blackwood's season preview in *The Amateur Footballer* was generally optimistic. "Failed to live up to their potential (in 1993) ... It will be business as usual ... but they have to take giant steps forward to turn it around. Could slip under your guard".⁴⁸ But none of the VAFA personalities surveyed by Blackwood tipped the Bloods to make the finals.

PETER JAMES CARLSON

A handy player himself, Peter Carlson played in the VFA for Frankston then Waverley. He taught at Haileybury and coached the First Eighteen from 1986 to 1989, including the 1987 premiership. His students branded him "Fab", a reflection of his healthy rapport with them, especially those who played in his football team. He retired from teaching in 1990 to enter the business world, after which he was more often seen around the OHAFC. Close to President Ken Phillips, Carlson was appointed coach after a year as Chairman of Selectors, and threw himself into the role both on and off the field. The disappointment of relegation and increasing work commitments restricted Carlson's term as coach to a single year.

Coach 1sts 1994

⁴² Personal telephone communications, Chris McKenzie & Matthew Armstrong, 26 May 2010

⁴³ Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

⁴⁴ Personal telephone communication, Peter Carlson, 25 October 2010

⁴⁵ Interview with David Connell, 28 March 2010

⁴⁶ Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

⁴⁷ OHAFC Inc 1994 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 15 November 1994), Report of the President

⁴⁸ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1994 (Vol 94, No 1) p2

Blackwood's optimism appeared justified when the Haileyburians ran away to "a flying start"⁴⁹ with a 26-point win over 1993 runner-up De La Salle at Elsternwick Park in the season opener. In a spirited encounter, Darren Seccull was reported, sent off and subsequently suspended for two matches, but Mark Orton, Dave Connell and Wes Byrns kept the Bloods in the game and ahead on the scoreboard at every change. Carlson was naturally happy with the performance and noted "we finished on well and it was a good, disciplined effort to withstand De La Salle's late challenge".⁵⁰

But the win came at a significant cost. Minutes after kicking the first goal, 1993 Best and Fairest winner Glenn Tanner dislocated his shoulder, which ended his season. Similarly Wayne Phillips played only one game for the year. And Peter Thiessen appeared only once in the Bloods' best players before Round 16; Carlson felt the star wingman had difficulty coping with his de-listing by St Kilda.⁵¹ Andrew Walden opened his season by kicking seven goals, but in the reserves.

The first of a number of narrow losses followed, against Ormond's young team, who "stole a victory over the Bloods and Peter Carlson must be kicking himself as they were 3-4 goals up for a greater part of the last two quarters. Old Haileyburians tried to save the game and paid the



In 1994 the First Eighteen was unlucky to be relegated from A Grade.

Back row: Chris Kraus, Andrew Baxter, Eddie Bingham, Mark Seccull, Mark Orton, Rohan Phillips, Michael Constable, Greg Anderson and Richard George.

Centre row: President Ken Phillips, Fraser Bayne, Brett Canobie, Brett Carty, Jeremy Rae, Darren Cotton, Robert Plecher, Peter Thiessen, Grant Rowlands and Wes Byrns.

Front row: Garry Phillips, David Connell, coach Peter Carlson, captain Chris McKenzie and Matthew Armstrong.

⁴⁹Don Blackwood, *The Sunday Age*, 10 April 1994

⁵⁰Don Blackwood, *The Sunday Age*, 10 April 1994

⁵¹Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

price, and saw Ormond storm over the top of them to snatch the four points in the last 15 seconds".⁵² They turned out to be the most vital 15 seconds of the season.

Reviewing the undermanned Bloods' loss to Old Xaverians with seven key players out, Don Blackwood saw "worrying times for Old Haileyburians".⁵³ Danny Seow returned for his first match since 1991 and booted four goals, and although the Bloods hoped to have him on a regular basis, the comeback was short-lived and his next game was his last for the club. Blackwood was also encouraged by the form of Andrew Walden and the debut of school star Brendan Mitchell.

Wes Byrns was largely responsible for the Bloods' leap out of the blocks and a seven-goal first quarter against eventual premiers Old Melburnians at the Junction Oval. After leading for most of the day, however, they were slowly pegged back as OM's sprayed the goals for 2.10 in the final term. But for a goal after the siren, the Bloods would have lost by a solitary point. The brutal reality after four rounds was that they "could be second instead of second last".⁵⁴



Garry Phillips takes a soaring mark against OM's in front of the McKinnon Reserve pavilion in 1994 watched by defender Greg Anderson (9), ever in long sleeves.

⁵² Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1994* (Vol 94, No 3) p2

⁵³ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1994* (Vol 94, No 4) p2

⁵⁴ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1994* (Vol 94, No 5) p2

The pressure eased significantly with successive wins by over 70 points against Therry and North Old Boys, both of whom were also struggling in the ladder's lower reaches. Against Therry they didn't have it all their own way, but broke clear with nine goals to three in the second half, four to Garry Phillips, to ensure Dave Connell's and Brett Carty's hundredth games were happy ones.

In an eleven-goal second quarter against North Old Boys, "the advent of Andrew Walden (nine goals) onto the field with plenty of encouragement from his personal cheer squad certainly changed the face of the game. Wes Byrns and David Connell were busy players ... while Matthew Armstrong showed plenty of poise".⁵⁵ This win marked the high point of the Bloods' season; they sat fifth on the ladder only a game outside the four.

The next two games, two-goal losses to St Bernards and Old Scotch were the beginning of the end. After eight rounds, four losses by fourteen points or less meant Old Haileyburians' record read 3-5 when it maybe should have been 7-1. But they had entered an eight-game losing streak that firmly changed their focus from making finals to avoiding relegation.

Laurie Bingham's re-appearance raised hopes for the return match against De La Salle, but it "must have been a black day as they could name only three (best) players for the paper".⁵⁶ Bingham's comeback lasted just three senior games.

An errant De La elbow in the reserves game saw Tim Chegwin carted off to the Alfred Hospital for three metal plates to repair a depressed fracture of the frontal bone. "I was down on my haunches and had my hands over my head when the trainer got to me and asked to have a look. When I took my hands away he said "Oh f..k me". That did not fill me with a lot of confidence".⁵⁷

As the losses mounted, so did the players' frustrations, as evidenced by the suspensions of Andrew Walden (six matches) and Mick Carty (five) after the Ormond game. Walden stood the mark after Carty had been reported for kneeing an Ormond player, who then unsuccessfully tried to baulk around Walden; a coat-hanger ensued and Walden found himself in trouble again.⁵⁸

The only narrow defeat in this depressing run was when a "one quarter blitz by Old Xavs was enough to steer it to victory against a determined Old Haileyburians, who doggedly fought out the match to go down by only eight points".⁵⁹

Carlson was particularly aggrieved by the loss to St Bernards at McKinnon, where they surrendered a five-goal at the last change as the visitors stormed home with twelve last-quarter goals. This included one that bounced freakishly over Garry Phillips in the goal square, hardly justice for Phillips kicking six goals before half time. Carlson's mood was not improved by the comments of combative opposition coach Shane Zantuck, who was so unimpressed by the Bloods' lack of effort that for the second time that season he told Carlson his players had "shat in his face".⁶⁰

One activity that might have lightened Carlson's outlook was the players' penchant for "nude driving". This involved driving without clothes,

⁵⁵ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1994* (Vol 94, No 7) p2

⁵⁶ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1994* (Vol 94, No 11) p2

⁵⁷ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 12 November 2010

⁵⁸ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 29 June 2010

⁵⁹ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1994* (Vol 94, No 13) p2

⁶⁰ Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

stopping, sprinting around the car and back into the driver's seat and attracted the usual suspects such as Walden, Carty, McKenzie and Kirkwood-Scott. His efforts to discourage players from drinking the night before the game were generally accepted, save for Dave Connell prior to a notable best-on-ground performance against Collegians. "He knew that I knew" (that Connell had been out on the town).⁶¹

The return matches against North Old Boys and Therry could not come quickly enough. Sure enough, "Carlson must have slept well"⁶² after Greg Anderson's fine defensive work and Chris Kraus' four goals saw them to a comfortable win over North. A 6.4 third quarter out at Glenroy sealed another win and in Don Blackwood's mind "now the relegation monkey is off their back they can rest easy for next year. David Connell was best on the ground and big Ed Bingham bagged three in a strong performance. Chris McKenzie is back to his best with the side nearly at full strength".⁶³

Two games and percentage clear of ninth-placed De La Salle with two games remaining, Blackwood saw "the home side have nothing to play for as relegation is not on the agenda"⁶⁴ when he previewed Old Scotch's visit to McKinnon. But somehow De La inflicted a crushing defeat on top side Collegians while the Bloods "must have thought they were safe from relegation and possibly played like it"⁶⁵ to lose by 71 points.

While it was a miserable day for the seniors, it was even worse for the under-nineteens, who conceded the highest score ever by any Old Haileyburians team, a massive 41.31 (277) to Old Xaverians. They won only one match for the season, drew another, and were so demoralised by this thrashing they forfeited their final game the following week. There would not be an under-nineteen team in 1995.



Eddie Bingham is surrounded by Old Melburnians opponents in this 1994 match, watched by Garry Phillips and Dave Connell (2).

EDWARD BINGHAM

Some might label Eddie Bingham as the Trevor Chappell of the red-headed Bingham family but this would hardly be fair. While older brothers John and Laurie were unquestionably of greater physical and playing stature, Eddie was still a fine player in his own right, more than handy around goals, and with enough size and strength to take a decent grab in attack. And, as he showed with an important major in the 1995 Grand Final and his late goal to seal the game at St Bernards in 1990, Eddie could handle pressure at the death.

103 games (42 1sts, 36 Reserves, 24 U19s, 1 3rds), 121 goals (58 1sts, 49 Reserves, 14 U19s), 1989-95

Member 1995 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 16

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1992 (23 goals)

⁶¹ Personal telephone communication, Peter Carlson, 25 October 2010

⁶² Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1994 (Vol 94, No 16) p2

⁶³ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1994 (Vol 94, No 17) p2

⁶⁴ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1994 (Vol 94, No 17) p2

⁶⁵ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1994 (Vol 94, No 18) p2

The reserves' season was similarly forgettable. They won only two games and over the season conceded the most points of any reserves team. If ever evidence was needed of the Old Haileyburians' lack of depth, the percentages of the reserves (29.1%) and under-nineteens (48.0%) showed just how uncompetitive these teams were. The club won only eight of a combined 54 matches, its lowest total ever when fielding three teams. No wonder the seniors struggled when injuries took hold. And it hardly made for a happy atmosphere. Carlson noted, "it was just a really hard, difficult year".⁶⁶

Injuries and the lack of pressure on senior places from the reserves also made it difficult for the coach to exert his will over the team. "Injuries to key players really killed us, and we didn't drop a player from the firsts all year for poor performance, simply because there was no one to replace them",⁶⁷ lamented Carlson.

At Elsternwick Park on the final Saturday of the home and away season, "the Bloods must have thought they were over the line at half time: a point up and the mobile phones screeching a favourable score line out at Therry with De La Salle only three goals up".⁶⁸ But with Collegians' pride at stake, they burst to life with a twelve goal third quarter and handed out a 63-point flogging, despite Laurie Bingham's five goals in his last senior game for the Old Haileyburians.

Peter Carlson felt no external pressure, but his bitter disappointment in the way the season ended made his decision to resign as coach relatively easy. The pain of relegation aside, he had likely had enough anyway and probably wouldn't have coached in 1995.⁶⁹ Despite this and the frustrations of being involved in a year that was such a struggle, he remembered his time with the Old Haileyburians fondly.

Few were surprised to see David Connell win the Best and Fairest ahead of Wes Byrns and even less so to see another high finish (third) by Matthew Armstrong in the A Grade competition count. But in August the club lost a link with its founding days with the passing of Tom Fisher.⁷⁰

A major challenge arose for the club late in the season with a review of its tenancy at the McKinnon Reserve by the Moorabbin Council, including a proposal to relocate to the nearby Bailey Reserve. Council was concerned at overuse of the grounds by the two senior clubs as well as the juniors and would have preferred to have only one senior club. As the perceived "out of towners", the Haileyburians faced a serious challenge to remain at McKinnon given the political difficulties of moving a local club instead.

President Ken Phillips involved not only his predecessors Don McQueen and Ken Allison in the preparation of a comprehensive submission to Council to support the club's case, but also the AFL's Ian Collins.

⁶⁶ Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

⁶⁷ Personal telephone communication, Peter Carlson, 25 October 2010

⁶⁸ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1994 (Vol 94, No 19) p2

⁶⁹ Interview with Peter Carlson, 28 March 2010

⁷⁰ *The Haileyburian*, September 1994, p22

The club's submission⁷¹ focused on its involvement with the City of Moorabbin, the standard of football it offered to local ratepayers as the only amateur club (and obviously the only A Grade club) in the municipality, and the contributions it had made to improvements at the McKinnon Reserve. The submission took great care in explaining how the club was open to all residents and not just Old Boys. Following the review the Old Haileyburians happily found themselves still at McKinnon.

In his President's Report,⁷² Ken Phillips again thanked the "Mums" led by Felicity Wigg, Dawn Carty and Sue Connell. He also announced the club's intention to again field a third eighteen in 1995 to help address its chronic lack of depth. Unfortunately this initiative failed which, with the folding of the under-nineteens, left the club fielding only firsts and reserves. To further help a quick return to A Grade, Phillips had convinced the Old Haileyburians' Association to develop a roster system for Old Boys to be involved three or four times a year, and also to fund a General Manager for the club.



Defender Rob Plecher gets his kick away with a posse of team mates in support including Andrew Baxter (1), Matthew Armstrong (19), Mark Seccull, Rohan Phillips (27) and Dave Connell.

⁷¹ OHAFC submission to the City of Moorabbin, 12 August 1994

⁷² OHAFC Inc 1994 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 15 November 1994), Report of the President

Relegation and discontent are natural bedfellows. Following the last round loss that resulted in relegation, a significant group of past players was so disgusted that few wished to stay behind at Elsternwick Park for after-match drinks. Instead they adjourned to the club's old Brighton stamping ground at Khyat's Hotel, where robust discussions ensued on how the club operated, which in part reflected on the role and performance of "Dad's Army".

This was followed by a further meeting of over forty past players (but no dads) at Castlefield, where further critical views were put on the club's administration and problems. They resolved to actively take a greater role and say in the running of the club. Some initially tried to persuade Warnock to make a "takeover" bid for President, but he resisted these moves; he preferred the past players to add to the committee's resources rather than replace them.⁷³

Following the Castlefield meeting, Warnock and Mason met with President Ken Phillips to outline the past players' concerns and proposals for improving the running of the club. This was split into distinct sections, reflected in the appointment of Warnock as Vice-President (Football) and John Connell as Vice-President (Administration). Warnock effectively marshalled the past players to involve themselves in the former and Connell the dads to handle the latter. After a little uneasiness, at least at first, this proved workable.⁷⁴ Mason and Dicky Metherall joined Warnock on the committee.

"Dad's Army" had their faults. They could be irascible and strongly opinionated, even in areas where their expertise was arguable. Nor were they always diplomatic, and if not for Ken Phillips' ability to act as a bridge and smooth things over the club was vulnerable to a split. They sometimes had different ways of doing things. But at least they were always there. They had come to be running the club, not because they had sought to take it over, but in large part because they had filled a vacuum.⁷⁵ Phillips' predecessor and successor as President both clearly acknowledged that it was the dads (and mums) that had held the club together.^{76,77} And on balance the club was indisputably a better place for their involvement.

⁷³ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

⁷⁴ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

⁷⁵ Personal telephone communication, John Connell, 17 May 2010

⁷⁶ Personal email communication, Peter Bowring, 17 May 2010

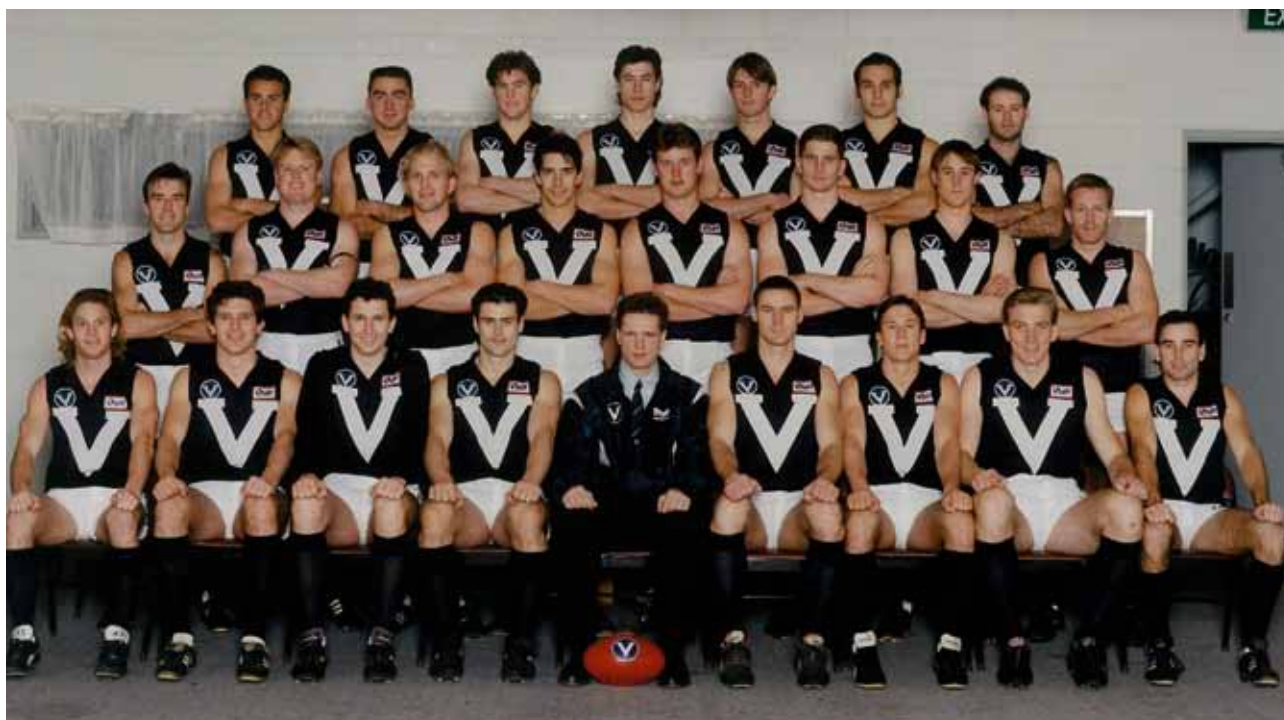
⁷⁷ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

1995 - Tragedy and The Rebound

The Old Haileyburians received a serious injection of leadership and high-level experience for the 1995 season. New coach Neville Taylor had played nearly 100 VFL games for Fitzroy. After a 34-game career with Hawthorn and St Kilda stretching back to 1988, the athletic Sean Ralphsmith finally joined the ranks. So did rover/forward Nik Morey, after time on Melbourne's list and two VFA premierships. Team mates soon learnt that if the ball was in Morey's hands within 40 metres of goal, especially for a set shot, it was invariably "back to the centre"! No wonder he was known as "The Machine".⁷⁸

Taylor had been working for Brisbane Bears coach Robert Walls, but came to the Bloods' notice through another Royboy and former OHAFC coach Max Lyon. Having previously coached University Blacks, Taylor already understood the amateur ethos, although that experience taught him that university teams were another challenge altogether!⁷⁹ Gary March returned to coach the reserves and performed a valuable role as Taylor's assistant. The fortuitously-timed returns of Ralphsmith and Morey after careers at elite levels were sealed by friendships that had been maintained with their former classmates, in Ralphsmith's case a decade after leaving school.

Ralphsmith had always intended to return to the Old Haileyburians, for what turned out to be his last year as a player. He had never forgotten the letter Ken Allison wrote him when he left school, saying how much the club would love to have him play, and it was Allison who convinced Ralphsmith to join the club when his AFL career finished.⁸⁰



In 1995 a remarkable six Old Haileyburians were selected in the VFA representative squad. They were Nik Morey (back row, far left), Garry Phillips (back row, third from right), Wes Byrns (back row, far right), David Connell (centre row, third from left), captain Sean Ralphsmith (front row, fourth from right) and Matthew Armstrong (front row, far right).

⁷⁸ *The Amateur Footballer* 1995 (Vol 95, No 23) p20

⁷⁹ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

⁸⁰ Personal email communication, Sean Ralphsmith, 13 July 2010

Other than the inclusions of Mason and Metherall, the committee looked different without “Dad’s Army” veterans Rod Tanner, Wayne Walden and Geoff Wigg, younger guns Billy Baxter, Richard Kingston and (after one-year terms) Peter Flockart, Cam Gregson, Chris Lane and Ross Lavender.

This smaller but more experienced group was complemented by new General Manager Frank Interrigi. An Old Boy, Interrigi had played soccer at school and was completing his studies in sports administration. The OHA paid Interrigi’s salary on behalf of the football club. In hindsight John Warnock felt that although Interrigi was young and relatively inexperienced, he performed the role conscientiously and diligently.⁸¹

Neville Taylor was struck by how relegation from A Grade stuck in the players’ collective craw and how clearly they believed they did not belong in B. They expected to win every time they played. David Lappage’s view fifteen years later was that “in 1995 we were never going to get beaten. We were the best side in the comp and we just knew that the opposition weren’t as good as us”.⁸²

Perhaps this attitude wasn’t so evident at the season’s first training session, however, when only five or six players fronted, including Ralphsmith who remembers it being hot and the McKinnon Reserve surface hard.⁸³ Given his previous experiences with Uni Blacks, Taylor claims to have been unfazed,⁸⁴ but Warnock remembered being terribly concerned the prized new coach might walk.⁸⁵ He found it particularly difficult to convince players to resume training, possibly a legacy of relegation. Darren Seccull led ring-arounds of players to lift the training numbers.



Coach Neville Taylor (right) raises the 1995 premiership cup with his captain Chris McKenzie, watched by VAFA General Manager Phil Stevens and President David Burnes.

NEVILLE CLIFFORD TAYLOR

In his first year in charge of the Bloods, Neville Taylor coached them to a premiership, his first and only as either player or coach. The cynics might have said that given he played at Fitzroy this was hardly a surprise, although in Taylor’s 92 games between 1974 and 1982 the Roys won exactly as many games as they lost. But Neville always was a very balanced man.

Thoroughly professional as coach and people manager, Taylor was big on the defensive side of the game. His key statistic was the “one-percenters”. The neatly-bearded Taylor left few stones unturned, introduced a forward scout and in team meetings would provide his players with a full rundown on each opponent.

Neville also put a lot back into the club. Getting involved and enjoying your team mates’ company were important parts of his formula for success. Wife Robyn and daughters Carly and Peta hardly missed a game or social function; Robyn loved a dance and usually had a full dance card at Saturday night functions.

Coach 1sts 1995 (Premiers), 1996

Coach VAFA Representative team 1997-98

⁸¹ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 6 November 2010

⁸² Personal email communication, David Lappage, 30 April 2010

⁸³ Personal email communication, Sean Ralphsmith, 13 July 2010

⁸⁴ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

⁸⁵ Interview with John Warnock, 28 March 2010

As usual, there were significant departures, including Glenn Tanner, Brett Carty and Greg Anderson (overseas), Peter Thiessen (to Sydney), Chris Kraus and Laurie Bingham (following knee reconstructions), plus a number of players disappointed with relegation to B Grade.⁸⁶

In an appointment that would eventually benefit the OHAFC significantly through the late 1990s and early 2000s, Dennis Smith took over as Executive Director of the Old Haileyburians Association at the start of 1995. At his first OHA Council meeting, Smith heard Andrew Langford-Jones' concern at the absence of an under-nineteen team.⁸⁷ The lack of juniors also limited training numbers despite, as reported by Ken Phillips, "an intensive effort to recruit players - a disappointment in a football school. We are confident there will be an influx from the school in 1996 to re-establish the under-nineteens".⁸⁸ Maybe this confidence stemmed from Langford-Jones' request to the OHA for a sub-committee to meet with Principal Michael Aikman, Allan Jeans, Andrew Lynch and Andrew Argent.

Despite these initial struggles, Taylor was comforted by the presence of core players such as Connell, McKenzie, Armstrong and Garry Phillips that a team could be built around. Ralphsmith was also of great assistance at training, and not only by the example he set. Taylor could see the star recruit had ambitions to coach and was clearly preparing himself for the role.⁸⁹ The respect was mutual as Taylor and Ralphsmith spoke a lot about the team and training plans; Ralphsmith felt Taylor was a great coach and spoke well to the players.⁹⁰

Taylor's strategies included dividing the year up into four blocks of six weeks, a practice that was echoed by one his players, David Lappage, when "Lappa" became senior coach in 2010. He also set the team a goal of achieving at least sixty "one-percenters" each game; invariably when they achieved this they also won the game. And whether by good luck or design, Taylor's team had a "captain on every line".⁹¹

Previewing the Old Haileyburians' prospects in *The Amateur Footballer*, David Holland saw that "relegation may be just the thing the club needs to regroup and regain that winning feeling again. New coach Neville Taylor has a big job ahead but I feel they will bounce back".⁹² In the season-opener against Old Mentonians, Nik Morey instantly showed what an addition he was with five goals in his senior debut (he played a single game in the under-nineteens in 1987). The rest of the small brigade were prominent, including Armstrong, Byrns and two regular reserves players in Adam Kirkwood-Scott and Ross Lavender. Like Morey, Lavender was making his senior debut, but in his seventh year and after 83 reserves games.

Another impressive victory followed against St Kilda South Caulfield, although not before the reserves suffered a thrashing to a St Kilda team coached by Tony Gilchrist. In the main game, the Bloods "piled on 9.5 in 11 minutes after the Saints had started well. After a torrid and hard fought third term, OH again slammed on five majors in even time to take an easy win".⁹³

An "absolute corker of a game"⁹⁴ against Old Paradians at McKinnon "saw the Bloods fall in by a point after trailing by as much as 48 points earlier in the final quarter. The football was tough and uncompromising and OPs looked to have it in the bag until the Bloods' forward line sprang to life and snatched victory". Ten players kicked goals.

⁸⁶ OHAFC Inc 1995 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 21 November 1995), Report of the Vice-President Football

⁸⁷ Minutes of OHA Council Minutes, 28 March 1995

⁸⁸ Ken Phillips, *The Haileyburian*, June 1995, p15

⁸⁹ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

⁹⁰ Personal email communication, Sean Ralphsmith, 13 July 2010

⁹¹ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

⁹² David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer* 1995 (Vol 95, No 1) p4

⁹³ David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer* 1995 (Vol 95, No 3) p4

⁹⁴ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer* 1995 (Vol 95, No 4) p4

If the narrow win was a warning the Bloods failed to heed, the alarm bells rang in earnest the following two weeks as they lowered their colours to Therry then Old Brighton. At Therry, "Eight goals and a 28-point lead in the first quarter ... should have set up victory ... (before the Bloods) ... went missing in the second and third terms allowing Therry to claw back to within four points at the last break. The lead changed three times in the last".⁹⁵ Morey's six goals and Walden's four at least showed the Old Haileyburians had a potent attack.

Hosting Brighton in what was "a tight, skilful contest",⁹⁶ Old Haileyburians trailed most of the day before hitting back in the third quarter and early in the last. Mark Orton "dominated the ruck, while the backline was held together by Sean Ralphsmith, David Connell and Darren Seccull",⁹⁷ enjoying a renaissance in form.

The match that truly set the course for the Haileyburians' season came with their visit to the unbeaten Mazenod. "Who will stop the Nodders juggernaut?"⁹⁸ asked Drew Solley. He was emphatically answered by a 94-point hiding. "After utilising the wind to the better and defending well against it, the Bloods led by 29 points at half time. What followed was a debacle with OH slamming on 12.15 to Nodders' miserly 3.4. Even when respectability was on the line in the last term, Nodders showed little interest. Sean Ralphsmith and Darren Seccull were unpassable at CHB and FB for the Bloods, Chris McKenzie and Wes Byrns controlled the pivot, and Mark Seccull's four second-half goals were invaluable".⁹⁹ They were on their way.



On an emotional day for the Phillips family, brothers Wayne (40) and Garry join former coach and VAFA General Manager Phil Stevens on the podium after the 1995 Grand Final.

⁹⁵ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 5) p4

⁹⁶ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 6) p4

⁹⁷ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 6) p4

⁹⁸ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 6) p4

⁹⁹ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 7) p4

The Mazenod win was the first of nine successive victories where the average winning margin was nearly 70 points. This suggested smooth progress through the middle of the season, including the romp over Bulleen-Templestowe featuring bags of goals from Walden (seven), Morey (six) and Lappage (six) where half-back Rob “how’s the fishing?” Plecher was best afield.¹⁰⁰ But tragedy was just around the corner.

Ken Phillips lived silently with his viral cardiomyopathy, and few knew he was a walking time bomb. Interestingly Ken’s wife, Jill felt that this diagnosis created the need for a challenge which prompted him to take on the Presidency.¹⁰¹ The night before the game at Melbourne High, Ken’s heart failed and he fell into a coma. Eldest son Garry played a blinder, but the modest champion didn’t remember a lot of the game. “I suppose it might have been a bit of an outlet in the circumstances. I knew I mightn’t get a kick, but I’d be absolutely fierce at the contest”¹⁰² His team mates roared home with a ten-goal final quarter; Morey finished with yet another five-goal haul.

Doctors turned Ken’s life support system off later that weekend. Hundreds attended the funeral at Box Hill where his casket was draped with South Melbourne and Old Haileyburian jumpers. The crowd filed out to the strains of “Cheer, Cheer the Red and the White” or “Play Hard and Play for the Game”, depending on their allegiances. Despite his taciturn nature, the players were very fond of Ken, most of them having known him since their school days. An attitude of “let’s win the flag for Ken” might have been expected, but Neville Taylor didn’t remember this being the case.¹⁰³



The Bloods look like they mean business in their warm-up prior to the 1995 Grand Final at Elsternwick Park.

¹⁰⁰ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 8) p4

¹⁰¹ Personal email communication, Jill Phillips, 25 October 2010

¹⁰² Personal telephone communication, Garry Phillips, 26 May 2010

¹⁰³ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

By chance Garry Phillips' great mate Mark Orton played his 150th game the following week as the Bloods hosted Banyule. The players wore black armbands and a premiership flag was flown at half mast on the McKinnon flagpole. Sombre conditions matched the mood, which must have been shared by the goalless Banyule, whose score of four behinds was the lowest ever against an Old Haileyburians first eighteen. "The Bloods' backline proved impenetrable ... were too strong and adapted better to the quagmire".¹⁰⁴

The committee structure established at the start of the season stood the club in good stead following Ken Phillips' untimely passing. John Connell was not keen on being the front man,¹⁰⁵ so Warnock stood in as President while each continued to look after their respective areas of responsibility.

Another important positive outcome was the establishment of the Ken Phillips Memorial Trophy for the annual match between the Old Boys and the School First Eighteen. A brainchild of then OHA Executive Director Dennis Smith,¹⁰⁶ the concept was another important step towards cementing the club's relationship with its future players. Chris McKenzie received the cup from Jill Phillips after the Old Haileyburians defeated the school team.

Halfway through the season the Bloods were second on the ladder behind Therry, but boasted a percentage of 165% which reflected their dominance. Drew Solley described them as "another bright lad who has recovered well from the shock of being held back".¹⁰⁷



Team leaders in the premiership year of 1995 (from left) Matthew Armstrong, David Connell, Nik Morey, Sean Raphsmith and Garry Phillips.

¹⁰⁴ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 10) p4

¹⁰⁵ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 13 May 2010

¹⁰⁶ *The Haileyburian*, September 1995, p7

¹⁰⁷ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 10) p4

After round 11 Therry conceded top place on the ladder to the Haileyburians, courtesy of their loss to bottom-placed Melbourne High. While the VAFA banned the use of gloves by players,¹⁰⁸ the Bloods had their own concerns with a series of big games against Old Paradians, Therry, Old Brighton and Mazenod. At Parade, "OH were awesome for the entire 'contest', setting the scene initially with a 31 point lead at the first break and simply building on this ... ruckman Mark Orton was brilliant both at ruck duels and around the ground, David Lappage proved a livewire with five goals and any assault Old Paradians attempted was thwarted by the rock solid Darren Seccull and Ashley Hilton in defence".¹⁰⁹

The Bloods then disposed impressively of Therry and Brighton in games re-scheduled to the Sandringham Oval due to conditions at Elsternwick Park. Against Therry, "in an awesome third term OH scored seven unanswered goals to take hold of the match. Wes Byrns was everywhere and Nik Morey kicked some top goals. Old Haileyburians cruised through the last quarter".¹¹⁰

Between the Therry and Old Brighton games the VAFA played the Victorian Country Football League in a memorable match at Morwell, won by the amateurs by eight points after recovering from a five goal deficit. Remarkably for a B Grade team, five Old Haileyburians represented the VAFA - Nik Morey, Garry Phillips, Dave Connell, Matthew Armstrong and captain Sean Ralphsmith. A sixth player in Wes Byrns also made the squad but didn't play in the game.

Ralphsmith was at his inspirational best despite playing on one leg, "looking after" Vic Country's feared "Spike" Milligan,¹¹¹ while Connell and Armstrong were named in the best players. The captaincy was an honour and a highlight for Ralphsmith, and having "several Old Haileyburians team mates there in the team was also a buzz".¹¹²

The Bloods' great run ended when they "sunk into the McKinnon slop as Mazenod handled the conditions far better. The ladder leaders were never in the hunt and were beaten in the area that counts at this time of the year – commitment".¹¹³

They were also comprehensively outsmarted, especially by Mazenod's Andrew Pickering, who played for the VAFA alongside Matthew Armstrong and David Connell. On the Tucker Road wing Armstrong gathered the ball and handballed without looking to an urgent cry of "Whop, Whop, Whop!" - to Pickering who engineered a goal. "Dave went completely off at me", remembered Armstrong, "until ten minutes later when Pickering did exactly the same to Connell with the same result of another goal".¹¹⁴

Old Haileyburians were immediately back into their stride, however, with their biggest victory of the season, 138 points against a hapless Bulleen-Templestowe at Keysborough. "This was a no contest game ... (Old Haileyburians) finished with 45 scoring shots to 12 ... Nik Morey took the boys for goal kicking practice with seven of his own, his roving partner Wes Byrns bagged four and amongst the other nine goal kickers was Mark Orton who had dominated the ruck all day, took a rest at full-forward and booted two himself".¹¹⁵ This was also the week that the VAFA's investigation committee heard its first case involving alleged racial vilification on the field.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁸ Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 12) p 1

¹⁰⁹ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 13) p4

¹¹⁰ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 15) p4

¹¹¹ Interview with David Connell, 28 March 2010

¹¹² Personal email communication, Sean Ralphsmith, 13 July 2010

¹¹³ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 17) p4

¹¹⁴ Personal telephone communication, Matthew Armstrong, 6 November 2010

¹¹⁵ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 18) p4

¹¹⁶ Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 18) p1

The Bloods entered the finals having dropped only three games and boasting a percentage of 172%, second only to the all-conquering 1989 side. The reserves comfortably missed the finals; two games out of the four with three games to play, they lost all three. Neville Taylor had proved an exception to the club's sometimes poor record in accepting "outsider" coaches, helped by the galvanising influence of the fight back from relegation. But in large part this was due to his own personality and the manner in which he involved his wife Robyn and whole family in the life of the club. Being successful on the field didn't hurt either.

Season 1995 was the last ever for the former Old Haileyburians "social" team known as "Bloods", which had long since lost contact with the "real" Old Haileyburians club. Sadly it is unlikely many noticed, let alone cared.

In the second semi-final, the Old Haileyburians rebounded into A Grade after only a year out, "after an unusual victory over Mazenod at (VAFA) Headquarters. Mazenod led the game for the best part of 3½ quarters but ran out of legs and succumbed to the might of the Bloods".¹¹⁷ Nik Morey missed the game and surprisingly skipper McKenzie and Connell started on the bench. Mazenod surged to a 27-point lead in the second quarter before late goals to Ralphsmith and Walden drew their team to within two goals at half-time.

In a see-saw third quarter the Bloods levelled the scores before Mazenod slammed on four successive goals. Skipper Chris McKenzie then kicked an inspirational goal but the Haileyburians were still two goals behind at the last change. In the last term, they "began as expected – on fire! DeMattia was moved to full-forward and booted the first. Walden booted another. Wayne Phillips let everyone know who was going to win after a sensational goal and David Lappage kicked the last two ... and it was all over".¹¹⁸ Taylor was particularly pleased with the win, given "quite a few players had missed many weeks of footy, and not being 100%".¹¹⁹

Seven Old Haileyburians appeared in the B Section "Team of the Year" – Darren Seccull (full-back), Dave Connell (half-back flank), Matthew Armstrong and Garry Phillips (wings), Nik Morey (forward pocket), Mark Orton (ruck) and Chris McKenzie (interchange). Armstrong was runner-up in the competition Best and Fairest following his third placings the two previous years. Somehow Wes Byrns, who won the Bloods' Best and Fairest, missed out.

Selection for the Grand Final proved delicate. Morey and Jeremy Rae returned to the team for Greg Anderson and the unfortunate Travis Boothman, who had played in every game. Neville Taylor naturally felt difficult about Boothman's omission, and was relieved when Rae's game justified his inclusion.¹²⁰ Selected were:

Backs: Jeremy Rae, Darren Seccull, Mick Constable

Half-backs: Dave Connell, Matt DeMattia, Robert Plecher

Centres: Garry Phillips, Chris McKenzie (captain), Matthew Armstrong

Half-forwards: David Lappage, Mark Seccull, Sean Ralphsmith

Forwards: Jason Dann, Andrew Walden, Wayne Phillips

Followers: Mark Orton, Nik Morey

Rover: Wes Byrns

Interchange: Eddie Bingham, Paddy O'Donnell, Shaun Richardson

¹¹⁷ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 22) p4

¹¹⁸ Drew Solley & David Holland, *The Amateur Footballer 1995* (Vol 95, No 22) p4

¹¹⁹ OHAFC Inc 1995 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 21 November 1995), Report of the Senior Coach

¹²⁰ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

Neville Taylor prepared his players for the Grand Final by having Collegians coach Leigh Carlson address the players on the Thursday evening before the game, after the wonderful mums had put on dinner. President John Warnock remembered Carlson using visualisation techniques to take the players through the upcoming game in incredible detail so that nothing would surprise them, and the only thing left to occupy their minds was the contest at hand. He also spoke at length about mateship.¹²¹ Taylor was especially grateful for Carlson's generous gesture.¹²² Other preparations included the injection of painkillers to five or six players before the game, including skipper Chris McKenzie and rover Wes Byrns.

Some thought that the wet, slippery, cold conditions would suit Mazenod far better, but Neville Taylor believed players like McKenzie, the Phillips and Morey "were sensational users in the wet by hand or foot, and we knew we had the skills to 'do the first thing' and not overuse the ball. If we delivered our year average of 40 'one-percenters' per quarter we would be on target to win as the best side with full commitment".¹²³

Wayne Phillips "had absolutely no doubt we would win - in sport, premiership teams have a feel about them, and we had that. I had played enough with many of the guys in important games and knew we would be fine. We always had the control and I think the day of drizzle made it closer than it would otherwise have been".¹²⁴



The 1995 B Grade premiership team.

Back row: Nik Morey, Adam Forsyth, Jason Kurta, Greg Anderson, Michael Constable, Andrew Walden, Wayne Phillips, Wayne Smith, Jeremy Rae, Grant Rowlands, Nevada Hill and General Manger Frank Interrigi.

Standing: Vice-president John Connell, physiotherapist Josh Hayter, Eddie Bingham, Peter O'Donnell, Ash Hilton, Mark Seccull, Mark Orton, Darren Seccull, Tim Chegwin, Sean Ralphsmith, Matt DeMattia, Wes Byrns and committeeman Keith Schilling.

Seated: Ross Lavender, Adam Kirkwood-Scott, Rob Plecher, David Connell, coach Neville Taylor, captain Chris McKenzie, assistant coach Gary March, Matthew Armstrong, Travis Boothman and Jason Dann.

On ground: Sean O'Grady, Trent Evans, Shaun Richardson, Scott Duxbury, Matthew Drakeford, David Lappage, Dean Fossey and Jason Mackay.

¹²¹ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

¹²² Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

¹²³ Personal email communication, Neville Taylor, 12 July 2010

¹²⁴ Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 28 September 2010

Phillips was comforted by the presence of a protector like Andrew Walden, having copped a forearm at the opening bounce from Peter Green that gave him a blood nose. "About twenty seconds later Green was flat on his back, lights out. It was classic Wal, at his best when no one saw him coming. I caught up with Green years later; he had no recollection of the game and I told him he got what he deserved!"¹²⁵

Taylor set up with Ralphsmith and Mark Seccull as a couple of centre half-forwards until the last quarter, when Seccull was tossed into the ruck and dominated after Mark Orton and his opponent had worn themselves ragged. The smaller and medium players were on and off the ground all day and the two Phillips, Byrns and Morey rotated through the forward line while Taylor left the backline fixed.

In a tense game scores were level at the last change, before the Bloods finally broke free to win by 22 points. Taylor felt they had had 60-70% of the play and should have been in front at the last change. Mazenod drew level in the third term before a late goal to Eddie Bingham regained momentum. After the break "Garry Phillips took an absolutely spectacular mark that had the crowd up and about"¹²⁶ as well as lifting his team. Two goals each to Morey and Walden completed their impressive season tallies of 66 (second in the competition) and 49 respectively.

Darren Seccull had been disappointed by his form in the 1989 and 1990 premiership campaigns,¹²⁷ but under Taylor had enjoyed a fine year and led the defence admirably. For Taylor the full-back line of Seccull, Mick Constable and Jeremy Rae was "spectacular, everything you could want in difficult conditions".¹²⁸ He was also impressed by Morey's finishing, and Ralphsmith's team-lifting one-percenters.

This was the only premiership in which Garry and Wayne Phillips played together. Not surprisingly, Grand Final Day 1995 proved an emotional and fairly difficult day¹²⁹ for the boys, their mother Jill and sister Kylie, and the rain may just have hidden a few tears. Were Ken Phillips still alive, it would have been the proudest of fifty-second birthdays.

1995 B Section Grand Final at Elsternwick Park, 23 September 1995

Old Haileyburians	1.4	4.8	5.11	9.13 (67)
Mazenod Old Collegians	2.1	2.2	6.5	6.9 (45)

Goals: Walden 2, Morey 2, Dann 2, Ralphsmith, Armstrong, Bingham
Best players: D Seccull, Constable, Rae, Morey, Ralphsmith

After the Grand Final the players made a fuss of Jill Phillips, "Chris McKenzie give Mum the match ball and all the boys made a special effort with her, it was a great touch".¹³⁰ Jill was forever grateful for the support she received from the club when Ken died, and the acknowledgement on Grand Final day of Ken's work as President.¹³¹

The players relived their deeds largely at Brighton's Marine Hotel. Warnock remembered that Taylor would drop in from time to time, have a couple of drinks, but never stay too long. "Throughout the season he always showed good judgement of when to be around and when not".¹³²

JOHN KEITH DAVIES SCHILLING

Local builder Keith Schilling's efforts around the club in performing all manner of duties and odd jobs for so many years made him a deserving life member and integral part of the day to day functioning of the club. Dennis Smith was just one President who could not have done without him. No one rolled out more boundary line paint at McKinnon than Schilling, creating an unofficial record that may never be broken and one which he would gladly tell you about in his own inimitable style if you had an hour or two to spare.

Keith was regularly the first person you would see at the club in the morning and inevitably, the last one to leave at night – doing whatever anyone asked and jobs that everyone else didn't want to do – most of which went largely unheralded. For many years, Keith also videoed all the club's matches and maintained the records of games played and goals kicked. He was familiar for his half-eye reading glasses and droopy moustache, and invariably and proudly wore his OHAFC tie to matches.

From his legendary old purple Tarago, to his ouzo-guzzling and chain-smoking days, to his uncanny ability to inadvertently interrupt team meetings whilst performing one of his many duties and his penchant for loving a chat, Keith etched himself forever in the minds of so many Old Haileyburian footballers for so many different contributions!

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1998

Barrie Berggy Memorial Trophy 1995, 2002

Secretary 1992-93, 2005

Committee 1990-94, 1996-2005

¹²⁵ Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 28 September 2010

¹²⁶ Personal email communication, Neville Taylor, 12 July 2010

¹²⁷ Interview with Darren Seccull, 28 February 2010

¹²⁸ Personal email communication, Neville Taylor, 12 July 2010

¹²⁹ Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 28 September 2010

¹³⁰ Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 28 September 2010

¹³¹ Personal email communication, Jill Phillips, 25 October 2010

¹³² Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

Great hilarity arose from the amateur football based radio show with Tom Brain. Spurred by a few grizzles from the Mazenod camp, Andrew Walden joined the talkback as “Murray from Mazenod”, complaining about the way Old Haileyburians had played the game, saying “that Walden is a thug and Connell should be in jail”.¹³³ On cue, Dave Connell then phoned to say how he resented “Murray’s” slur. Mazenod were understandably upset at being falsely portrayed as such bad losers and, following complaints to the VAFA, appropriate apologies were extracted.

Reflecting fifteen years later on his year with the Bloods, Sean Ralphsmith remembered being impressed by the ability of many of the players in the team, including McKenzie, Armstrong, Garry Phillips, Lappage and Byrns. “Dave Connell was fearless and impressive in his attack on the ball, Andrew Walden uncanny in his ability to kick a goal, as was Nik Morey”.¹³⁴

Ralphsmith’s knees gave him a hard time, and he confessed to wondering why he was trudging through the McKinnon mud at times. But he stuck it out because he loved playing and he enjoyed the togetherness of the group. “It was great playing with Darren Seccull again, with whom I had played under Ken Phillips at school. I enjoyed the footy trip to Tasmania in his company! It is very different playing in the amateurs to the AFL, but the club atmosphere, the team spirit, the camaraderie and the attack on the ball of many of my team mates made it just as good! Beers after the game in the clubrooms were also a highlight”.¹³⁵

Retiring Director of Finance Al Mytton reported a slender profit of \$27, mainly due to the efforts of the Ladies’ Committee and social events that raised nearly \$16,000, nearly half the club’s income. The remainder came from the perennial Grand Final Breakfast run by the Lords and Peter Noske, raffles, membership and sponsorship, although the latter two were declining.¹³⁶

Not surprisingly the Old Haileyburians’ annual report reflected pride in the club’s achievement in bouncing straight back to A Grade.¹³⁷ As usual the mums had continued to be stars off the field, while the omnipresent Keith Schilling deservedly won the Barry Berggy trophy. The Taylor-March coaching partnership won widespread praise.

But there were warning signs. Warnock lamented the failure to field an under-nineteen team,¹³⁸ and the immediate consequence of losing “at least seven schoolboys to other clubs who were fielding under-nineteens”. Neville Taylor also saw that the club’s professionalism would need to be lifted extra notches and that additional resources had to be added if the club was to enjoy “a quality time for all involved at the club in A Grade”.¹³⁹

EDWARD JOHN CASPERS

Ward Caspers was an enthusiastic player but made his greatest contributions off the field. He arrived with one of the more formidable dark mullets seen at the club (it was the 1980s), and showed a penchant for being in the thick of the action, analysing his football meticulously until the wee hours and testing new theories of re-hydration. Caspers featured in a mark of the year, but unfortunately as a step-ladder for Old Xaverians’ George Gorozides.

As Ward’s on field involvement diminished, his activities to support the club off it multiplied to include many match day duties. He began a decade on the committee and maintained a quiet, unassuming “get the job done” attitude, in particular in running the club’s major fund-raiser, the Grand Final Breakfast, for a number of years. Ward’s father John was also a major influence at the club in a short space of time, first as under nineteen coach in 1988 and then as Chairman of Selectors in the club’s glory days that saw it rocket from C to A Grade.

*71 games (15 Reserves, 21 U19s, 35 3rds),
8 goals (6 Reserves, 2 U19s), 1987-99*

Jumper number 33

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2008

Committee 2000-05, 2007-10

¹³³ Interview with David Connell, 28 March 2010

¹³⁴ Personal email communication, Sean Ralphsmith, 13 July 2010

¹³⁵ Personal email communication, Sean Ralphsmith, 13 July 2010

¹³⁶ OHAFC Inc 1995 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 21 November 1995), Report of the Treasurer

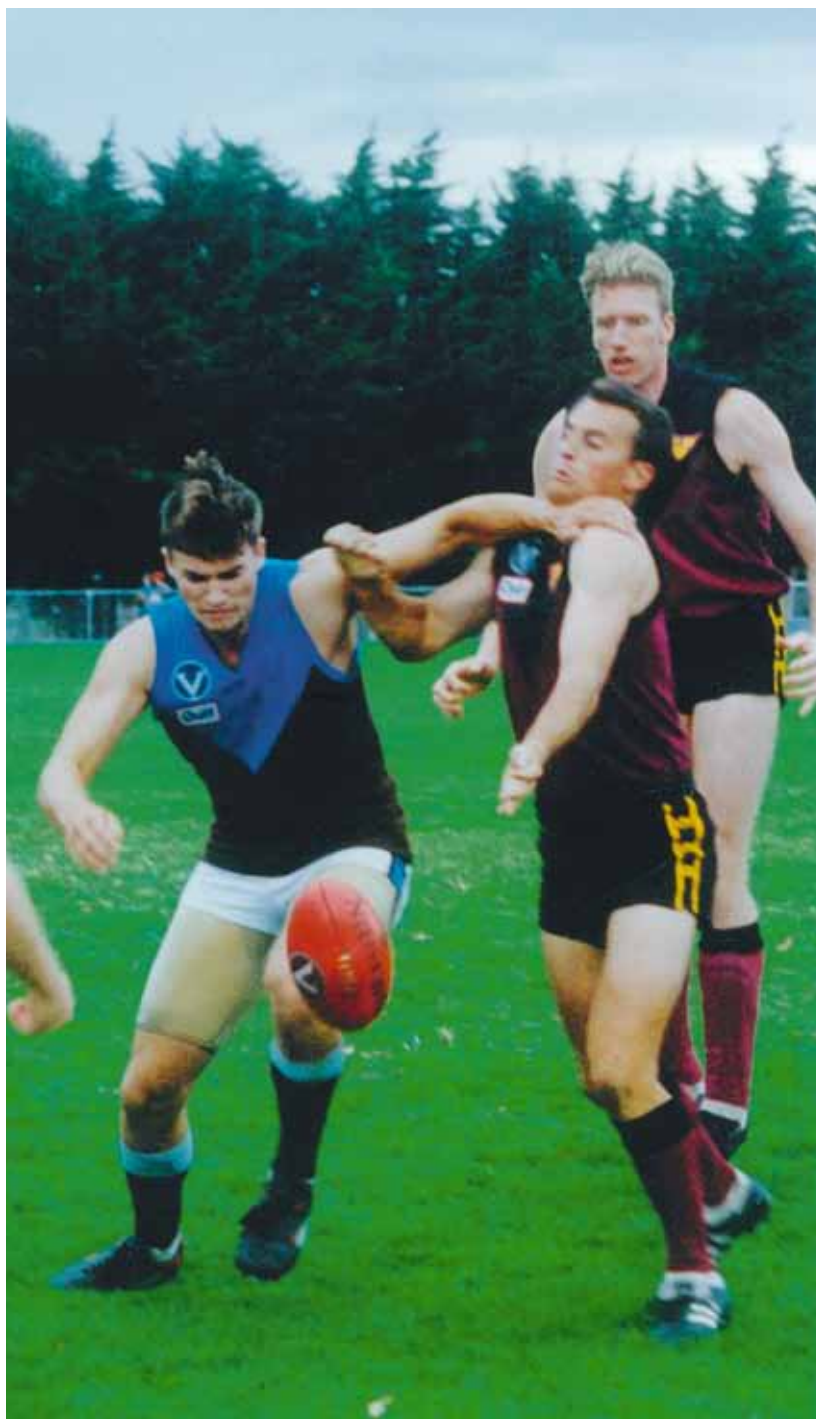
¹³⁷ OHAFC Inc 1995 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 21 November 1995)

¹³⁸ Report of the Vice-President

¹³⁹ Report of the Senior Coach

1996 - The Fadeout

John Warnock was elected president in his own right at the 1995 AGM. John Connell's resignation from the committee left Warnock with a new Vice-President (Peter Mason), Treasurer (Paul Bennett) and General Manager (Tom Brain).



Nik Morey impeded for once by an Ormond opponent in the opening round of 1996 at McKinnon, with Mark Orton behind.

NIK SIMON MOREY

Nik Morey brought an impressive football résumé to Old Haileyburians. After playing in the 1987 school premiership team he played Teal Cup football under Ray "Slug" Jordan, who he attributed much of his modern day eloquence to. For three years he played in Melbourne's reserves team without quite climbing over the cusp to senior selection. Nik played in Dandenong's VFA premiership team in 1991; the following year he transferred to Sandringham on their new coach Trevor Barker's urgings and promptly won another flag.

"Mozza" had always shown an interest in his old school mates' club and was keen to eventually join them after his VFA days. Happily he continued his tradition of a premiership in the first year at a new club and he was a pivotal player in the 1995 B Grade triumph. Playing on the ball or forward, the silky skilled Morey's forte was his uncanny ability to win the ball and use it with surgical precision, hence him also being known as "The Machine". Rarely was there a short, dark hair out of place, socks were always up and the jumper was always tucked in.

Morey's growing tennis coaching business might have restricted his training appearances, even more so when it was wet, but his polish and poise on the field thrilled the Bloods' supporters for four wonderful seasons. He fought and won a battle with the cancer that prematurely ended his playing days, showing his usual inspirational spirit. He was always one of the most welcome and youthful "old timers" back at McKinnon after a game and continued coaching tennis at the school.

*73 games (72 1sts, 1 U19),
160 goals (all 1sts), 1987-98*

*Member 1995 Premiership team & OHAFC
Team of the Century*

Jumper number 15

Best & Fairest 1sts 1996, 1998;

*Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1995 (66 goals),
1996 (43), 1998 (27)*

VAFA Representative 1995

Importantly, the club was again able to field a junior team. Andrew Baxter's appointment as the new under-nineteen coach was greeted with enthusiasm. A huge crew of players arrived from the school, and in Baxter's view it was important they trained just like the seniors.¹⁴⁰ The under-nineteens even held a pre-season fitness camp. Parents again contributed strongly, especially Terry Dunphy and Andy Melin, who ran a separate under-nineteen sub-committee.



President John Warnock's 1995 premiership medal.



Adam Hilton (7) in the 1996 season opener against Ormond, with rover Wes Byrns awaiting the crumbs.

JOHN FREDERICK WARNOCK

John Warnock enjoyed two lives at Old Haileyburians, first as a flint-hard player and two decades later as a premiership President. A very accomplished key defender, Warnock was strong physically as well as in his kicking and marking. But for injuries he would have been even better. He was a great protector of his team mates, as Collegians' Bob Zent could testify. In the mid-1970s when Skyhooks ruled at Johnny Gyngell's "1167" Warnock led the players' social activities, especially in concert with Doug Loney and Ross Bannon.

Filling in as President after Ken Phillips' passing, corporate accountant Warnock took great interest in player welfare and wrestled with the club's ground problem like those before him and since. He ran a substantial sponsorship program; his talents extended on occasion to helping Keith Schilling and Peter Mason empty the barrel lines at McKinnon. John's two giant sons Matthew (Fremantle and Carlton) and Robbie (Melbourne) both played AFL football.

*60 games (59 1sts, 1 Reserves),
3 goals (all 1sts), 1973-77*

Jumper number 15

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1997

President 1995-96

Vice-President 1995, 1997-98

Treasurer 1977

Committee 1977-78, 1995-98

¹⁴⁰ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

The juniors made a great start, winning the TM Lyon Cup pre-season lightning premiership, and eight under-nineteens played in the firsts over the season. These included future A Grade premiership captain Paul Corrigan, 200-game stalwarts David Mason and Brett Carson, and blond rover Shane Walden, blessed with the family feistiness and winner of the pre-season beep-test. It seemed a new wave of youngsters was finally coming through.

There were some big shoes to fill. Sean Ralphsmith fulfilled his coaching ambitions by winning the position at Old Melburnians, where in his only year in charge he took them to an A Grade preliminary final. John Warnock remembers the club generously recommending Ralphsmith as a candidate to OMs.¹⁴¹ At least Darren Seccull and Wayne Phillips returned in later years, but Matt DeMattia, Jeremy Rae and Eddie Bingham had all effectively played their farewell games in the 1995 Grand Final.

Tall timber arrived, however, in the form of Adam “Bobby” Hilton, who had played twenty reserves games for Hawthorn the previous year.¹⁴² After a few warm-up games in the reserves, another beanpole in Craig Hucker (recruited from Sydney University by Andrew Bonwick) bolstered the ruck stocks further, forcing the stalwart Mark Orton back to the reserves.



Nik Morey (15) and Ash Hilton (17) on duty in the goal square against Ormond 1996.

¹⁴¹ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

¹⁴² Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer 1996* (Vol 96, No 1) p3

The state of the McKinnon Reserve was a concern throughout the season, forcing training sessions to alternate venues such as the Mackie Reserve. As Neville Taylor noted, “the poor, unusable conditions ... restricted both fitness and in particular skills work, which affected everyone, but in particular our tails”.¹⁴³ Later in the season games were also transferred from McKinnon to Keysborough.

At the start of the season the coaching troika of Taylor, March and Baxter put their players on notice with a detailed manifesto, outlining expectations in areas such as training, game day, personal and team needs, and game principles.¹⁴⁴

Previewing the A Grade season, Don Blackwood saw the Old Haileyburians back “with the wind in their sails, so it will be a much more organised unit this time ... going to make a much better fist of the top grade in 1996”. But President David Burnes was the only one of seven VAFA identities (including former OHAFC coaches Langford-Jones and Stevens) that predicted a final four finish for the Bloods.

Just as the Bloods had first entered A Grade in 1991 with a 50-odd point thrashing of Ormond, so they returned in 1996.¹⁴⁵ Nik Morey kicked three goals and “was easily best on the ground, but Neville Taylor found difficulty (selecting other best players) after that. He believes there is some improvement yet”.¹⁴⁶

Improvement was certainly needed after an unexpected loss to Mazenod, despite the efforts of the Rowlands, and a more predictable reversal against a star-studded OMs line-up at the Junction Oval. However, “it was only in the last quarter that they (OMs) pulled away from a very competitive Old Haileyburians. Matt Armstrong gathered 40 possessions, Adam Hilton was a prominent influence and Grant Rowlands and Alistair Pound (were) excellent players. OMs downhill to the merry month of May; OH just an uphill battle”.¹⁴⁷

It was a battle the Bloods attacked with relish, winning seven of their next nine to climb to second on the ladder, the highest position they had ever achieved. They started by fulfilling Don Blackwood’s prediction that they would provide the “shock result of the round”¹⁴⁸ by bowling over the previously undefeated Old Scotch. This confirmed his view that the Bloods were “a loose cannon”,¹⁴⁹ helped by Wes Byrns’ return to form, Adam Hilton’s dominating influence and the form of youngsters such as Adam Forsyth and Richard Buchanan.

After five rounds Blackwood marvelled at how well promoted teams Old Haileyburians and Mazenod had managed the jump to A Grade.¹⁵⁰ This after the Bloods’ six-goal third term against De La Salle followed by a goalless last quarter for both teams sealed another fine win. “Nik Morey’s (four goals) was a clinker performance, as were the efforts of Mark Orton and Garry Phillips, although coach Neville Taylor considered it a fairly even team effort throughout”.¹⁵¹

After they lowered their colours to Collegians, despite the daunting trip to St Bernards the Bloods won an important game with extraordinarily accurate kicking. After being “1.2 to whatever, then followed a procession of 21 goals straight by the Bloods and their last kick of the day

LIFE MEMBER SUPPORTERS IN THE SECOND 25 YEARS

Many great players joined the Old Haileyburians in the late 1980s and 1990s, but their playing deeds were more than matched off the field by an extraordinary group of parents who immersed themselves in supporting the club. Nothing was too much for these stalwarts and eventual Life Members, and the players greatly appreciated their presence and support. They raised thousands of dollars for the club, and were content with no more than years of friendship and camaraderie as the reward for their hard work and long days.

Over many years Sue Connell, Dawn Carty, Felicity Wigg and Pam Lappage took canteen standards to new levels and made the OHAFC canteen one of the most envied in the competition. They also catered for the supporters’ luncheons in fine style. Felicity continued to work tirelessly around the club while husband Geoff indisputably set the record for the most amount of sausages and hamburgers cooked at McKinnon. The season proper was never officially underway until the waft of a “Wiggie Burger” was in the air, and the way he nurtured those delicately rolled culinary delights on the sometimes unforgiving McKinnon BBQ every week for so many years symbolised the spirit of these special supporters.

The ladies’ involvement started with them complaining to then President Ken Allison about the canteen. KA challenged them to do better, which meant taking it over themselves. They became more adventurous and tackled supporters’ luncheons for up to 110 people, learning along the way. Felicity Wigg remembers one miscalculation resulting in them having enough lasagne to feed 140, blaming it on the Tia Maria they customarily drank while doing their planning.

Feeding the masses involved incredibly long days for home matches, usually starting around 8am to set up. If there was a function that night these dedicated parents could still be found cleaning up the McKinnon rooms at 3am the next morning, helped by the omnipresent Keith Schilling. It was just as well they were all able to fortify themselves with their own good humour and the odd drop.

Continued over page...

¹⁴³ OHAFC Inc 1996 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 20 November 1996), Report of the Senior Coach

¹⁴⁴ The Bloods Way in 1996, internal club document in OHAFC archives

¹⁴⁵ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 1) p3

¹⁴⁶ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 2) p3

¹⁴⁷ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 4) p2

¹⁴⁸ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 4) p3

¹⁴⁹ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 5) p2

¹⁵⁰ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 6) p2

¹⁵¹ Don Blackwood, The Amateur Footballer 1996 (Vol 96, No 6) p3

registered a point to make an extraordinary scoreline of 22.3 to St Bernards' 17.19. Craig Hucker (6 goals) and Adam Hilton (4 goals) were amongst the sharp shooters, while David Connell turned in another courageous performance".¹⁵²

Reviewing the Bloods' start to the season, Neville Taylor noted that unlike the previous year they had not had a great run with injuries. He praised the great form of Andrew Walden and Nik Morey, and the continued improvement of Ashley Hilton and Adam Forsyth. The continued introduction of younger players meant that 31 players had represented the seniors to date. This resulted in some inconsistencies in skill and fitness levels and cohesion, but Taylor believed that "this is the way forward for the betterment of the team and club as a whole".¹⁵³

Under-nineteen coach Billy Baxter was also encouraged by his charges' efforts; the team had dropped only one game and three players had made the firsts. Then there was the emergence of cult figure Craig Dowling, aka "Ewok" - "stab passing, blind turning and kicking goals in a great individual performance".¹⁵⁴ But Baxter's team lowered their colours to the school First Eighteen by sixteen goals on the second Ken Phillips Day, when "even the promise of a slab per player at three-quarter time could not lift the Old Boys to victory".¹⁵⁵

The club's social life revolved around match day luncheons, including David Young's "Jawbone" sessions and guest speakers such as Stephen Phillips - "Come and hear the real Kathy Watt story, who is next on the merger list, and all the non-printable stories from Atlanta".¹⁵⁶ The black tie Blood Bath Ball was held at the South Melbourne Town Hall, there was Emperor Murray's Toga Party, a "Not the Atlanta Olympics" Cocktail Night, and the "Casino Countdown" in the Oak Room at Crown, a popular venue around this time.

For once there were no representative matches, as the VAFA fell into dispute with its South Australian counterpart over the latter's decision to split its competition into professional and amateur divisions under one administrative banner.¹⁵⁷ Football was continually changing at all levels; the AFL celebrated its Centenary season which also turned out to be the last for Neville Taylor's old club Fitzroy.

Taylor aimed to remain in the top four at the halfway mark of the season, and this was achieved courtesy of battling "for four quarters to shake off a dogged Old Xavs. Four goals immediately after half time set up the victory. Nik Morey amongst the goals again with five and courageous Scott Rowlands manfully took on Dan Richardson with the Hilton brothers performing well".¹⁵⁸ Ironically this was Simon Meehan's last game as coach of Old Xaverians before he was replaced by Nick Bourke.

This was the first of four successive wins, Ormond, Mazenod and Old Melburnians being the others. Although it was "a feisty Neville Taylor" making "a record three quarter time speech"¹⁵⁹ at Ormond's EE Gunn Reserve, he must have been delighted with the Bloods' effort in keeping OMs to only three goals a few weeks later, despite Morey's absence after half time. Unfamiliar names such as Shaun Richardson, Adam Forsyth and Brendan Mitchell bobbed up in the best players while Dave Connell's work ethic was "exceptional".¹⁶⁰ But crucially this was skipper Chris McKenzie's

LIFE MEMBER SUPPORTERS IN THE SECOND 25 YEARS continued...

For many years the mothers battled with poor facilities and the difficulty of sharing with co-tenants who had a different approach to looking after the place. They would even traipse around Op Shops for crockery and cutlery. But there were lots of funny moments, such as being helped by John Warnock's boys Robert and Matthew well before they became AFL footballers. Pam Lappage remembered them being put in charge of packing the lolly bags and being suspicious of their sugar levels afterwards.

John Connell's work around the club included a long stint on the committee but it was probably his prowess at selling raffle tickets that remains unmatched. Using a delicate mix of charm, wit and tenacious persistence, there was rarely a raffle ticket left after each game and John's execution on the wheel would have left "Baby" John Burgess envious.

In a successful era it was vital that those in charge of the bar had a solid grounding in maintaining beer at the optimum temperature, and in Dennis Carty, the Old Haileyburians had their man. His role in lubricating the throats of so many players and supporters for many years was legendary, and delivered with his customary insights on the game.

George Lappage was the "money man". Aside from his multitude of odd jobs, George played a key role in running the finances of the club. Trying to get a discount from George on a hamburger that had sat for four hours in the Bain Marie was like trying to silence the Doyle brothers during a game - it was just never going to happen. But the club finances were in very good hands.

Continued over page...

¹⁵² Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (Vol 96, No 8) p2

¹⁵³ Neville Taylor, *Blood Oath*, Issue 3, June 1996, p3

¹⁵⁴ Andrew Baxter, *Blood Oath*, Issue 3, June 1996, p3

¹⁵⁵ *Blood Oath*, Issue 3, June 1996, p5

¹⁵⁶ *Blood Oath*, Issue 5, August 1996, p6

¹⁵⁷ Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (vol 96, No 1) p1

¹⁵⁸ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (Vol 96, No 10) p2

¹⁵⁹ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (Vol 96, No 11) p2

¹⁶⁰ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (Vol 96, No 13) p2

last game of the season (and his last match as captain), the first in what became a torrent of injuries.

The Bloods seemed to have recovered from dropping their game to Old Scotch, and led top side Collegians by 33 points at half-time. As Don Blackwood conceded, "you could be forgiven for being just a tick cocky. But the Bloods' consistency continues to haunt them as they dropped off the pace (to lose by seven points). Plenty of Adam Hilton early with three goals and a couple of tragic misses. Mark Seccull at centre half back and David Connell led the way",¹⁶¹ but the hold on second spot was tenuous.

By the time the Old Haileyburians hosted St Bernards, Blackwood noted that "the absence of quality players is starting to hurt a number of clubs".¹⁶² This was especially true of the Bloods, who played the remainder of the season without Forsyth, McKenzie, Mitchell, Richardson and Shane Walden, while Armstrong only played one further game. John Warnock recalled that "we kept losing a couple of players every week".¹⁶³ They also lost their last three games (and five of the last six), and slipped to seventh on the ladder. Neville Taylor remembered the hundred-point loss to a resurgent Old Xaverians, who had recovered from second-last to second after their two games against the Bloods, as a particularly low point.¹⁶⁴

No one was surprised when Nik Morey took out the Best and Fairest ahead of David Connell, having also kicked 43 goals. But Chris Kraus bobbed up with an equal third in the competition Best and Fairest.

The club's lack of depth and inability to cope with injury had become a recurring theme pretty much from their first year in A Grade in 1991. Although this could be disguised by a core of elite talent in B Grade, it was repeatedly exposed in the higher section. The reserves finished bottom for the third time in five seasons, winning their first two games then losing the last sixteen by an average margin of 70 points. In their seven years in A Reserve Grade from 1992 to 1999 they finished bottom four times, ninth twice and eighth the other year, and won more than three games in a season only once.

At least Billy Baxter's under-nineteens made the finals for the first time since Max Lyon's team in 1987. They bowed out to Beaumaris in the first semi-final, despite the efforts of Nevada Hill, Ben Clarke, Edward Dunphy and Adam Floyd. Chris Efsthathiou kicked four goals, having earlier in the season given notice of his future as a goal-kicking colossus with a 14-goal haul against Monash in only his second game, while still at school. This broke the club record previously shared by Peter Gadsden and Glenn Tanner. The Monash game was a 184-point slaughter in which Luke Byrns accumulated fifty possessions, Michael Trotter forty and Cory Jimmieson twenty-five by half time.¹⁶⁵

On the surface it was only the three losses at the end of the season that kept the Bloods out of the finals, but Neville Taylor saw their problems ran deeper. He felt the club needed more players and people involved, and was undecided about coaching the following year due to this chronic shortage of resources.¹⁶⁶

Ultimately a change to Taylor's working circumstances forced the issue, and his only coaching duties in 1997 were for the VAFA representative

LIFE MEMBER SUPPORTERS IN THE SECOND 25 YEARS continued...

Barry Lay was another tireless worker around the club for many years. Probably best known as a veteran Team Manager, like his cohorts he performed his roles with a minimum of fuss.

DAWN ELIZABETH CARTY

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1997

DENNIS WILLIAM CARTY

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1998

Committee 1993-96, 1999

JOHN WILLIAM CONNELL

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1998

Barry Berggy Memorial Trophy 1998

Vice-President 1993-95

Committee 1992-95, 2000-01

SUSAN MARY CONNELL

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1997

GEORGE SIDNEY LAPPAGE

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2002

Barry Berggy Memorial Trophy 1999

Committee 2002-04

PAMELA MARY LAPPAGE

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2003

BARRY HITCHINS LAY

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2006

Barry Berggy Memorial Trophy 2001

Committee 2000-06

FELICITY ANNE WIGG

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 1997

¹⁶¹ Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (Vol 96, No 15) p2

¹⁶² Don Blackwood, *The Amateur Footballer* 1996 (Vol 96, No 16) p2

¹⁶³ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

¹⁶⁴ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

¹⁶⁵ OHAFC Inc 1996 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 20 November 1996). Report of the Under-Nineteen Coach

¹⁶⁶ Interview with Neville Taylor, 28 March 2010

team. He had been a fine and popular coach for the Old Haileyburians, and an ideal role model. One of Taylor's great strengths was his inclusiveness, and he was always open to seek out and use others' ideas.¹⁶⁷

Taylor's assistant Gary March was a serious contender to be his successor. Throughout 1996 Taylor frequently placed March in charge of training. When Taylor told March he was giving the job away and said, "I think you should take over as coach", March realised he had been quietly groomed for the job. March put a provisional coaching team together, including Wayne Shand as Chairman of Selectors, and presented for interviews.

In the end March was pipped for the job by Simon Meehan and, much as he enjoyed coaching, never did so anywhere else despite other offers. "By then I was a very happy Haileybury person and I wasn't really interested in coaching at another club".¹⁶⁸ March's confidence in matters football was boosted significantly by his time with Taylor, and he appreciated this self-belief in his days as Richmond board member and President.

John Warnock stepped down as President at the end of the season, but not before he had decided on and approached Simon Meehan to return as coach.¹⁶⁹ Warnock's President's Report was optimistic, rejoicing in the return of an under-nineteen team and the blending of youth with the club's experienced older players. He could see the shocking run of injuries late in the season at least provided an opportunity for new players to experience what was required in A Grade. He felt that the players could return in 1997 with greater self belief, to give the premiership a real shake.¹⁷⁰



For once the mums are relaxing rather than working! From left are Pam Lappage, Dawn Carty, Jill Phillips, Sue Connell, Wendy Steenholdt and Felicity Wigg.

¹⁶⁷ Interview with Gary March, 23 September 2010

¹⁶⁸ Interview with Gary March, 23 September 2010

¹⁶⁹ Personal telephone communication, John Warnock, 31 May 2010

¹⁷⁰ OHAFC Inc 1996 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 20 November 1996), Report of the President

CHAPTER 10

GETTING THE BAND BACK TOGETHER 1997-99



1997 - Meehan's Flooding Tactics

About thirty members attended the 1996 Annual General Meeting at which the coaching appointments of Simon Meehan and Andrew Baxter for the firsts and reserves respectively were confirmed.¹ Baxter also looked to resurrect his playing career² and with Meehan's return looked forward to "getting the band back together" as the great team that had been assembled from the mid-1980s onwards had one last stab at the Holy Grail of an A Grade premiership.

Incoming President Dennis Smith first joined the Bloods in only their second season in 1962. As OHA Executive Director in the 1990s, he became increasingly familiar with the club's activities. John Warnock and Peter Mason asked Smith to extend his OHA role to fill in as President, "as a temporary measure, until the young guns who had joined the club in the mid-1980s took over".³ Little did Smith know that this temporary measure was to last eight years, all but the first not only as President but also as Secretary.

The "ground issue" that had bubbled away unresolved during Warnock's tenure would be one of Smith's major concerns, along with the constant battle to involve enough players and people. In turn this tended to make the club's finances of the hand-to-mouth variety.⁴

The two major parts of the ground problem related to the co-tenancy that was born in 1983. The sharing of the facilities by two senior clubs and the St Paul's Demons junior club meant the playing surfaces were over-worked and often in poor condition. In wet winters the ovals had little chance of recovering from the traffic. Secondly, the senior co-tenants Old Haileyburians and St Pauls suffered an insurmountable clash of cultures, and there was a feeling that St Pauls had taken over the clubrooms, resulting in none of the Old Haileyburians wanting to hang around after training on Thursday nights.⁵ Smith's view was that he would at least do his best to get along civilly with the Doggies' administration.⁶

Discussions on the club's difficulties with its McKinnon home were also held at OHA Council level. As the OHA's largest and most active club, the OHAFC flagged the possibility of needing significant support should the issue not be resolved and the club required to re-locate.⁷

At the AGM it was reported that the Old Haileyburians had "first option on the Bignell Road ground, but it is too small. Costings were being done by the Council for a move to Bailey Reserve. Mackie Road is too small, and not an option. It is obvious that the ground situation is still a problem, but the club will have to remain at McKinnon until a suitable alternative is found".⁸ The Bloods seemed to need a more compatible co-tenant or a home of their own.

According to Dennis Smith, the club at one stage had a genuine chance of winning tenancy of the Oakleigh VFA ground off Warrigal Road, but was stymied by the uncertainty arising from the re-structuring of football competitions in Victoria at that time. The club looked seriously at another four or five venues, including St Kilda's former home ground and training base at Linton Street, Moorabbin. But there were difficulties including

DAVID ALEXANDER CONNELL

It was completely fitting for Roger Paul to hand down his famous number two to David Connell, as both showed enormous desire and will to win even though some of their team mates had silkier skills. "DC" first played for the Old Haileyburians while still at school and it was obvious to Paul that this kid had the hallmarks of a champion. Dave was one of the main driving forces behind the club's ascent to A Grade in the early 1990's.

One of the club's greatest competitors, the uncompromising Dave hated to lose, and this rubbed off on many of his team mates. His cheekiness regularly saw him under the opposition's skin and invariably the subject of some form of payback which Connell seemed to take with relish. Nor did he mind getting on the front foot and taking matters into his own hands, resulting in the occasional visit to the VAFA tribunal.

Skills might not have been Dave's strongest suit, but he possessed an amazing leap and read the play as well as anyone. He was a coach's delight as he was hard, gave his all and played anywhere he was asked. He was the ultimate team man.

Connell was especially at home at Elsternwick Park, which he often made his own on Grand Final Days. His 1990 Grand Final, when he was best on ground against Old Melbournians with thirty possessions despite a broken hand was one of his great performances. Knocking out OM's full back Rick "The Pole" Pisarski at half time of the curtain raiser in a bit of kick-to-kick fun with his great mate Matty Armstrong became part of the Bloods' folklore.

Continued over page...

¹ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 20 November 1996

² OHAFC Inc 1996 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 20 November 1996), Report of the Under-Nineteen Coach

³ Interview with Dennis Smith & John Warnock, 28 March 2010

⁴ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

⁵ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 25 June 2010

⁶ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 25 June 2010

⁸ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 20 November 1996

ground rental of \$15,000 and not being able to run the bar. Remembering the lessons of the 1970s, returning to the school on a regular basis was not an option. Other options included the home grounds of St Kilda South Caulfield in Glen Eira and Mazenod in Glen Waverley, but the Old Haileyburians were never really close to closing a deal.⁹

The promise of young guns joining the committee was met with the additions of Cameron Lasscock as Secretary, Dean Lear as Director of Marketing and the Phillips brothers, Wayne as Treasurer. Lasscock's older brother Greg took over Billy Baxter's job of coaching the under-nineteens.

Player movement between seasons was minimal, although the returns of Brett Carty after two years overseas (which included a pitch invasion at Kingston, Jamaica when Steve Waugh reached 200) and his backline companions Baxter and Plecher were very welcome. As was Peter Thiessen's comeback for his first game since 1994. Mick Constable retired, Beast Hilton hibernated for a year and Paddy O'Donnell played only the opening game of the season in the firsts. A number of current and former under-nineteens also made their senior debuts in 1997, including David Mason, Brett Carson, Cameron Home and Chat Jayasekera.



Dave Connell marks in defence against Old Xaverians at Toorak Park in 1998, the second of his three years as captain.

David Alexander Connell continued...

Dave was a regular in VAFA representative teams until his card was marked Never To Tour Again after playing up on a trip to Adelaide. They would still pick him, however, when the team played in Melbourne. Perhaps best described as a lovable rogue, Dave bled Magenta and Black. He never missed a club function, was usually last to leave and despite big offers every year from local and country footy clubs, he never contemplated playing footy anywhere else.

*196 games (193 1sts, 2 Reserves, 1 U19s),
80 goals (79 1sts, 1 U19s), 1987-2000
Member 1989, 1990 & 1995 1sts Premiership
teams & OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper number 2

Best & Fairest 1sts 1994, 1999

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1996

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2001

Captain 1sts 1997-99

Vice-captain 1sts 1993-94

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1996

Committee 1992, 2000-01

*VAFA Representative 1989 (CDEF), 1990,
1991, 1993, 1995 (Senior)*

⁹Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

With typical detail, Simon Meehan prepared for his players a 23-page manual, which covered areas from goal setting, expectations on playing days and training nights, attendance at social functions, commitment, obligations of injured players, Simon's fundamentals or "Ten Commandments", and patterns of play to be followed from set game situations.¹⁰

The Bloods opened their season with the long trip to Parade. Jason Frenkel saw the match as a "good hit out for both sides, in the end four goals from Walden and three from Lappage proved to be too much for Parade. Nick Morey signalled his continued good form with a best on ground display while Matt Armstrong also played well".¹¹



Watched by team mate Garry Phillips, Chris Kraus gathers the ball and tries to elude his St Bernards opponents at Elsternwick Park, 1997.

¹⁰ OHAFC Football Manual, March 1997

¹¹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1997* (Vol 97, No 2) p3

The next week Armstrong was the first Old Haileyburian to be featured on the cover of *The Amateur Footballer*. The photo showed him dashing down the “members” wing at McKinnon. The Bloods hosted OMs and posted their first major from an infringement before the opening bounce.¹² OMs failed to capitalise on their dominance, as a score of 4.12 to 4.1 at half time showed. The thickset Efstathiou’s three goals on senior debut showed he knew how to kick straight as the Bloods edged in front, and won by nine points despite having eleven less scoring shots. Ironically it was OMs’ Andrew Hewett, who “hadn’t put a foot wrong all day, giving away a free kick that led to the goal that sealed the game. When the siren sounded, both teams were exhausted, bloodied and battered”.¹³

Against Old Scotch at the Camberwell Sports Ground the Bloods consolidated their fine start to the season,¹⁴ and came home the stronger, with “Mark Seccull, Dave Connell and Shane Walden, a familiar trio for Bloods’ fans, among the best as Old Haileyburians consolidated an impressive start to the season”. Reversals to the bigger boys of the competition in Collegians and Old Xaverians followed; the thrashing from Xavs by 82 points at Elsternwick Park must have been particularly galling for Meehan.

In the crunch game against Uni Blues at McKinnon, the Bloods snuck in by the narrowest of margins, despite the efforts of future Hawthorn captain Richie Vandenberg for the visitors - this a week after coming across future Melbourne captain James McDonald playing for Xavs. Simon Meehan was unfussed about the margin - “nothing else matters if you are in front at the final siren”.¹⁵ Jason Frenkel saw “plenty of character in the come-from-behind win with the Walden brothers, Andrew and Shane, leading the charge. Lappage continues to play well too”.¹⁶ Andrew Walden was chaired from the field after kicking the winning goal seconds before the siren in a great end to his 150th game.¹⁷

Lappage’s three successive four-goal bags, along with the mid-season emergence of Efstathiou as a goal-kicker helped the team to wins at Old Trinity and St Bernards. For his brief senior career, “Foo” was a great asset to Simon Meehan as a goal scorer at a time when numbers were short. Despite his bulk, Meehan considered Efstathiou “really was a good player. The Xavier coaching panel were always worried about him as they knew no one was able to move him once he was in front. A very accurate kick for goal but could only kick 35-40 metres, which was fine by me”.¹⁸ It also allowed Meehan to play his favourite match winner Andrew Walden up the ground and even on the ball.

The St Bernards win was marred by a confrontation between Simon Meehan’s runner, 1990 premiership player Darren “Pop” Williams, and authoritarian umpire Graham Thwaites (also a policeman), who had sent Williams off the ground in the third term. After the game, Williams grabbed Thwaites by the throat in the club rooms, while trying to have the team sheet signed.¹⁹ Williams was suspended for a year from playing or acting in any other official capacity for the Old Haileyburians or any other amateur club, and the Bloods were placed on a \$500 twelve-month good behaviour bond. This was despite Dennis Smith pulling out the big guns for the hearing by engaging future AFL Operations Manager Adrian Anderson to represent Williams, courtesy of the usual legal assistance of “Commissioner” Grant Hattam.²⁰

¹² Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 3) p2

¹³ Garry Petroff, *The Sunday Age* (Sportsweek section) 19 April 1997, p18

¹⁴ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 4) p2

¹⁵ Simon Meehan, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 7) p2

¹⁶ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 7) p2

¹⁷ Dennis Smith, *The Haileyburian*, July 1997, p22

¹⁸ Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 June 2010

¹⁹ *The Age* (Sport section) 25 June 1997, p6

²⁰ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

There was another side to the story, however. A few days later it emerged that the VAFA umpires' advisor had been handed a report written by boundary umpire Peter O'Dea, who alleged that Thwaites had been antagonistic towards players and Williams in the match.²¹

On the Fisher Oval the Bloods also did enough to topple Parade (just), but not a resurgent De La Salle. De La had a four goal lead at the final change, before "the Bloods gave it their all in a desperate last term only to fall short by eight points. Andrew Walden continued his excellent season".²² By the end of Round 10 they were sitting fourth, a game clear of fifth and three games clear of sixth; it was clearly a five-horse race.



Wes Byrns early in his career in 1990, when those black locks were still flowing. Cam Gregson watches on behind him.

WESLEY DOUGLAS BYRNS

"The Burner", Wes Byrns, was one of the fastest rovers in the VAFA. After a spell at VFA club Oakleigh after school, great skills and a strong work ethic made him a crowd favourite at McKinnon. When Wes and Simon Meehan shared the roving, they were the quickest such combination ever seen at the club. His long hair and especially those hairy arms made him stand out, and he was eternally cheery.

Later in life the three-time premierships player moved down to Rye and continued to play well into his forties. He was always a welcome sight when he returned to McKinnon to see the Bloods play and for the odd function. The hair remained on his arms, but not on his head. A postman by trade, that pace would have had him making the fastest deliveries on the Mornington Peninsula.

*123 games (120 1sts, 2 Reserves, 1 U19s),
181 goals (174 1sts, 7 Reserves), 1985-97*

*Member 1989, 1990 & 1995 1sts Premierships
teams & OHAFC Team of the Century*

Jumper numbers 29 & 3

Best & Fairest 1sts 1995

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1994

VAFA Representative 1995, 1997

²¹ Paul Daffey, *The Age* (Sport section) 29 June 1997, p14

²² Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 9) p2

The Bloods attracted further controversy from the Old Paradians game. Paradians' Dion Ciavola was suspended for the remainder of the 1997 season for "assaulting a spectator (and amazingly his Rottweiler dog)"²³ upon leaving the ground".²⁴ But the Old Haileyburians were fined \$500 "in that a number of unidentified spectators racially abused player Dion Ciavola"²⁵ and directed to lodge a report with the VAFA regarding the inappropriateness of the unfenced Fisher Oval and their "inadequate preparations"²⁶ for the match. Yet Keysborough's unfenced ovals had never previously been an issue since the club first played there in the early 1970s. And in 1998 they were permitted to play at Keysborough for the whole season while the McKinnon Reserve was resurfaced!

Community attitudes to racial vilification on the football field had changed markedly as a result of incidents at VFL/AFL level involving St Kilda's Nicky Winmar in 1989, then Michael Long and Damien Monkhurst from the 1995 Essendon-Collingwood match. So the VAFA was likely to take any allegations of racial abuse seriously.

Dion Ciavola's long history of indiscretions suggested a short fuse, and the Bloods felt his accusations of racial abuse were made up to deflect attention from his actions and reduce his penalty.²⁷ Many eyewitnesses close to the incident heard the "unidentified spectator" Gavin James exchange abuse with Ciavola, but were certain there was no racial element.²⁸

VAFA Treasurer Noel Rundle was closely involved in the investigations hearing. He had an elephantine memory and still smarted from the Bloods having evaded sanction for serving alcohol after the start of the game five years previously. After the tribunal unjustly found the Old Haileyburians "guilty" of racial abuse, Andrew Langford-Jones protested to Rundle that he knew there was no racial abuse. Rundle simply smiled and said, "just like there were no jugs of beer on the table that day at McKinnon".²⁹ The accountant's ledger had been squared.

A draw with Old Melburnians (the seniors' first since 1978) heralded a mid-season slump of successive losses to Old Scotch, Collegians and Uni Blues that left the Bloods in sixth position, half a game behind fourth-placed De La Salle. Mark Seccull and Wes Byrns were amongst the best players for the VAFA team coached by Neville Taylor which was belted by the Victorian Country Football league, while their team mates took a welcome rest to consider their position. Seccull also finished second in the competition Best and Fairest while Chat Jayasekera managed third in the under-nineteen section.

Jayasekera might have placed even higher had he not played four games in the firsts. Nine of his team mates also played senior football in a promising sign for the future. But for this the juniors may well have finished higher than their credible sixth.

Dennis Smith felt the turning point of the season came when the players began meeting on Saturday mornings before the last four games of the season. These meetings engendered a great feeling of team spirit.³⁰

After the break the Bloods defeated a trilogy of Catholic opponents. First at the Waverley Road Oval, one of their hoodoo grounds, "in search of De La Salle. And a spot in the four".³¹ Nik Morey "was the architect of their

²³ Personal email communication, Allen White, 4 July 2010

²⁴ *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 14) p39

²⁵ *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 14) p39

²⁶ *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 14) p39

²⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 3 July 2010

²⁸ Personal email communication, Allen White, 3 July 2010

²⁹ Interview with Andrew Langford-Jones, 4 October 2010

³⁰ Dennis Smith, *The Haileyburian*, November 1997, p20

³¹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 16) p2

come from behind win. In the desperate last quarter, the Bloods kicked 3.5 to a single behind to win by 23 points”.³²

A nine-goal final term saw off St Bernards in the Bloods’ first match at Elsternwick Park since the “racial abuse” affair. Still seething over this injustice, supporters placed a sign reading “Old Haileyburians are not racists” in their car window, and the club boycotted the traditional after-match drinks in a calculated snub to the VAFA.

Now VAFA Chairman, Andrew Langford-Jones wrote a stinging letter to President Dennis Smith, describing the boycott as pathetic despite acknowledging the error made by the Investigations Panel. In a classic piece of ALJ pragmatism, he intimated that the VAFA had done its best not to publicise the finding of racial abuse and effectively criticised the OHAFC for allowing it to become better known in amateur circles.³³



Beanpole Craig Hucker gets his tap out against St Bernards in 1997, but not to Andrew Walden lurking behind him.

³² Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1997* (Vol 97, No 17) p2

³³ Letter from Andrew Langford-Jones to Dennis Smith, 13 August 1997

Of greater concern was Langford-Jones' contention that the club's standards had dropped significantly over the previous few years and how it was perceived within the VAFA, as being "arrogant, over-bearing and ... a very ordinary club".³⁴ He pointed out a series of alleged incidents including two further acts of racial vilification, repeated abuse of and attitude towards Elsternwick Park officials, poor dress standards by players, lack of officials, players jumping the Elsternwick Park fence to avoid paying for entrance, the "Murray from Mazenod" incident, captain David Connell being reported and sent from the ground and Darren Williams' confrontation with umpire Thwaites. Langford-Jones also suggested that an OHAFC member had been responsible for "leaking" the story of a urinating incident in the Trinity-Paradians game, which resulted in the VAFA losing a \$5,000 sponsorship.

Langford-Jones concluded by urging the club to abandon its "us and them" attitude and instead assume a role as a leading club in the VAFA. Andrew Baxter, by 1997 a senior player, also noticed that the situation had built up over a number of years and that the OHAFC "went from the glamour side in the Ammos in 1990 to one of the more disliked. The incidents were all the classic things the old school amateurs hated".³⁵ Probably wisely, Dennis Smith chose not to circulate Langford-Jones' letter any further than his committee so as not to inflame matters further.

The Bloods hosted Old Xaverians in the penultimate home and away game, on a "weekend that will be remembered for trying conditions as grounds were subject to ferocious winds throughout the afternoon".³⁶ But Xavs were further discomfited courtesy of Simon Meehan's 8am arrival at McKinnon. He served his dish of revenge cold – very cold – by literally flooding the Xaverians' rooms before they arrived. Recalled Meehan, "It was terrible for them. Their bags got all wet, so did their gear, and they were pretty miserable even before the game started".³⁷

A 6.9 to 0.1 opening term and Walden's starring role with two goals enabled the Bloods to survive kicking only 2.4 in the last three quarters and Xavs' last-quarter comeback. Considering they snuck the vital win by a solitary goal, Meehan's flood may just have made the difference, and the coach punched the air in excitement at the final siren.³⁸ Wally then warmed up for the finals with a six-goal haul against relegation-bound Old Trinity in the game that sealed third place.

For just their second A Grade finals match, the Bloods lined up as follows:

Backs: Shane Walden, Andrew Baxter, Brett Carty
Half-backs: Brett Carson, Mark Seccull, Garry Phillips
Centres: Peter Thiessen, Chris McKenzie, Matthew Armstrong
Half-forwards: Chris Kraus, Adam Hilton, David Lappage
Forwards: Chris Efstathiou, Andrew Walden, Nik Morey
Followers: Craig Hucker, Dave Connell (captain)
Rover: Wes Byrns
Interchange: Jason Dann, Brendan Lay, Daniel Warden

First semi-final opponents Collegians were experienced finalists who comfortably had the Bloods' measure in their two home and away matches. As they did at three-quarter time with a 28-point lead. What followed was one of the Haileyburians' finest half-hours as they piled on

³⁴ Letter from Andrew Langford-Jones to Dennis Smith, 13 August 1997

³⁵ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 3 July 2010

³⁶ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1997 (Vol 97, No 19) p2

³⁷ Interview with Simon Meehan, 28 March 2010

³⁸ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

8.7 for the quarter while keeping the Lions scoreless, to win their first A Grade final. Jason Frenkel wrote:

As unlikely as it seemed, it all took place incredibly quickly. Fantastic goals to Hilton and Baxter in the space of a minute at the 10 minute mark and the Bloods looked empowered, spirited and desperate. Hilton's second for the quarter gave Old Haileyburians the lead. Time after time (they) went forward with little resistance; the joy amongst Bloods supporters was almost replaced with disbelief as the magnitude of the win became apparent.

No game ever rests on a single move or player, but the switching of Mark Seccull into the ruck was as close as you get to a match-winning move ... Seccull gave the Bloods drive in the final term which they had previously lacked, and freed up his team mate (Hilton) to kick two important goals at the start of the last term. On the odd occasion the Lions forced the ball forward, it was a cool, composed David Connell who gathered it first, calmly weighing up options before feeding the ball off. Connell's excellent defensive work was supported by Carty's efforts on the dangerous Warne-Smith.³⁹

Veteran Andrew Baxter also remembered the win vividly. "There is great video footage of Wally jumping up and down (most excited I've ever seen him) when one of the goals was kicked. We just got on a roll and kept on kicking goals. The crowd was unbelievable. You would have thought there was five or six thousand there with the noise they made".⁴⁰

This remarkable victory was the peak of achievement for the team Simon Meehan developed in his two coaching stints. A fortnight later they played off in the Haileyburians' first ever A Grade preliminary final, tantalisingly close to the ultimate goal. It turned out a dirty day as they trailed Old Scotch all game and lost by fifteen points. David Lappage's withdrawal just before the game was an unwelcome surprise, especially to his replacement Andrew Dowsing, who having initially missed selection, fully enjoyed his father's fiftieth birthday party the night before the game!⁴¹

Conditions didn't help as the Bloods had picked a September side but found themselves seemingly playing in July. The team was tall and their marking a strength, but the weather gods killed them as it rained all night and through the game.⁴²

The game was "a tough hard slog as both the Cardinals and the Bloods showed a preparedness to do the hard things. Like Mark Seccull. The Bloods big man threw himself into everything, running hard and launching his frame into an aerial contest. His efforts kept Haileyburians' hopes alive for some time, but he could only do so much. David Connell and Garry Phillips both tried gallantly in defence".⁴³ Phillips won a second Best and Fairest in 1997, ten years after his first.

In the third quarter, the Bloods drew to within 13 points after Andrew Walden's long goal on the run "sent the Haileybury faithful into a frenzy".⁴⁴ For the following centre bounce, 32 players lined up on the Haileyburian forward line, and "anything seemed possible when they received a free kick to send the ball forward again. But then Kraus was hit on the head (and) Seccull hit the post"⁴⁵ Lesser lights Shane Walden and Dan Warden appeared with Seccull in the best players in the 13.10 to 10.13 loss.

³⁹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1997* (Vol 97, No 21) p2

⁴⁰ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

⁴¹ Interview with David Connell, 28 March 2010

⁴² Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 25 June 2010

⁴³ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1997* (Vol 97, No 23) p2

⁴⁴ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1997* (Vol 97, No 23) p2

⁴⁵ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1997* (Vol 97, No 23) p2

Despite the Preliminary Final loss, Dennis Smith's President's report was extremely optimistic. He noted the wonderful attendances at social functions, and a response from sponsorships and memberships that saw the club register its greatest ever profit, nearly \$7,000 from a turnover of just over \$45,000.⁴⁶ Smith also referred to how the OHA became actively involved in the OHAFC, having provided a great support structure. And he thanked his committee for "their stamina in lasting through our regular marathon meetings",⁴⁷ although no minutes of these survive.

As far as coach Simon Meehan was concerned, Dennis Smith had been his best "recruit". He described his team's performance as credible rather than successful, and reported that 1997 was the hardest season he had endured as a coach, due to the constant pressure. He warned that the club must learn that commitment and work rate must be for a whole year, including the pre-season, if it was to achieve its goal of being A Grade premiers for the first time.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ OHAFC Inc 1998 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

⁴⁷ OHAFC Inc 1997 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 19 November 1997), President's Report

⁴⁸ OHAFC Inc 1997 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 19 November 1997), First XVIII Coach's Report

1998 - Back to School

As Andrew Langford-Jones took up the reins as the VAFA's tenth President in 1998, Michael Aikman commenced the last of his twenty-five years as Haileybury College Principal. As enrolments declined in the 1990s, so had the school's sporting successes. In the nine years from 1990-98, the school won 28 sporting premierships compared to 38 in the 1980s.⁴⁹ More importantly for the OHAFC, none of these were in football.

Langford-Jones had a rugged introduction as President, when HIV-positive player Matthew Hall from Old Ivanhoe took the VAFA to court when refused a permit to play. Hall eventually won his discrimination case, which at least gave the VAFA and its players and officials a clear guide as to where they stood.

There was little change in the positions of command for the Old Haileyburians between their 1997 and 1998 seasons, other than Billy Baxter's resignation as reserves coach. The returns of big men Ash Hilton and Darren Seccull from overseas and the arrival of the robust Angus Ross, son of 1965 Best and Fairest winner Alan, were offset by the significant retirements of former captain Chris McKenzie, premiership players Wes Byrns and Robert Plecher, and the talented Peter Thiessen. The great team was slowly breaking up.

Responsibility for the McKinnon Reserve had been transferred from the City of Moorabbin to the Glen Eira City Council following Jeff Kennett's re-structuring of local government in Victoria in 1994. Such was the state of the over-worked Main Oval that Council decided on a complete re-surfacing. This meant no football at McKinnon in 1998. Dennis Smith found himself negotiating relatively amicably with Michael Aikman for the school to play its home games on the Fisher Oval,⁵⁰ while training was held at the Mackie Reserve in Bentleigh.



President Dennis Smith flanked by the legendary number nineteens Matthew Armstrong (left) and Roger Gerny (right) at the OHAFC Team of the Century dinner at Kingston Heath in 2000.

DENNIS ELLIOTT SMITH

There aren't too many Old Haileyburians to have played amateur football for the Bloods, but have also been OHA Executive Director, managed international superstar Barry Humphries, served as both President and Secretary of the footy club for eight years and then gone on to produce some of the most successful stage shows ever seen in Australia. Dennis Smith was unique. One minute he would be on the phone to one of his successors as President such as Andrew Hicks, the next it could be thespians Lisa McCune or Shane Jacobson.

Dennis Smith was no mean player as an elusive half-forward flanker in the club's earliest days. Fellow forward Peter Bowring remembered that Smith was immaculately turned out (maybe the Nik Morey of his day) with big white ankle bandages, quite pacy and loved to kick a goal. Dennis was one of the few to ever challenge Bowring for the goal-kicking trophy when he kicked 46 goals in the premiership year of 1963, only three behind the champion. Before the Grand Final there was only one goal in it, which may explain Bowring's comment that "he (Smith) will tell you that he put it down my throat, but that was a last resort. It has been said I was guilty of the same behaviour". There were obviously good football genes in the family as one of Smith's nephews, Dylan played senior AFL football for North Melbourne and Fremantle. Another nephew, Geordie, played fifty-odd games for the Bloods around the turn of the new century.

As good a player as Smith was, it is his record eight-year term as President that he will be most remembered for. There was no job too big or small for him. Putting up or packing away goal post padding, emptying bins, registering players and seeking sponsors - Dennis did it all. Without his indefatigable spirit, extraordinarily calm demeanour and commitment the club might not have even reached its fiftieth birthday - let alone win that first A Grade premiership this generous, elegant man did so much to set up.

*58 games (50 1sts, 8 Reserves),
94 goals (87 1sts, 8 Reserves), 1962-68*

Member 1963 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 9

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1962

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2002

President 1997-2004

Secretary 1998-2004

Committee 1997-2005

⁴⁹ Leigh Edmonds, *A Good School: Haileybury's post-war years*, Institute for Public History, Clayton, 2008, p237

⁵⁰ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

Opening their season against St Kevins at the Glenferrie Oval, the Bloods' dominant third quarter gave them a comfortable seven-goal buffer. They weren't nearly so comfortable by the end of the game, the last of their five behinds in the final quarter being all that gave them victory. The tall timber of Craig Huckler and Darren Seccull led the way. The Seccull and Hilton brothers, along with Huckler, provided the Bloods with marking power all over the ground.⁵¹ It was a big team.

Simon Meehan couldn't flood the Old Xaverians' changing rooms in the Gadsden Pavilion without also affecting his own team, so the visitors "continued on their merry way with a 29-point victory. The Bloods managed just 0.1 in the first term, and conceding a 38-point lead to the reigning premiers is never a smart way to start a match".⁵²



Adam Floyd (33) and Wayne Phillips (40) in the middle of the pack against De La Salle at Elsternwick Park in 1998.

⁵¹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 2) p2

⁵² Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 3) p2

Former back-pocket Carty's stunning seven goals led the Bloods to victory at the Harry Trott Oval, although to his great disappointment it was one of the few games Keith Schilling failed to video over that decade.⁵³ "The Lions took a slender lead into the final term before succumbing to an 8.8 final term from a rampant Old Haileyburians, bringing back memories of their barnstorming finish in last year's finals".⁵⁴ But the Bloods won only one of their next four games, so consigned themselves to playing catch-up for the rest of the season. They conceded seven goals in the final term to St Bernards, despite "plenty of brotherly love"⁵⁵ from the Hiltons, Secculls and Waldens.

Following a dour win against Old Brighton at Elsternwick Park, the Bloods dropped to eighth after their two-point loss to De La Salle. This raised the stakes for the Round 9 clash against second-placed Old Melburnians at the Junction Oval. To improve their physicality, coach Meehan invited former boxing champion Barry Michael to training, with extraordinary results. Recalled Meehan,⁵⁶

Barry and I are good friends. I got him down during the week prior to the game and we had sparring with all the players beforehand. I also showed the players the Barry Michael versus Frank Ropis fight on video which today is recognised as one of the toughest brawls ever, which Barry as the underdog won. To the players' surprise I had Barry turn up at the Junction oval and speak about "never giving in" before the game. We got jumped early and then the all in blue happened in front of us, including Bad Boy Barry as we sat on the bench on the side of the ground. It was a ripper!

Andrew Bonwick was runner that day and also had strong memories of the fracas.⁵⁷

Mark (Seccull) head butted Guest behind play, Guest retaliated and all hell broke loose. I was sitting next to Barry and he was loving it. I think that is where he decided that the Seccull brothers could really go. One day Barry was on the radio after Gangitano got killed and was asked by Eddie Maguire if he knew of anyone around the traps who could really go but never boxed. He said that two brothers down at OH could be good boxers if trained properly which we presume was the Secculls; I'm sure it wasn't Wayne and Garry (Phillips) or the Ladds.

Wally and McMullin were the only two not involved. I stayed well away but remember Lappa landing a couple on Zarny who opened up like a split pea. Guesty was the only one sent off and reported by (field umpire) Wayne Hinton who reckons it's the best blue he has been involved with. I recall some doctor stitching up Darren Seccull at half time.

After all this excitement, a win by three points seemed to set the Bloods back on track as they won six of their last ten matches for the season. Jason Frenkel wisely ignored the boxing and instead reported how the Bloods' seven-goal second quarter had set up the exciting win. Andrew Walden's decision to forgo the fisticuffs also bore rewards as his five goals were vital.⁵⁸ Best afield were Home (OH) and Holme (OMs).

The season's biggest win and loss followed. St Kevins were flogged by 93 points and eleven goal kickers were led by three each to Baxter, Lappage and Morey. At Toorak Park, however, Old Xaverians held the Bloods to their

⁵³ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 29 June 2010

⁵⁴ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1998 (Vol 98, No 4) p2

⁵⁵ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1998 (Vol 98, No 5) p2

⁵⁶ Personal email communication, Simon Meehan, 23 April 2010

⁵⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 10 May 2010

⁵⁸ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1998 (Vol 98, No 10) p2

lowest ever score by a first eighteen, a puny 2.8.20 that was comfortably exceeded by Xavs' Richardson's six goals in the 108-point rout.⁵⁹ The firsts' battle to score was in marked contrast to Chris Efstathiou, who a few weeks later equalled his own club record with a second 14-goal haul, against University Blacks in the under-nineteens.

After the Round 13 loss to St Bernards the Bloods wallowed in eighth position, but only two games outside the four and a clear four games and percentage clear of the relegation zone. But they were battling with their dislocation from McKinnon. Simon Meehan chaired a planning meeting of club leaders to resurrect the season. A new training schedule was determined, which involved a gym or water session on Monday nights when many players were still sore, training at Elsternwick Park under lights on Wednesday nights, and Thursday nights at Mackie Oval. On a broader scale the structure of the club was discussed and divided into six areas – Football, Marketing, On field, Social, Finance and Property.⁶⁰

The meeting also discussed three options for a home ground. No one favoured returning to McKinnon; three favoured moving the club's lights, training at the Mackie Reserve and playing at the school; while six preferred finding a totally new venue, preferably the Linton Street Moorabbin ground. It was agreed that Dennis Smith and Simon Meehan approach the St Kilda Football Club with a view to discovering what would be required to secure tenancy.

As Social Secretary, David Connell was already taking on administrative duties. Following the tradition established by VAFA President Langford-Jones way back in the mid-1980s, Connell hired an unusual after-training "guest speaker", who discarded her inhibitions and everything else beside. Meanwhile Langford-Jones exerted his Presidential pull by having VAFA General Manager Phil Stevens publish ALJ's "best-ever" Old Haileyburians team, which read:⁶¹

Backs: Brett Carty, David Code, John Bingham

Half-backs: Shaun Ralphsmith, Mark Seccull, Garry Phillips

Centres: Ian Roberts, Roger Paul, Wayne Phillips

Half-forwards: Mike Porter, Peter Gadsden, Wayne Shand

Forwards: Andrew Walden, Peter Bowring, Nik Morey

Followers: John Houghton, David Miller

Rover: Simon Meehan

Interchange: Andrew Home, Chris McKenzie, Peter Mason, David Connell

Coach: John Masters

Somehow the "celebrity's best team" didn't include the celebrity himself as either player or coach.

Connell's "guest speaker" must have inspired the boys as "the Bloods plied out three or four nails that had been hammered into their coffin in previous weeks by the pundits with a gutsy 14 point win over University Blues. The Blues threw everything at them in a tense last term but Meehan's men, buoyed by the prospect of an early departure from the September race, hung on grimly with Home heading a dour defence. Ash Hilton gave them plenty of drive all day, and Hucker, Morey and Wayne Phillips (in a customary late-season appearance) all chipped in with a couple of goals".⁶²

⁵⁹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 12) p2

⁶⁰ Minutes of OHAFc meeting, 22 July 1998

⁶¹ Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 16) p1

⁶² Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 16) p2

But as President Dennis Smith lamented, “inconsistency throughout the year was our downfall, which was never so evident as in our loss to Old Brighton, a game we simply had to win”.⁶³ That, and another defeat the following week against De La Salle, firmly shut the door on another finals appearance.

At least there was the return “bout” against OMs to look forward to in the penultimate round. “Old Haileyburians, a side tipped to fall in a heap after bowing out of the September race, resurrected itself with a stirring six goal final quarter that severely dented Old Melburnians’ finals prospects. Adam Hilton overcame some indifferent form with a best on ground effort”.⁶⁴ After the game, OMs Guest sought Mark Seccull and revenge in the McKinnon car park, but Peter Seccull was having none of that.⁶⁵

The final game against Old Scotch at Elsternwick Park was clearly the end of the gig. Jason Frenkel commended the Bloods for playing “rousing football in its final two games to farewell an era that produced some of its greatest players”.⁶⁶ The Old Haileyburians went into the game knowing it was the last for its longest-serving coach Simon Meehan, due to a change in his work commitments.

It was also the last senior game for great champions such as dual premiership captain Darren Seccull, Best and Fairest winners Garry and Wayne Phillips, Nik Morey and Mark Orton (who played in the reserves that day). Not to mention premiership players Andrew Baxter and Chris Kraus. Between them they’d played nearly a thousand games (over 850 in the firsts) and kicked 777 goals (679 in the firsts). They would leave a massive hole, but not before they reminded finalists Old Scotch of their abilities in the form of a 25-point farewell win.

Perhaps surprisingly, this game proved a joyful rather than a sad occasion. There was a clear feeling of handing over the baton, but “a great atmosphere and camaraderie in the team - the young blokes looked up to the old guys and the older guys had a huge amount of respect for the younger guys coming through. There was a lot of joy that day at Elsternwick Park, a genuine happiness as opposed to the exuberance of a finals win”.⁶⁷

Those younger names coming through included Brett Carson, Brendan and Darren Lay, Shane Walden, Mehul Somaia, Danny Warden, Cameron Home, David Mason and Adam Floyd. Wayne Phillips also remembered the day fondly:

I was really excited about one last effort in the jumper, the only footy jumper I'd ever worn. Most of us had little respect for Scotch, they seemed happy being middle of the road, year in, year out. Simon asked us to speak about what the day meant, but I couldn't and was shocked how emotional I felt, and how many of us felt the same. Seeing how much it meant to guys we played with for ten years was a special memory.

*I realised then how lucky I'd been to go through school in a great era, play at the Old Boys with older and younger guys of real class and integrity, and have success along the way. The 80s and 90s were a period where we had a lot of fun, won premierships and probably gained a degree of respect through the VAFA for our competitiveness, close community and ability to rebuild quickly after a poor season.*⁶⁸

⁶³ OHAFC Inc 1998 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President's Report

⁶⁴ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 18) p2

⁶⁵ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 10 May 2010

⁶⁶ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1998* (Vol 98, No 18) p2

⁶⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 25 June 2010

⁶⁸ Personal email communication, Wayne Phillips, 28 September 2010

A comprehensive statistical wrap-up of the season illustrated the contributions and abilities of some of the team's ageing champions. Garry Phillips led the tackles and "one-percenters" with totals of 101 and 176 when the next best efforts were 63 and 137 respectively. Nick Morey led the disposal tally, contested possessions, centre clearances, goal-kicking and entries into the forward 50. Mark Seccull took the most contested and uncontested marks, performed the most spoils, received the most handballs and had second-most disposals (but also gave away the most free kicks).⁶⁹

A pleasing aspect of the season wrap up was Chat Jayasekera going a couple better to win the under-nineteen competition Best and Fairest. Dennis Smith announced the appointment of Simon Meehan's deputy, Tony Papotto, as the new Senior Coach and of Chris McKenzie as Papotto's deputy. He also looked forward to the club's return to McKinnon in 1999.⁷⁰

Canny Treasurer Wayne Phillips reported a modest profit, helped by \$10,000 from the Grand Final Breakfast run by Don and Denise Lord. As ever, the mums were still doing more than their bit. And perhaps surprisingly so were the players, whose payment of subs was a club record \$6,600 and a substantial increase on the previous year's \$3,900. A \$10,000 loan from the OHA left the cash balance higher, although this was ear-marked "to improve training facilities, largely through the installation of lighting at Mackie Road".⁷¹ This move never eventuated.

Phillips, although grateful, must have been concerned at his President "acting as the overdraft facility during periods of dire cash flow".⁷² Was it a signal of tougher times ahead?

⁶⁹ "From the Stats Man", statistical summary for 1998 in OHAFC archives

⁷⁰ OHAFC Inc 1998 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President's Report

⁷¹ OHAFC Inc 1998 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

⁷² OHAFC Inc 1998 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

1999 - After the Band Left

Despite the notes of optimism from Dennis Smith in the 1998 Annual Report, he must have faced the new season with some trepidation. Tony Papotto knew he faced a stiff challenge given the departures from the playing list and foresaw “a difficult year was ahead”.⁷³ The sturdy figure of 1970s leaver Wayne Moss arrived to coach the reserves and Heath “Jabba” Broadbent took over the under-nineteens, who were the club’s main source of joy in 1999. Brother-in-law Matthew Armstrong felt Broadbent’s successes were well deserved - “he was a great recruiter, and always on the phone chasing players”.⁷⁴

Given the retirements, recruitment was seen as being crucial to survival, and such were the club’s efforts that it commenced the year with record player numbers.⁷⁵ This enabled Darren Cotton to revive the third eighteen for a year, but lack of numbers and off-field support in the winter months showed this to be not such a good decision.⁷⁶ Treasurer Cam Lasscock noted the drain placed on the club of running a Club Eighteen team.⁷⁷



Mark Seccull playing against De La Salle in 1998, and not yet at the halfway point of his lengthy career.

MARK WAYNE SECCULL

Tough and uncompromising, Mark “Disco” Seccull was not only one of the great characters of the OHAFC but one of the best and arguably the most durable player to have pulled on a magenta and black jumper. Tall and dark, he played mainly as an athletic ruckman and forward. He loved nothing better than taking a big mark or especially launching a huge rain-maker from that large right boot. Disco made more comebacks than any player in the club’s history.

After playing at VFA club Frankston straight out of school, Seccull started his OHAFC career against Old Melbournians at Fawkner Park in the wet. OMs became a prominent club in his history for many reasons, including a place in the amazing 1990 premiership victory. And of course there was that day at the Junction Oval in 1998 when all hell broke loose after Seccull tangled with OMs’ burly forward James Guest. The two became long-term rivals, but every time Guest tried to flex his muscles, Disco seemed to have his measure.

Mark’s wife Diane hailed from California, which resulted in a couple of spells from football on the other side of the Pacific, and rumours of a small role in a Yahoo Serious film. Both times he returned and simply resumed his career as if he’d never been away.

Seccull was a great warrior for VAFA representative teams, and captained the state. In 2006, he was also selected to play in the annual televised EJ Whitten Legends match as the marvel of his ageless career caught the imagination of the wider football world.

Without doubt Seccull’s crowning glory was as a 38-year-old in 2006 when the Bloods took on Old Xavierians in their first A Grade Grand Final. Although under an injury cloud, Disco had to step up after Stewie Loewe tore a hamstring in the opening minute. Step up he did by dominating the Xavier defenders, kicking four goals to half time including that incredible burst of three in five minutes to wrest the game his team’s way. This set up the greatest day in the club’s history, and it was fitting that a Seccull would be in the side and play so well.

Continued over page...

⁷³ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, First XVIII Coach’s Report

⁷⁴ Interview with Matthew Armstrong, 25 April 2010

⁷⁵ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, First XVIII Coach’s Report

⁷⁶ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

⁷⁷ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

Tony Papotto's major recruits were Michael Lambert, David Hassett and Nic Hanson, who played his sole senior AFL game at St Kilda on a young James Hird in 1993.⁷⁸ It was a big ask for them to replace some of the greats of the past, and Hanson broke his hand mid-season. Papotto felt, however, that "these players had a major influence in games that we won".⁷⁹ All left the club after the 2000 season, although Hassett, twice runner-up in the Best and Fairest, returned four years later. Future VAFA umpire and OHA Executive Director Russell Davidson joined as Papotto's fitness advisor.

Two other new players who made an impact were Ryan Kejna and Bruce Langford-Jones' son Sam. The appearance of names such as Langford-Jones, Mason and Ross gave a 1960s feel to the playing list.

Back at the school, former Monash Deputy Vice-Chancellor Robert Pargetter took up his appointment as the new Principal at the start of 1999. He clearly intended to make significant changes, including the introduction of "parallel education". A major impetus for the introduction of girls to Haileybury was financial, because Pargetter saw that the school needed 3,000 students to be viable across its three campuses. Interestingly the Castlefield campus was still seen by some as the soul of the school.⁸⁰ Changes initiated by Pargetter to the school football program in the mid-2000s, especially in relation to sporting scholarships, would have a significant impact on the OHAFC and how it was perceived in the wider community.

Still based at Keysborough as OHA Executive Director, Dennis Smith saw that Pargetter had a more positive attitude towards the Old Boys than his predecessor. Within a couple of years the ubiquitous Langford-Jones popped up yet again, this time as President of the Old Haileyburians' Association, and Smith remembers Pargetter particularly appreciating his regular dealings with ALJ.⁸¹

By the time he took over as coach, Tony Papotto was established as a highly popular clubman. Like most of his predecessors, he prepared a manifesto for his players. Papotto's was titled "Train Hard, Play Hard", and included his objectives (such as being the best defensive team in the competition), team habits, disciplines and rules, and his game plan.⁸² Before each match he would prepare a two or three page handout for players, including the team line-up, tactical points and game key points, as well as a theme for the day. These themes tended to emphasise being and playing "hard", and mental toughness. Matthew Armstrong for one found Papotto very professional and meticulous in his preparation, and was impressed with his football brain.⁸³

The manifesto was put to the test against the newly promoted Old Ivanhoe. Jason Frenkel optimistically noted that the Bloods had not "been decimated, in spite of the expected exodus. A new culture under popular clubman and coach Tony Papotto has OH looking to play a more consistent brand of football throughout the season".⁸⁴ But the Bloods started slowly, and despite clawing the lead back by half time, succumbed in the third quarter and could not recover in the last, despite the inclusion of future St Kilda wingman Brett Moyle in the team. It was not the start they were hoping for.⁸⁵

Mark Wayne Seccull continued...

In the twilight of his career, Disco was still running around and threatened to join his old teammate Matthew Armstrong in the 300 game club, as well as put his former team mate's games record in the shade. Even in 2010 as a 42-year-old, his aim was to win selection in the firsts and he still received the odd call up. The Seccull family, including Mark's parents Peter and Barbara, were fixtures at the OHAFC for nearly three decades. It is far from out of the question that one day Mark and oldest son Connor might grace the field together.

293 games (258 1sts, 25 Reserves, 10 U19s), 232 goals (203 1sts, 7 Reserves, 22 U19s), 1987-2010

Member 1990, 1995 & 2006 1sts Premiership teams & OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper number 23

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1997

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 2010

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 2006 (31 goals)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2005

Captain 1sts 1999

Vice-captain 1sts 1997

Vice-President 2010;

Committee 2009-10

VAFA Representative 1997, 1999 (Captain), 2000

⁷⁸ Personal email communication, Andrew Baxter, 28 June 2010

⁷⁹ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, First XVIII Coach's Report

⁸⁰ Leigh Edmonds, *A Good School: Haileybury's post-war years*, Institute for Public History, Clayton, 2008, pp247-249

⁸¹ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

⁸² Tony Papotto, OHAFC Train Hard Play Hard in 1999, *Players' manual* in OHAFC archives

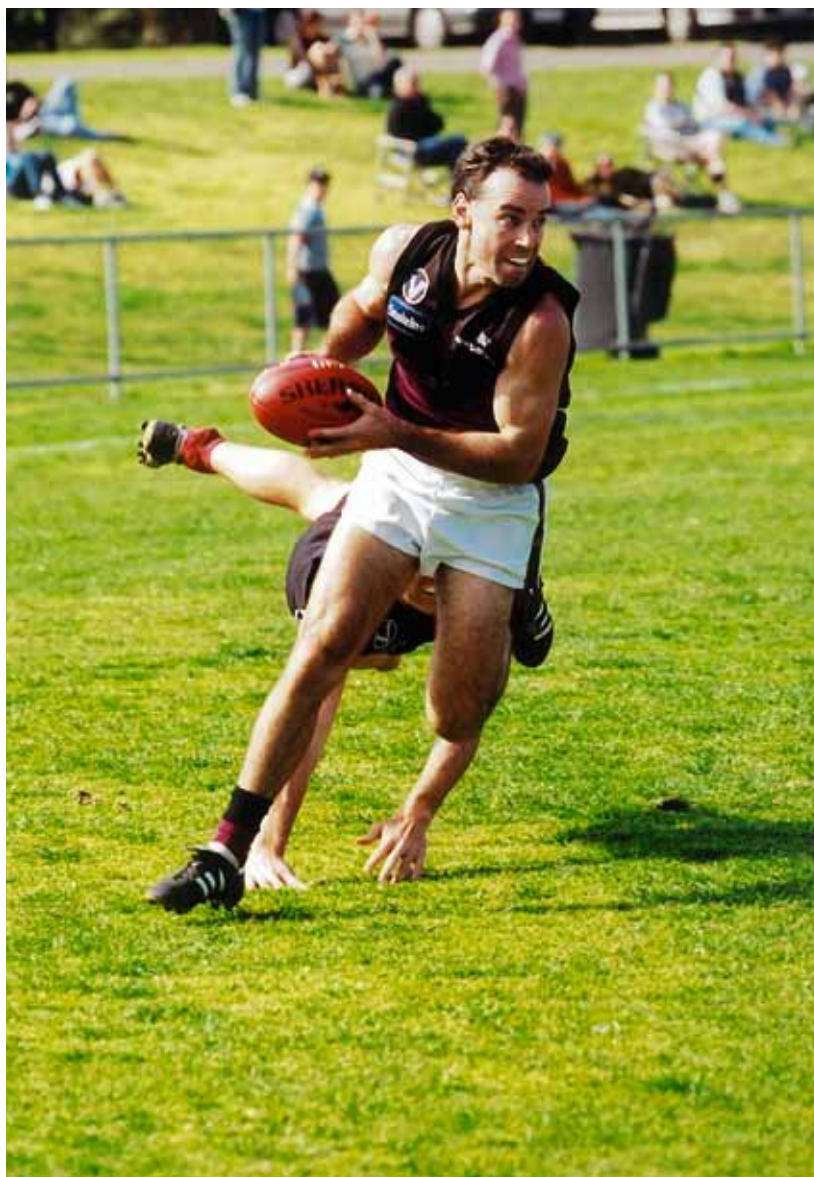
⁸³ Interview with Matthew Armstrong, 25 April 2010

⁸⁴ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 1) p2

⁸⁵ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 2) p2

Their match at De La Salle also hung in the balance at the last change. "With (Andrew) Walden and Jayasekera playing well up forward, and Armstrong and Carson also in the action, the Bloods were a real show before a strong last quarter from the Dees saw them draw away".⁸⁶ They finally opened their account the following week at McKinnon, courtesy mainly of a blistering opening and a half-time lead of eight goals.⁸⁷ Chad Warden's five goals were invaluable.

Inaccurate kicking didn't help the Bloods against Uni Blues, where they lost by thirteen points despite two more scoring shots and the hard work of veterans Connell and Armstrong.⁸⁸ But they redeemed themselves with a surprise victory over previously unbeaten and eventual minor premiers OM's in "just the type of fixture Old Melburnians would have dropped in recent years".⁸⁹



Matthew Armstrong burns off yet another opponent and streams down the wing, this time in the 2002 Grand Final against Old Melburnians.

MATTHEW RONALD ARMSTRONG

Only one man, Matthew Armstrong, played more than 300 games for the Old Haileyburians in their first fifty years. The dark, pint-sized wingman arrived from school with no reputation to speak of, but quickly picked one up in the under nineteens. He also caught the attention of senior coach Simon Meehan. In 1989 he gave notice of regular habits such as playing in premierships and for VAFA representative teams; along similar lines he was instantly and eternally popular with the men in white, and that year was also runner-up in the junior competition Best and Fairest count.

September triumphs at Elsternwick Park soon established Armstrong as one of the premier wingman in the VAFA. "Whoppy" became well known for his hard running and evasive skills. A superb athlete with amazing dedication, he was a great mentor for younger players, highly loyal to his coaches and had a sense of professionalism ahead of his time in the amateurs, even though his great mate David Connell took a quite different view to preparation!

Cheeky on the field, Armstrong loved to verbal opposition players but sensibly was always respectful and polite to umpires. One reward was a VAFA record number of career votes in A Grade; he was runner up twice in the A Grade competition Best and Fairest (as well as twice placing third), once in B Grade and once in the under nineteens. Armstrong's size and capacity to drop his knees when tackled won him many free kicks.

Although Armstrong was fortunate enough to play in three premierships, perhaps one of the saddest days in the club's history was his 300th game when the Bloods suffered a cruel loss to Old Xaverians in the dying seconds of the 2005 Preliminary Final, and were denied a place in their first A Grade Grand Final. Injuries finally drew the curtain on Armstrong's career in 2006, and being absent for the Grand Final must have generated mixed feelings for this most decorated and loyal player.

Continued over page...

⁸⁶ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 3) p2

⁸⁷ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 4) p2

⁸⁸ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 5) p2

⁸⁹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 5) p3

The Bloods' season seemingly moved into gear as they followed up with a thrilling one-point win in their low scoring away match against Old Scotch. The team for this game read:

Backs: Shane Walden, Ashley Hilton, Dave Connell (co-captain)
Half-backs: Dan Warden, Brett Carson, Brendan Mitchell
Centres: Cameron Home, Sam Langford-Jones, Matthew Armstrong
Half-forwards: Chat Jayasekera, Nic Hanson, Darren Lay
Forwards: Brendan Lay, David Lappage, Paul Dimond
Followers: Mark Seccull (co-captain), Michael Lambert
Rover: David Hassett
Interchange: Angus Ross, Adam Floyd, Adam Forsyth

The win saw Old Haileyburians to a seemingly comfortable sixth on the ladder with three wins and losses. But they had played only one of the teams in the four. And they won only two more matches for the season as the growing reality of relegation began to bite.

An 85-point flogging by defending premiers Old Xaverians began the rot. Old Haileyburians "never looked a chance" and had "very little to cheer about except for the continued efforts of Jayasekera and (Darren) Lay".⁹⁰ Narrower losses against Marcellin and St Kevins might have been barely tolerable, even if the "experienced players were so wayward in front of goal (8.18) that must have had Tony Papotto tearing his hair out".⁹¹

In June and July Mark Seccull captained the VAFA senior team, which also included Ashley Hilton, against South Australia and then against the VCFL in Geelong. Seccull found himself playing on goal-kicking legend Simon Goosey and ten years later reflected, "to me, winning is and will always be the most important thing. Though we didn't beat the Country team, I'll never forget walking off the ground and seeing my father's face, full of pride at seeing his son wearing the Big V. Priceless".⁹²

When the Bloods lowered their colours to Old Ivanhoe by 52 points, Papotto gave them a fearful spray after the game, as he did a fortnight later after a similar loss at St Bernards.⁹³ At least they squeezed a welcome three-point win over De La Salle between the showers, in a "high scoring thriller ... with Connell and Armstrong coming to the fore and Adam Hilton providing his best return for the year with six goals".⁹⁴ At St Bernards, Dame Nellie Darren Williams played his first senior game since 1991, in a return to the scene of his 1997 crime.

On a Sunday at Elsternwick Park the Bloods lowered their colours to Uni Blues, for whom future AFL Chief Operating Manager Gillon McLachlin starred.⁹⁵ Despite the loss, Andrew Walden, in the final year of a mercurial career in the seniors, was in a very happy state of mind. His love of the punt had extended to part-owning jumps horse Vowtinsk in a syndicate "involving members of the Old Haileyburians football club".⁹⁶ The other stake-holders included little brother Shane, Brett Carson and Billy and Cam Baxter. The day before the game, Vowtinsk took out the \$140,000 Grand National Steeplechase at Flemington, making the elder Baxter's decision to cut short and return from his trip around Ireland worthwhile.

The Bloods' old friend from 1997, Dion Ciavola, also popped up in *The Amateur Footballer* that day. The tribunal report showed that Ciavola

Matthew Ronald Armstrong continued...

Off the field, Whoppy was notorious for the long speeches he made when receiving his many awards at Presentation Nights. An original Club Clymax organiser and one of the great Footy Trippers, he loved a good night out, especially if there was a podium to dance on. To say nothing of "Achy Breaky Heart".

302 games (club record - 281 1sts, 2 Reserves, 19 U19s), 147 goals (127 1sts, 1 Reserves, 19 U19s), 1988-2005

Member 1989, 1990 & 1995 1sts Premiership teams & OHAFC Team of the Century

Jumper numbers 19 & 36

Best & Fairest 1sts 2001

Runner-up Best & Fairest U19s 1989

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2000

Captain 1sts 2002-04; Vice-captain 1sts 1995-2000

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 1992

Vice-President 2008

Committee 1992, 2004-06

VAFA Representative 1995 (senior), 1989 (U19)

⁹⁰ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1999 (Vol 99, No 8) p2

⁹¹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1999 (Vol 99, No 10) p2

⁹² Mark Seccull, *The Amateur Footballer* 2009 (Vol 09, No 11) p13

⁹³ Interview with Matthew Armstrong, 25 April 2010

⁹⁴ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1999 (Vol 99, No 12) p2

⁹⁵ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer* 1999 (Vol 99, No 14) p2

⁹⁶ Tony Bourke, *The Age (Sport Section)* 11 July 1999, p19

had been suspended for two weeks for striking and another six weeks for assault, to be served concurrently with another two-week penalty.⁹⁷

Other losses mounted, despite pushing the much-fancied Old Melburnians for a half before losing by ten goals. In a major turn-up the Bloods defeated third-placed St Kevins by a similar margin, possibly helped by a deflating incident to Skobbers' Dan Smith who suffered a fractured skull from a knock to the head in a marking contest.⁹⁸

Facing Marcellin in the penultimate round, the Bloods still harboured a slim chance of avoiding relegation. But they suffered a heart-wrenching six-point loss, having played "arguably some of their best football for the year, and with a five goal lead at the final change looked headed for an upset of epic proportions. Kejna and Connell were prominent all day, big men Seccull and Hilton dominant, and eleven players contributed to Haileyburians' goal kicking tally".⁹⁹

The Bloods were "consigned to relegation in the cruellest fashion after ... hitting the post twice in the last quarter when goals might have stemmed the Marcellin tide".¹⁰⁰ Marcellin's seven-goal final quarter was capped by full-forward Tony Caffry's "dead-eye long shot after the bell to pinch victory".¹⁰¹

In the final game against Old Xavs, the Haileyburians did their "utmost to finish a forgettable year in style by trying to knock off the reigning premiers at Toorak Park. They very nearly did. The Bloods kicked six goals to none in the first term for a 38 point lead at quarter time to stun an impotent Xavs. Kejna and Lappage were on song, and Brudar was on fire in front of goals".¹⁰² But it couldn't last and eventually they subsided by nine points.

This was the last senior game for both Brett Carty and David Connell, who became the first player since Roger Paul in 1983 to win a Best and Fairest as captain. Andrew Walden played his last senior game two weeks earlier, so now all that was left of the premierships teams of 1989 and 1990 were the ageless Matthew Armstrong and Mark Seccull, who again finished second in the competition Best and Fairest. And there were only a handful of survivors even from Neville Taylor's 1995 triumph.

Tony Papotto and the club were bitterly disappointed by the meagre five wins, ninth place on the ladder and relegation. Especially when they felt that they "were in a position to win, and should have won, at least another six games",¹⁰³ all of which were lost by less than three goals.

Like most coaches, Papotto had been dedicated and worked extremely hard with the best of intentions. Some felt that if anything he could be too consumed with the task and too uncompromising, and because of this he perhaps struggled to grasp the amateur culture.¹⁰⁴ When the club decided not to re-appoint Papotto, President Dennis Smith visited him at home to deliver the bad news. Sadly the two have not spoken since.¹⁰⁵

By making their Grand Final, the under-nineteens were easily the success story of the season. They gave early notice of their abilities with a 201 point win over St Bedes/Mentone Tigers when Allan Brudar slotted 12 goals. His season tally of 78 was a record for the juniors and won the competition goal-kicking. Brudar also kicked 13 goals in the seniors to give him a total of 91 goals for the season across all teams, a record for any Old

ANTHONY DAVID PAPOTTO

Tony Papotto was another who came to the Bloods via the Old Haileyburians' Cricket Club. Recovering from a knee reconstruction, "Poppy" was enticed across by his colleagues in the advertising industry Mark Coad and Billy Baxter, as well as OHAFC identities such as Heath Broadbent and Andrew Bonwick. They eventually persuaded him to pull the (football) boots on again in 1998.

Papotto had been a teenage sporting star in his home state of Western Australia. He was one of the youngest players ever to play in the WAFL, making his debut at the age of 15, and also played Grade cricket in Perth at a young age. Papotto was part of the inaugural West Coast Eagles squad in 1987 without quite making the final list. A nuggetty, dark rover, he had sublime hand and foot skills, but his battered body struggled to keep up with a quick football brain. Papotto was well suited to serve as Simon Meehan's assistant coach in 1998 and was an obvious successor the following year.

Well liked and respected by his players, Papotto took over at a difficult time. The retirement of many senior players over the previous few years left him with a young squad and less depth. Despite his meticulous planning, the team was cruelled by a number of narrow losses, finished ninth and headed back to B Grade.

5 games (all 1sts), 1 goal (1sts), 1998

Jumper number 18

Coach 1sts 1999

⁹⁷ *The Amateur Footballer 1999 (Vol 99, No 13) p51*

⁹⁸ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999 (Vol 99, No 18) p2*

⁹⁹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999 (Vol 99, No 19) p2*

¹⁰⁰ Paul Daffey, *The Sunday Age (Sport Section) 15 August 1999*

¹⁰¹ Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999 (Vol 99, No 19) p2*

¹⁰² Jason Frenkel, *The Amateur Footballer 1999 (Vol 99, No 20) p2*

¹⁰³ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President's Report

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Matthew Armstrong, 25 April 2010

¹⁰⁵ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

Haileyburian player. After winning fifteen games and finishing second on percentage, they won a tense second semi-final against OMs by nine points. Geordie Smith and Peter Wright starred as they had all season. For the Grand Final they lined up as follows:

Backs: Tim Barker, Robert Ladd, Luke Floyd (captain)
Half-backs: Chris Moyle, Greg Fletcher, Peter Ladd
Centres: Lachlan Pfeiffer, Geordie Smith, Robert Brandham
Half-forwards: Brett Harrop, Travis Hilton, Michael Anderson
Forwards: Enda Reilly, Allan Brudar, Justin Robertson
Followers: Andrew Jenke, Peter Wright
Rover: Brent Johnston
Interchange: Darren Webb, Andrew Waxman, Brett Murphy, Bernard Ferguson

Coach Heath Broadbent faced an unenviable clash on Grand Final day. Before taking on the job as coach, he had agreed to be best man at his brother Jarrod's wedding, booked for the same day. "Who thinks that far ahead?"¹⁰⁶ he asked a decade later. Marcellin agreed to start the match an hour early which enabled Broadbent to at least coach until half time, after which future brother-in-law Matthew Armstrong "broke every road law to have me at the church in time".¹⁰⁷

The popular "Jabba" handed over the coaching reins to assistant Scott Peddar at half time, with his team three points up against Marcellin. Wright, Andrew Jenke and Robert Brandham had had plenty of the ball. "Co-relate as you will"¹⁰⁸ wrote VAFA under-nineteen correspondent Brett Connell, who saw the Eagles creep back then take over the match after Broadbent's departure, booting seven goals to three despite Robert Ladd and Brett Murphy battling desperately. Broadbent returned to the rooms in his suit between wedding photos and reception to find his beaten team devastated.¹⁰⁹

In his Coach's report, Broadbent noted how "the response from players that live towards Berwick due to the changing face of the school was terrific and needs to be maintained if success is to continue".¹¹⁰ He could also boast of developing seventeen players to go into senior ranks in 2000, and of developing a presence at the school. Captain Luke Floyd had played a large part in bringing "The Berwick Crew" together.

Of all the players Broadbent helped develop, Jenke became the biggest star. "Jenks was at Oakleigh Chargers and injured early. I rang their coach and Jenks every week. When he recovered fitness their other ruckmen were playing well and I persuaded the coach to let Jenks play with us. Late in the season we needed to qualify him for finals and although the Chargers coach was a ruckman down he let Jenks do so. I've never seen anyone bleed from the nose so much! Port Melbourne made a big try for him but we had his father on side by then. He was a great listener and learner, and I was very proud when he won the Woodrow (in 2006)".¹¹¹

To close what had been a trying year, Dennis Smith pleaded to members, "Let us not let the negativity that crept into our club during the season become part of our culture. We all need to approach next season positively in every facet of our operation, and to give the coaches and players every encouragement in our quest to return to A Grade".¹¹²

¹⁰⁶ Personal email communication, Heath Broadbent, 10 July 2010

¹⁰⁷ Personal email communication, Heath Broadbent, 10 July 2010

¹⁰⁸ Brett Connell, *The Amateur Footballer 1999* (Vol 99, No 23)

¹⁰⁹ Personal email communication, Heath Broadbent, 10 July 2010

¹¹⁰ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Under 19 XVIII Coach's Report

¹¹¹ Personal email communication, Heath Broadbent, 10 July 2010

¹¹² OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President's Report

CHAPTER 11

NEW DIRECTIONS 2000-02



2000 – Mick and the new Millennium

When his playing days ended, Mick Dwyer had no serious intention of coaching, either the Old Haileyburians or anyone else. Even after his in-laws the Secculls had dragged him along to see the Bloods defeat Old Scotch by a point in one of their rare 1999 triumphs.¹ But Dennis Smith and the retired Darren Seccull convinced Dwyer to take over Tony Papotto's job in time for Smith to reveal the new appointment to the 1999 AGM.²

Despite the disappointment of relegation, the Old Haileyburians looked forward to the new season under their new coach. The player list was largely intact and many of the under-nineteens who had played in the previous year's Grand Final became senior players.³ For his part Dwyer assumed that he would have a virtual production line of players from the school, but soon realised this was not the case.⁴



The beastly Ashley Hilton effects a spoil from behind in 2001 against Therry Penola.

ASHLEY JOHN HILTON

Hard running and athletic full back Ashley Hilton, also known as The Beast, created havoc amongst opposition full forwards. His ungainly running style, elbows and legs going everywhere, and ferocious attacks on the ball spelled danger for anybody in his vicinity, including unsuspecting team mates. Full of courage, he had an awkward but often effective manner of kicking. Beast became a vital member of a team in transition in the late 1990s.

The raw-boned Hilton was a lovable character and a respected clubman, although vulnerable to trickery by team mates in the change rooms and often on the receiving end of group stooges. With hard work his game developed over the years to the point that in the later half of his career he matched brother Adam's performances, won a Best and Fairest and was selected in the senior VAFA representative team.

*142 games (101 1sts, 10 Reserves, 31 U19s),
15 goals (3 1sts, 1 Reserves, 11 U19s), 1992-2002*

Jumper number 17

Best & Fairest 1sts 2000

VAFA Representative 1999

¹ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

² OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President's Report

³ OHAFC Inc 2000 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President's Report

⁴ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

Mick Dwyer also had Jason Taylor in his corner as Chairman of Selectors. Taylor had played with the Bloods' co-tenant St Pauls and "copped a bit of stick from the St Pauls people who thought he was defecting to the enemy".⁵ Taylor went on to be second in charge of recruiting at Collingwood.

Adam Hilton took over the captaincy from the retired David Connell, whose body had finally had enough of being used as a battering ram. The long-serving Matthew Armstrong remained a loyal deputy while Ryan Kejna's great 1999 season saw him elevated to deputy vice-captain. The club's initial optimism was shared by *The Amateur Footballer's* Damian Carroll, who saw that Dwyer had "plenty of cattle at his disposal and ... it will be a case of stand back and let the dog see the rabbit".⁶ Carroll had the Bloods second favourite for the flag behind De La Salle, giving them odds of 9/4. But significantly he also saw their reserves were weak and placed them eighth favourite at 25/1.⁷



Captain Adam "Bobby" Hilton in an aerial duel against Ormond at McKinnon in 2000, supported by David Hassett (8).

ADAM LINDSAY HILTON

Blessed with considerable talent and athleticism, but also something of an enigma, Adam Hilton ventured down to McKinnon after being drafted by Hawthorn straight out of school. He soon became known as "Bob" or "Bobby", as in Brother-of-Beast.

Hilton became a fantastic servant of the club, and was captain in 2000 and 2001. When Bobby turned it on there was no stopping him, and he carved up some of the best big men in amateur football. Hilton was amazingly athletic for a man of his considerable size (around six foot six), a superb mark, excellent shot for goal and a massive right-foot kick. He was equally adept in the ruck or playing the key forward positions.

A solid performer at social functions, Bobby's dancing was always one of the highlight at the legendary Club Clymax. Transfers in Hilton's work cut short his football career, the first being a move to Queensland in 2002, before finally a promotion at Channel Ten took him to Sydney in his prime. Perhaps the Bloods never really saw the best of this amazing athlete.

103 games (95 1sts, 8 Reserves),
130 goals (128 1sts, 2 Reserves), 1996-2005

Jumper numbers 7 & 42

Captain 1sts 2000-01

⁵ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

⁶ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer* 2000 (Vol 00, No 1) p6

⁷ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer* 2000 (Vol 00, No 1) p7

The Haileyburians' season opened brightly enough at Collegians' Harry Trott ground, where they overcame a three goal deficit at half time by booting twelve goals to six "to win running away by 21 points".⁸ The new skipper led the charge with five goals. Matthew Armstrong was reported for the only time in his career, for striking, but was only reprimanded at the tribunal.

This meant the veteran wingman was free to play his 200th career the following week against North Old Boys at home. In hindsight he might have preferred to have missed the game, as "the fat lady was singing at half time"⁹ with NOBs 46 points up. This blew out to 111 points despite the efforts of Adam Forsyth and David Hassett. Mick Dwyer saw that this performance "clearly uncovered a weakness that would hurt us time and again throughout the year - that of our general run and fitness. Given ... the almost impossible task of catching up on fitness during the year we struggled, especially against teams who based themselves around a strong running game".¹⁰



Brendan Lay spoils his Collegians opponent in the opening round of 2000.

⁸ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 2) p6

⁹ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 3) p6

¹⁰ OHAFC Inc 2000 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, First XVIII Coach's Report

Successive losses to Ormond, who kicked nine goals in the second quarter alone, and Old Brighton meant the Bloods' season was off to a slow start and one from which they would struggle to recover.

Carroll jumped back on the bandwagon, or as he called it the "express train"¹¹ very quickly after the Bloods' 75-point win over Old Mentonians at Elsternwick Park in which new names like Adam White, under-nineteen captain Sammy Langford-Jones, David Hassett and Nic Hanson were prominent. But it was the only win in a string of six matches that left them on the lower reaches of the ladder. The club must have been struggling off the field too, as Carroll complained in Round 7 that he still hadn't heard from anyone at Old Haileyburians to help him with his reviews.¹² As usual, the De La Salle game that week was "a heated match that apparently spilled over from the twos".¹³

For the long trip to a vital game in the cold and wet at Old Paradians' Bundoora grounds, "Mick Dwyer must have hired a brand-spanking new set of smelly camels. They did the trick as the away team finally found some form to win by 41 points. Lappage led the way with five goals, and he was well helped by Dowsing and Brendan Lay".¹⁴

The injured Matthew Armstrong didn't play against Parade, so instead prepared a match report. Typically, it was a document which encouraged his team mates and urged them to maintain and lift their standards. In the previous two weeks, Armstrong believed "we have really improved both at training and in games".¹⁵ He noted how the Bloods had played like a team that wanted to win and how they actually looked like a team. He was full of praise for Brendan Lay and Andrew Dowsing, saw David Lappage as one of the best forwards in the competition with his magnificent finishing and highlighted Shane Walden's determination to provide a contest every time.

A few weeks earlier, after playing against Old Brighton, Armstrong had caught the evening flight to Sydney to run a marathon the following day over the Olympic course. He flew back on the Monday, trained Tuesday and Thursday, then played against Old Mentonians on the wide expanses of Elsternwick Park on the Saturday. Even the usually indefatigable Armstrong was tired after that program; he also lost his battle with Mick Dwyer to play in the midfield. Armstrong was banished to the backline, and played on and off the bench thereafter.¹⁶

In his half-year review, Damian Carroll wrote that "Mick Dwyer can't seem to take a trick at the moment with his players who, by now, must rate as the most enigmatic team going around in B Section. One week they're superstars, the next week they're easybeats. Should they show their best on a more consistent basis in the second half of the year, they could do anything".¹⁷ This sort of assessment had been made repeatedly about the Old Haileyburians since the early 1990s, so they were serial offenders.

Progress stuttered when the Bloods were "carved up"¹⁸ by Mazenod at McKinnon, before three successive wins saw them almost back in contention, only a game but lots of percentage outside the four. A win over Collegians was to "almost guarantee their survival"¹⁹ in B Grade, while the one-point victory over eventual finalists North Old Boys at Brunswick made them "officially the B section enigma winners

¹¹ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 6) p6

¹² Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 7) p6

¹³ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 8) p6

¹⁴ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 9) p6

¹⁵ Matthew Armstrong, match report in OHAFC archives, 27 June 2000

¹⁶ Personal email communications, Matthew Armstrong, 28 & 30 June 2010

¹⁷ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 10) pp6-7

¹⁸ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 10) p6

¹⁹ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 11) p6

²⁰ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 12) p6

for 2000".²⁰ Lappage booted six while Hassett and White were great contributors.

The winning mid-season form continued against Ormond, "set up by a great third quarter as they were able to match motors with their opponents on the scoreboard and come home with a handy breeze. Adam Hilton, Armstrong and the young hyphen, Langford-Jones (4 goals) were superb".²¹

With the turn of the millennium, choosing a "Team of the Century" was a favourite of sporting clubs great and small across Australia. The Old Haileyburians held their "Team of the Century" evening at Kingston Heath Golf Club, where Andrew Langford-Jones squeezed himself into the "Team of the 70s" but couldn't secure a place in the main team, which was:

Backs: Brett Carty, David Code, Mark Seccull
Half-backs: David Connell, John Bingham, Garry Phillips
Centres: Roger Gerny, Roger Paul, Glenn Tanner
Half-forwards: Peter Mason, Peter Gadsden, Wayne Phillips
Forwards: Neville Schmidt, Peter Bowring, Nik Morey
Followers: John Houghton, Chris McKenzie
Rover: Simon Meehan
Interchange: Darren Seccull, Matthew Armstrong, Andrew Home, Andrew Walden
Emergencies: Andrew Baxter, Wes Byrns, David Eagle, Alan Ross
Coach: Simon Meehan
President: Ken Allison

After this the Old Haileyburians' season fell apart as they lost four successive games. "Just when you thought it was safe to say that OH was a genuine finals side, they go down faster than the Titanic (albeit to the hot flag favourites)"²² was the verdict after their 97-point flogging by Old Brighton, in what was a grim day all round. The reserves failed to kick a goal, and against St Kevins the under-nineteens suffered the equal largest ever defeat (221 points) by an Old Haileyburians team. They were uncompetitive in the top junior division, won only one game, finished eleventh out of twelve and their percentage of 30.2% was the lowest recorded by an OHAFC under-nineteen team. Geordie Smith won their Best and Fairest for the second year in a row and was one of half a dozen juniors chosen in the firsts.

The club's nadir, however, was a one-point loss to bottom team Old Mentonians. Sam Langford-Jones tore a hamstring as he missed a crucial opportunity to goal from the square late in the game²³ but was among the better players with David Mason and Cam Home.

By the end of the year Damian Carroll rated the Bloods as just plain "disappointing" rather than enigmatic, although they had a rival for his "Jeckyl and Hyde Cup"²⁴ in Old Paradians, who the Bloods knocked off in the penultimate round thanks largely to the efforts of Armstrong, Kejna and Jayasekera.

It had been a hard first year for Mick Dwyer, but he felt he had learnt much and vowed not to allow a lack of run and fitness or an unacceptable lack of pride in performance to again derail the team's season. He also

BEN LANGFORD-JONES

Ben Langford-Jones spent much of his childhood growing up at the OHAFC as a small, fair child while father Andrew played over 200 games and later coached the firsts. Ben matured into a Large Unit and developed a cult following for his beard, jock strap and all round personality. He never took things or himself too seriously. Despite his ability sometimes being under-estimated by coaches, "Beanie" or "Bean Bag" turned himself into a very capable reserves footballer. No one played more games for the club without playing in the firsts.

Langford-Jones was one of those characters who made football clubs fun. Never without a smile on his face, he was always willing to do whatever it took to have a function up and running, and to ensure it went well. Mother Rose hardly ever missed a home game as Ben continued the tradition of one of the club's most famous and involved families.

*162 games (128 Reserves, 34 U19s),
21 goals (9 Reserves, 12 U19s), 1994-2010*

Jumper numbers 16 & 55

²¹ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 13) p6

²² Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 14) p6

²³ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

²⁴ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2000* (Vol 00, No 18) p6

thought that the players would “realise the mistake of under-estimating opposition teams and looking beyond the football season they are playing in. The respect given to teams who consistently play in A Section is something our football club must earn again. We cannot be duped into believing we are better than our ability allows and that promotion is our right.”²⁵ He also warned that the players who represented their club in 2001 would have worked hard for their places.

After this first year, Dwyer and President Dennis Smith also concluded that the team would not be competitive, especially in A Grade, if it relied purely on players from the school. They resolved to cast their recruiting net wider and to also very actively search for suitable non-Old Boys to recruit. Perhaps surprisingly for such an important initiative their plan was not discussed at length by the committee, so Smith and Dwyer pressed on.²⁶

There were some causes for optimism. The reserves enjoyed their best year since 1995 winning seven games, admittedly in the lower grade. They outscored their opponents over the course of the season for the first time since 1991. Allan Brudar’s eight goal haul in the massive win over Old Mentonians was a highlight, and Efstathiou became a consistent goal-kicker in the second half of the season. Paddy O’Donnell enthusiastically threw his big frame around to take out the Best and Fairest, a good match for Ashley “Beast” Hilton’s win in the firsts.

Treasurer Cam Lasscock was reported one of the club’s more successful financial years. The “Team of the Century” dinner resulted in a profit of about \$6,000, the same as the overall profit in a year where the club generated an income of over \$75,000. But Lasscock expressed concern at the fall in sponsorship and membership income.²⁷

Dennis Smith had reached the halfway point of his eight-year term as President. In his first season the club had reached its highest level and played in an A Grade preliminary final, but despite his own hard work it was now treading water in the lower half of B Grade. It was the lowest position they occupied during Smith’s presidency. He knew there was much hard work ahead.²⁸

²⁵ OHAFC Inc 2000 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, First XVIII Coach’s Report
²⁶ Interview with Dennis Smith and Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

²⁷ OHAFC Inc 2000 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer
²⁸ OHAFC Inc 2000 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, President’s Report

2001 - Bonna's Flag – and nearly Broke

Jeremy Bourke was the first of Smith and Dwyer's gun recruits. Schooled in Wagga, he met Andrew Bonwick at Sydney University. At functions such as the 1994 Grand Final breakfast Bonwick introduced Bourke to other OHAFC identities such as Matthew Armstrong, Dave Connell and Billy Baxter. Tough as teak, the stocky, hirsute Bourke carved out a fine career in country football at Narrandera and Seymour.

If ever Bourke was going to play in Melbourne it would be with the Bloods, having trained with them in 2000. Bonwick and Armstrong took him for lunch at the Rising Sun Hotel, thinking they had sealed the deal, but Bourke's work had seen to that anyway given he was to be based in Melbourne.²⁹

Other major recruiting targets were on the radar even at this stage, including Old Boys Brett O'Farrell, Paul and Mark Corrigan and Michael Barker, as well as Springvale's Brett Trollope. Paul Corrigan and Barker had played isolated games for the Bloods in the late 1990s before playing at higher levels. Contact was also made with the South Australian-based Kynan Ford and Heath Hopwood.

For his part Andrew Bonwick followed in his father's footsteps by taking over one of the most difficult jobs in amateur football, coaching the reserves. Whereas Jim was a playing coach back in 1979, Andrew was strictly an off-field general. Andrew Lynch, the Director of Sport at the school, was appointed under-nineteen coach. Dennis Smith helped Lynch see that this could be an extension of his job at the school, and Lynch wondered whether he was being groomed to coach the school First Eighteen.³⁰ But Smith's financial inducement was crucial.³¹

New faces in the team for the first game against De La Salle included David Emmerson, Michael Graves, Adam McMahon and Adam Saunders. They didn't include Jeremy Bourke, due to his registration papers not being submitted. Giant ruckman Andrew Jenke and Richard George, who each had limited senior experience, resumed more regular places in the team.

Previewing B Section in *The Amateur Footballer*, Damian Carroll was not optimistic about the Bloods' prospects, but wary nonetheless. He felt they had endured a tough pre-season, saw that a number of higher profile players were no longer playing and recalled the under-nineteens disappointing 2000. Having a bit each way, Carroll said "stranger things have happened, though, and last year's enigmas could surprise everyone".³² But he obviously rated them as relegation material, giving them odds of 50/1 for the flag, second-longest odds in the Grade. A little more generously he gave 25/1 on the reserves, seventh favourite.³³

The Bloods made a great start. Against De La they "blasted out of the blocks, booting the first three and were never headed from there on in. Carson, McMahon and Armstrong were good players in a very even team effort".³⁴ Against Therry at Elsternwick Park, "a five goal to none second quarter was enough to put a buffer between the two sides, and that was effectively the end of the ball game. Graves, Home and Bell were good".³⁵

²⁹ Interview with Jeremy Bourke, 28 April 2010

³⁰ Interview with Andrew Lynch, 21 July 2010

³¹ Personal telephone communication, Dennis Smith, 6 November 2010

³² Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer* 2001 (Vol 01, No 1) p6

³³ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer* 2001 (Vol 01, No 1) p7

³⁴ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer* 2001 (Vol 01, No 2) p6

³⁵ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer* 2001 (Vol 01, No 3) p6

The draw worked in the Haileyburians' favour as virtually a third successive home game followed against Whitefriars. A 74-point win was "set up in the first quarter when they slammed on seven goals to one to effectively end the contest. The rout didn't end there as OH piled on the pressure to completely dominate the game and win every quarter".³⁶ The best players were being shared around, with Shane Walden, Jenke and Kejna being named as the stars as the Bloods shared ladder leadership with Old Ivanhoe.

The bubble deflated a little courtesy a "good old fashioned rout"³⁷ by 43 points at the hands of OM at the Junction Oval. So began a pattern of alternating wins and losses that lasted from rounds 3 to 11. Most of the wins were at home and all the losses were away, including the far flung venues of Parade and Old Ivanhoe.

First the Bloods outlasted Ormond after an eleven to six goal first half and Lappage's seven majors. They lost a close contest to Old Paradians but gave North Old Boys a "nice old touch-up"³⁸ before suffering "pure carnage"³⁹ at the hands of Old Ivanhoe. When Beaumaris visited McKinnon, the Old Haileyburians "brutalised their guests by 99 points"⁴⁰ (Home five goals) before being outrun by De La Salle in a "one-sided fizzer".⁴¹ Last in the sequence was an exciting win at Therry, where they finally snatched the lead midway through the last quarter.

Given the yo-yo nature of these results it wasn't the smoothest of seasons. Formalised "Leadership groups" at AFL were well publicised by this time and clubs at lower levels like the Old Haileyburians followed suit. Embarrassed by the De La Salle loss⁴² the Bloods' leaders (Armstrong, Bourke, Carson, the Hiltons, Home, Kejna, Lappage, Seccull, Walden and White) took stock along with another eight of their team mates. In particular they made a commitment not to allow themselves to be beaten again like they had been by De La and Old Ivanhoe⁴³ by margins of 55 and 75 points respectively. Mick Dwyer was not at the meeting, but Matthew Armstrong reported back to him after it and he applauded the leaders for their initiative at the time.⁴⁴



There's no time or place in Grand Finals for laughs or impersonations. James Bell lays down the law during the reserves' 2001 triumph.

JAMES MICHAEL BELL

One of the great characters around the Old Haileyburians in the 1990s and 2000s, James Bell's impersonations of Allan Jeans, Rodney Rude and Peter Nicholson are legendary. "The Rock" was also one of the club's all time great reserves footballers, his career culminating in a starring role in the 2001 B Grade reserves premiership. Bell also played senior football to the surprise of many, and showed he was far from out of his depth at this level.

Bell was a very tough player who loved to give the umpires stick. But it was bad hand injuries rather than an over-active mouth that cost him a number of games. "Belly" was also a great organiser and famous for his deeds as MC at the Grand Final Breakfast and the traditional players' review.

Anyone who attended a Ken Phillips Day would never forget Bell's three quarter time addresses. Every year the Old Boys and the school kids would gather round together while he recited the Allan Jeans story about the young boy buying a pair of shoes and paying the price. Bell's work commitments with BHP eventually saw him move to Singapore, but his legacy of good humour and quick wit remained with all who came across him.

172 games (18 1sts, 119 Reserves, 35 U19s),
66 goals (2 1sts, 39 Reserves, 25 U19s), 1997-2009

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 26

Best & Fairest Reserves 2006

Runner-up Best & Fairest U19s 1998

Captain Reserves 2002-03, 2005-06

Captain U19s 1998

Committee 2009

³⁶ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 4) p6

³⁷ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 5) p6

³⁸ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 8) p6

³⁹ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 9) p6

⁴⁰ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 10) p6

⁴¹ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 11) p6

⁴² Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

⁴³ Minutes of OHAFC players' meeting in OHAFC archives, 3 July 2001

⁴⁴ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

Finally the Bloods managed two wins in a row by knocking over a brave Whitefriars, which left them sitting third, two games and percentage clear of fifth. They spent the rest of the season guarding their place in the four by virtue of relatively easy wins over Old Paradians, North Old Boys and Beaumaris. But perhaps their most impressive performance was the one-point loss to “unbackable flag favourites”⁴⁵ Old Ivanhoe in “crappy” weather at McKinnon. They finished a game clear in fourth place and qualified for their first finals series since 1997.

The Bloods’ record against first semi-final opponents Old Melburnians was an interesting one, as the clubs tended to build winning streaks against each other. From 1996 to 1999 Old Haileyburians won six in a row, then OMs won the following eight, before the Bloods won nine of the next ten between 2003 and 2008. Unfortunately this semi-final was in the middle of OMs’ winning streak.

Steady drizzle greeted the diehards at Elsternwick Park. The Bloods scored the first major, but by quarter time OMs were two goals up. In a battle of the half-back lines in the second quarter, “OH clearly had the momentum but failed to capitalise on their dominance. If they had had any front and centres in the forward line, a one point lead would certainly have been much more”.⁴⁶



The 2001 reserves team celebrate their premiership win at Elsternwick Park.

⁴⁵ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 18) p6

⁴⁶ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2001* (Vol 01, No 20) p6

Having squandered their opportunity the Bloods found themselves fighting against the tide in the third quarter, and appeared lucky to be within thirteen points at the final change. They were even luckier when OMs scored eight successive behinds, but eventually the killer goals came, and late answers from Lappage and Mason only gave a little respectability to the 27-point loss. Carson, Harrop, Bourke, Saunders and Mitchell were among the best.

Andrew Lynch's under-nineteens experienced a mixed year, winning seven games, five being in succession in the middle of the year. They also endured a 193-point hiding at the hands of Old Ivanhoe.

But rookie coach Andrew Bonwick kept the club's best until last; his reserves made their first Grand Final since 1989. They were led by the feats of the goal-kicking monolith Efstathiou, whose ten-goal haul against Whitefriars equalled Peter Atkinson's 1969 record for most goals in a reserves game. In the home and away season, the next best effort in the reserves competition was 49 goals. Efstathiou gave plenty away too, especially to his little mate Mehul Somaia lurking alongside in the forward pocket. Bonwick explained:

That year my whole game plan was to get the ball long and quick to the top of the square. The forward line would be opened right up with no one allowed in the 50 apart from Foo and Mehal. Buggy, (Simon Davey) who kicked the ball at least 60 metres, was great for Foo as we used to free him up off half back and get the ball to him and he would kick these massive high left footers and Foo just knew how to read them. It was just too easy.

Every game we would play, the opposition would play a loose man in the hole who would always look nervous as Foo wasn't slow and didn't mind fixing a few up if he got a chance. They wouldn't stay there for long often preferring to play next to him rather than 20 metres in front.⁴⁷

It was obvious early in the year that the team would play finals, so selections were well manipulated. Bonwick remembered "Mick Dwyer was great and keen for guys to play finals footy".⁴⁸ After a fright in the last quarter they defeated North Old Boys by five points in the second semi-final. Selection for the Grand Final was not easy, and Bonwick had the unenviable task of telling his mate, the unlucky Matthew "Skip" Wray that he had not recovered his place after being injured late in the season. The final line up was:

Backs: Scott Saunders, Chris Pountney, Adam Forsyth

Half-backs: Scott Rowlands, Greg Fletcher, Simon Davey

Centres: Darren Lay, Luke Floyd, Chat Jayasekera

Half-forwards: Paul Langford-Jones, David Warnes, Brent Johnston

Forwards: David Mason, Chris Efstathiou, Mehul Somaia

Followers: Paddy O'Donnell (captain), Brendan Lay

Rover: James Bell

Interchange: Luke Curtain, Matthew Hoffman, Angus Ross, Brendan Mitchell

In the Bloods' thirteen-point win Efstathiou was restricted to three goals and it was left to Paul Langford-Jones to kick the sealer into the wind from 50 metres out. Normally he struggled to kick 40 metres on a good day! Brendan Lay was the best player, and the Bloods also escaped

ADAM DAVID FORSYTH

Also known as "Force" or "Skin", Adam Forsyth developed a cult following at Old Haileyburians. A handsome man, he was much admired by the ladies. An important member of the reserves' premiership team in 2001 on the field, he famously dominated their celebrations off it.

Forsyth became an extremely competent senior player, and often snuck under the opposition's guard to kick important goals. He would characteristically don the long sleeves and bob up when most needed. A great character off the field, along with his good mates Bobby Hilton and Scotty Pedder he was a fixture at Blood Bath Balls with his dance moves.

Although Forsyth's work eventually took him to San Francisco, such was his popularity that he continued to be discussed regularly by his peers, who had seen his great performances both on and off the field.

156 games (118 1sts, 38 Reserves),
41 goals (26 1sts, 15 Reserves), 1995-2004

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 14

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1998

Treasurer 2002-04

⁴⁷ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 22 June 2010

⁴⁸ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 6 July 2010

without penalty for having nineteen men on the ground when confusion arose between Greg Fletcher and Paddy O'Donnell over coming off for the blood rule.

Bonwick's interesting day included being driven nuts by his grandmother Belle accidentally setting off her car alarm, which annoyed everyone for half an hour. He found himself in the midst of an enormous crowd, hanging on his every word at the last change with his team two or three goals up. "I gave it my best shot with 'the 25 minutes to make history, etc' and stormed off at the crescendo of my speech throwing the water bottle on the ground and pushing past everyone".⁴⁹ Halfway back to the box he realised the huddle was still intact and that he hadn't read out the team for the last quarter! Luckily Bonwick's assistant Ben "Muddy" Waters filled in, because Bonwick had told Simon Davey to go back on but hadn't told Luke Curtain to come off. "We would have had nineteen men on the field for the second time that day".



The 2001 reserves premiership team.

Back row: Mehul Somaia, Greg Fletcher, David Mason, Chris Efstathiou, David Warnes, Simon Davey and Brendan Mitchell.

Centre row: Richard Goulden, Paul Langford-Jones, Chat Jayasekera, Peter O'Donnell, coach Andrew Bonwick, Brendan Lay, Luke Floyd and Ben Waters.

Front row: Scott Saunders, Scott Rowlands, James Bell, Matthew Hoffman, Darren Lay, Angus Ross, Adam Forsyth and Luke Curtain.

Brent Johnston is on the floor.

⁴⁹ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 6 July 2010

2001 B Reserve Section Grand Final at Elsternwick Park, 22 September 2001

Old Haileyburians	3.1	6.4	10.6	13.7 (85)
Ormond	2.2	4.3	9.4	11.6 (72)

Goals: Efstathiou 3, Mason 3, Somaia 2, Johnston 2, Langford-Jones 2, B Lay

Best players: B.Lay, Mason, Ross, D Lay, Langford-Jones

Experienced players David Mason and Angus Ross led the way with team-high fourteen kicks apiece; Mason's six marks were also highest. Extended celebrations followed back at the McKinnon clubrooms with Wayne Smith performing as DJ, the McKinnon Hotel until closing time and the Sandringham Hotel the following day. Scott Rowlands was reportedly best on ground in the celebrations.⁵⁰

For the players' entertainment and education, Mark Seccull organised their end-of-season trip to Albury, made memorable by Sam Langford-Jones late-night efforts at withdrawing cash from the EFTPOS machine behind the bar and when handing a red-headed barmaid a \$20 note, suggesting it matched her hair.

The most remarkable feature of the Annual Report was not Matthew Armstrong finally winning the club Best Fairest in his thirteenth year in the seniors despite the mountain of umpires' votes he had earned over the years. Instead it was the year's disastrous financial loss of over \$15,000, the club's worst ever result, mainly due to an \$11,000 decrease in sponsorship.

Treasurer Cam Lasscock especially bemoaned the loss of the club's major sponsor, Robert Lane Honda.⁵¹ There had been no Team of the Century dinner to boost income and one-off GST costs were listed as \$5,000. The only reason the club had any money in the bank were two eight thousand dollar loans, one from the OHA and the other from Don Lord.

Recalled Lord, "The club was unable to pay the hotel bill for the Grand Final Breakfast so I covered it. The debt was partly recovered by contras over the next few years such as player sponsorships, gold memberships and so on. Not sure of the actual amounts!"⁵²

Lord was not the only one to dip into his own pockets to help the club's cash flow. In 1999 Lasscock thanked Dennis Smith for "providing a virtually unlimited source of finance for the club"⁵³ and in 2001 he thanked Smith and Lord for "financing the club during the year".⁵⁴ In each of his eight years of Presidency, Smith topped up the club's coffers with personal funds and overdrafts that were never repaid. "It was the only way we could keep things going", said Smith, who when pressed estimated these contributions amounted to tens of thousands of dollars.⁵⁵

Lasscock's predecessor as Treasurer, Wayne Phillips, had referred to Smith acting as an unofficial overdraft facility. Questioned a decade after his term in office, Phillips felt that whilst sometimes Smith's loans were repaid there were also occasions when they weren't. He also wondered how complete were the lists of expenses claimed by Smith for payments he made on the club's behalf.⁵⁶

PAUL LANGFORD-JONES

Paul Langford-Jones was a highly popular clubman from the family dynasty. His moment of glory was kicking the sealer in the Reserves' 2001 premiership, a feat repeated by brother Sam six years later in the A Grade decider. Paul's deed was highly appropriate because talking about the goals he kicked was one of his favourite pastimes. Another was as one of the club's best recruiting agents; in Paul's words most of his potential recruits were invariably a "Massive Chance".

Always amusing with his chat and rapid-fire questions, Langford-Jones' other constant activity was emailing; he was reputed to have crashed the Langford-Jones server, although no one is sure whether this was due to the sheer volume of emails or Paul's atrocious spelling. There was never any doubt about his golfing ability, however, especially around the greens.

Paul's lack of pace probably cost him a career in the firsts, but he was highly skilful and an expert reader of the play. After retiring he served as a runner for the reserves, although he occasionally frustrated coaches by dragging or moving the wrong player.

Langford-Jones just loved the Saints, and when Robert Harvey joined Stewie Loewe after Paul had retired, he pulled on the boots again just to train with them, and hardly left their side all night.

130 Games (2 1sts, 109 Reserves, 19 U19s)

70 Goals (53 Reserves, 17 U19s) 1994-2005

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper numbers 34 & 46

Vice-captain Reserves 2000-01

Committee 2008

⁵⁰ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 5 July 2010

⁵¹ OHAFC Inc 2001 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 14 November 2001) Report of the Treasurer

⁵² Personal email communication, Don Lord, 26 July 2010

⁵³ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the Treasurer

⁵⁴ OHAFC Inc 2001 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 14 November 2001) Report of the Treasurer

⁵⁵ Personal telephone communication, Dennis Smith, 6 November 2010

⁵⁶ Personal telephone communication, Wayne Phillips, 7 November 2010

At the 2001 Annual General Meeting, Smith reported how co-tenant St Paul's had abandoned their plans to move to the VAFA, perhaps via a merger with Glen Eira. He had also applied for the club to train at Elsternwick Park one night a week in 2002, although pre-season training would be conducted at Duncan McKinnon Reserve and Dendy Park.⁵⁷ By February both training nights had been moved to the miniature Castlefield ovals.⁵⁸

Perhaps most optimistically, Smith reported that Paul Corrigan, Brett O'Farrell, Michael Barker and Stephen Rode had all been de-listed by their respective AFL clubs, and that Kynan Ford had returned from South Australia and was a chance to play for the club if it could secure employment for him.

⁵⁷ *Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 14 November 2001*

⁵⁸ *Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 February 2002*

2002 – Not Quite Grand Enough

Brett O'Farrell played the last of his twenty-one AFL games in the final home and away round of 2001, but failed to make Hawthorn's team for any of their three finals matches. A broken jaw late in the season didn't help despite a temporary plate enabling him to come back only three weeks later.⁵⁹

O'Farrell also eyed a career in journalism, but not in the print media. As Dennis Smith found out, "he wanted to be a TV star".⁶⁰ With his own background in the entertainment industry Smith was ideally placed to find the giant ruckman/forward a role at Channel Seven, which he did through veteran journalist Jim Wilson.

So the Bloods had their man and a massive foundation to build on. This was a classic piece of recruiting in amateur football conducted by many clubs at the time; players couldn't be paid, so they were found jobs instead. For the moment, however, they had missed out on the other major prize in Paul Corrigan, who had been appointed assistant coach of his local team. And Brett Knowles accepted North Adelaide's "big offer".⁶¹

Other than O'Farrell, the only new regular senior player was Hamish Brooks, who had graduated from the under-nineteens. In the wake of the Hilton brothers' departure (each played only two reserves games for the season), the veteran Matthew Armstrong assumed the captaincy with Brett Carson his deputy. Mark Seccull's career appeared over with his move to California, and there were also the losses of regular senior players Shane Walden, Cameron Home, Brett Harrop, Andrew Saunders and Richard George to cover.

Major items at the February committee meeting were an urgent need for a Treasurer. Dennis Smith must have been feeling particularly undermanned given he had been doing the jobs of both President and Secretary since 1998, but Garry Phillips convinced Adam Forsyth to take on the role,⁶² which "Force" did for three years.

The Bloods made an even more impressive start to the season than they had the previous year, winning five of their first six matches. They belted section newcomers Old Essendon by 63 points where "O'Farrell, Carson and Lappage (5 goals) had a picnic".⁶³ Better still was the last-quarter comeback at Old Brighton's Beach Oval, where they kicked eight unanswered goals to turn a 25-deficit into a 25-point win.

Jeremy Bourke put the slow start against Brighton down to Darren Seccull's warm up. "He took us down Beach Road, stopping to stretch every 200 metres or so. Before we knew it we were in the car park of the Sandringham Football Ground, about two kilometres down the road and only minutes before the game. We had to almost run back, jump the fence and run straight out for the start of the match! There were a few tired boys after the game".⁶⁴

O'Farrell couldn't forget either. "It was the only warm up where we actually changed postcodes. I stopped at one point and pretended to stretch on a park bench, but I just didn't run another five kilometres

⁵⁹ Personal email communication, Brett O'Farrell, 17 August 2010

⁶⁰ Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

⁶¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 February 2002

⁶² Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 February 2002

⁶³ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2002* (Vol 02, No 2) p6

⁶⁴ Personal email communication, Jeremy Bourke, 7 July 2010

before the start. It was quite amazing we managed to come from behind to win".⁶⁵

The first loss was against Old Melburnians at McKinnon, where scores were level at the last change before the visitors won by four goals notwithstanding the efforts of Brooks, Kejna and Bourke. They then comfortably disposed of Therry at Oak Park as O'Farrell hit his straps with five goals, and old rivals Hampton Rovers who barely bothered them any more. The Rovers' last victory was back in 1986, and only once since had they finished within 40 points of the Bloods.

Having completed his term as VAFA President in 2000, Andrew Langford-Jones bobbed up yet again, this time as President of the Old Haileyburians Association. A particular brainchild of ALJ's was the formal dinner to open the OHA Hall of Fame and announce the Haileybury Teams of the Century for football and cricket. This took place the weekend of the Therry match, hosted by Stephen Phillips, and from which the OHAFC anticipated a windfall "in the vicinity of \$10,000".⁶⁶ The football Team of the Century contained seventeen who had played at AFL/VFL level. The same number had played or coached at the Old Haileyburians. It was:⁶⁷

Backs: Rodger Head (captain), David Code, John Houghton
Half-backs: Robin Fildes, Sean Ralphsmith, Garry Phillips
Centres: Brett Moyle, Roger Paul, James Thiessen
Half-forwards: Ian Herman, Mike Porter, Robert Rose
Forwards: Brett O'Farrell, Stuart Edwards, Phil Kingston
Followers: Rod Galt, Paul Corrigan
Rover: Paul Hopgood
Interchange: David Connell, Wayne Shand, Peter Gadsden, Laurence Bingham
Coach: John Masters

No-one could quite work out how Nik Morey missed the team, but former OHAFC footballers Warren Ayres, Russell Sincock, Andrew Lynch and Wayne Phillips were selected in the cricket Team of the Century.

An eventful match followed at Ormond's Gunn Reserve, only partly courtesy of the howling eight-goal breeze. First the reserves asserted their reigning Premier status, meaning "the difficulty for supercoach Andrew Bonners now becomes how to rotate the available 27 or 28 players into the 22 positions of his omnipotent reserves side".⁶⁸ For the seniors, however, "for the first three quarters it seemed that nothing would go our way, and our supporters were huddled together like fairy penguins shivering in the cold cement stand".⁶⁹

Trailing by 44 points at the last change, the Bloods stormed home with nine unanswered goals in the final term, despite the efforts of Ormond's goal umpire, who refused to pay an obvious major and was sacked by field umpire Matt Taylor. But he wasn't the first. The drama started on the half-time siren when Dave Connell, acting as boundary umpire, gave the other field umpire Graham Hunichen an earful over his first-half performance. Hunichen said, "I'm not putting up with that", issued Connell with his marching orders and ordered that a replacement be found. Ormond's boundary then followed Connell's suit and met the same fate!⁷⁰

SCOTT ANDREW SAUNDERS

Although Scott Saunders perhaps never fulfilled his potential, his importance to the reserves over many years was unquestionable. Tough, and not one to mind dishing out physical punishment to unsuspecting opponents, he was one of those players you wanted on your side.

Saunders could play key positions in defence and up forward, and often kicked important goals at just the right time. A vital member of the 2001 B Grade reserves premiership side, he played a memorable game in the semi final.

*165 games (2 1sts, 148 Reserves, 15 U19s),
111 goals (70 Reserves, 41 U19s), 1997-2008*

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 41

Best & Fairest Reserves 2004

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1999

*Leading goal-kicker U19s 1997 (41 goals),
Reserves 1998 (30)*

⁶⁵ Personal email communication, Brett O'Farrell, 17 August 2010

⁶⁶ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 4 February 2002

⁶⁷ The Haileyburian, September 2002, p17

⁶⁸ Match report in OHAFC archives, 18 May 2002

⁶⁹ Match report in OHAFC archives, 18 May 2002

⁷⁰ Geoff McClure, The Age (Sporting Life) 21 May 2002

The win was particularly meritorious given Jeremy Bourke was reported (for the only time in his amateur career) and sent off early in the final term, leaving the team with seventeen men. "Mick (Dwyer) was not happy, I copped a fair mouthful. But the report was dropped on Monday night when the video showed I didn't strike the Ormond player, just tackled him high".⁷¹

The Bloods should have been delighted by taking top place on the ladder, but a supporter who should have known better leaked the tale of the umpiring replacements to *The Age*. With such effect that it featured prominently in the sports section and, predictably, the VAFA was not amused. At the subsequent investigation Connell (but not the Ormond boundary or goal umpire) was found guilty of bringing the game of Amateur football into disrepute and the club was fined \$150.⁷² Dennis Smith had better things to do with his time, and spoke at length about the incident at the next committee meeting, where he noted that players needed to be more disciplined in dealing with umpires.⁷³



Jeremy Bourke in action at Elsternwick Park in 2002.

⁷¹ Interview with Jeremy Bourke, 28 April 2010

⁷² *The Amateur Footballer* 2002 (Vol 02, No 8) p62

⁷³ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 May 2010

Better news at the May committee meeting was the recovery of the club's finances. All bills had been paid and there was money in the bank, thanks largely to \$18,000 of the budgeted \$20,000 sponsorship having been collected. Don Lord's "Centurions" concept was so popular that 35 had joined at (appropriately) \$100 a pop.⁷⁴ Around this time three men were largely responsible for keeping the club going - President Smith, fundraiser Lord and Mr Everywhere Keith Schilling. Team Manager Barry Lay also played a vital role.⁷⁵

Old Haileyburians' brief stint atop the ladder ended with a one point loss at McKinnon to Old Paradians, whose full-back just touched a shot for goal in the square in the dying minutes. The match also featured a mighty tussle between ruckmen O'Farrell and Parade's Adam Burns.⁷⁶ The Bloods should have been accustomed to these close games. In an eight year period from 1997 to 2005 they played in eleven one-point games (for six wins), and at least one every season.

Successive losses followed against North Old Boys, after surrendering an early five-goal lead, and old rivals Mazenod for the Bloods to find themselves in a mid-season slump. But they pulled out of it so well that they lost only one game in the second half of the season, and that to premiership favourite Old Melburnians by just five points.

The recovery began at Essendon Grammar, where the late finish of school matches delayed the start and also shortened the reserves game. The smaller school oval gave Andrew Jenke "the firm footing to use his prodigious leap (reminiscent of his school high jump champion days) to dominate the ruck and marking contests around the ground".⁷⁷ Another star was emerging.

Despite an injury list that included Armstrong, O'Farrell, Lappage, Fletcher, Rowlands, Warnes and Jayasekera, the firsts won a narrow but important victory over Old Brighton the following week. Lesser known lights stood up such as the talented "Digger" Graves kicking game-turning goals, Andrew White dominating the backline and Adam Floyd with "magnificent field kicking ... and a Bruce Andrew taut instep".⁷⁸ Brett Johnston's run softened up Brighton's veteran star midfielder Simon Lennox before "fresh running machine David Mackenzie was unleashed on him in the second half ... you would have thought the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights should have protected old blokes from such carnage".⁷⁹

The reserves were depleted to an all time low and lost to the bottom team, but at least enjoyed another virtuoso performance from the former shot-put champion Efstathiou. According to the colourful club report, "One move on the 50 metre arc saw him stripping an opponent of the football, then spin with the grace of Nureyev and the effectiveness of a washing-machine agitator in spin-dry mode, shrugging off-numerous clinging opponents by centrifugal force before kicking goalward".⁸⁰

Off the field things ran so smoothly Dennis Smith had not much to report to the July committee meeting. The Sandy Hotel raffle needed a little work, Jeni Davey had preparations well under way for the Blood Bath Ball at St Kilda's Royal Melbourne Yacht Club, and sponsorship income was up.

LUKE WILLIAM FLOYD

Luke Floyd shared the reserves Best and Fairest with the mighty Chris Efstathiou in their premiership year of 2001. Highly laconic but a skilful right-footer, he played mainly in the midfield and in attack. A very quiet fellow of solid physique and white hair, Floyd was quicker than he looked. Towards the end of his career Floyd played regular senior footy and showed he was up to the standard. He also played a number of games alongside brother Adam, with whom he shared the nicknames "Floydy" and occasionally "Pink".

*169 games (23 1sts, 107 Reserves, 39 U19s),
39 goals (4 1sts, 26 Reserves, 9 U19s), 1997-2009*

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 38

Best & Fairest Reserves 2001

Captain U19s 1999

Deputy vice-captain Reserves 2004

⁷⁴ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 21 May 2010

⁷⁵ Personal email communication, Don Lord, 26 July 2010

⁷⁶ Paul Daffey, *The Age* (Sport section) 27 May 2002, p4

⁷⁷ Match report in OHAFC archives, 22 June 2002

⁷⁸ Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 June 2002

⁷⁹ Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 June 2002

⁸⁰ Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 June 2002

But the future of the under-nineteens was again uncertain, from “factors that are basically beyond our control which affect the flow of boys from the school - current ethnic ratio, domicile, and competition from other football bodies and sports”.⁸¹ They were winless in 2002, the first Old Haileyburians team to suffer this fate. Nor would Andrew Lynch be available to coach in 2003, due to his appointment as school football coach in what was to be a successful but controversial term.

The Bloods must have been heartened by their performance in the first three quarters of the Grand Final rehearsal against Old Melburnians, where their straight kicking (11.2) secured a 26-point lead. But OMs rammed on six goals in the last term to snatch the points. A comfortable trio of victories followed, then another three wins by around two goals as finals loomed. The long mid-season injury list proved a blessing in disguise as younger players responded to the opportunity of senior experience. Against Ormond, Geordie Smith and Jimmy Hanlon continued to “exhilarate in the backline”;⁸² when Andrew Jenke rolled an ankle, Paddy O'Donnell a “John Nicholls type ruckman” stepped into the breach. The double chance was secured in the last game with a win over Mazenod in front of “a record crowd at McKinnon”.⁸³



Geordie Smith rises above the pack to take a fine mark in the 2002 Preliminary Final against North Old Boys.

⁸¹ Minutes of OHAFC Committee Meeting, 15 July 2002

⁸² Match report in OHAFC archives, 3 August 2002

⁸³ Match report in OHAFC archives, 24 August 2002

Partly on the broad back of Efstathiou's 68-goal season the reserves made their most recent finals series to date, accounting for North Old Boys in the first semi-final. Conceding nine goals to Old Paradians in the second quarter was no way to win a preliminary final, however, and they fell thirteen points short of another Grand Final appearance despite the efforts of Chris Waxman, Chris Moyle and Robert Ladd.



Mick Dwyer served the longest unbroken term, five years, of any OHAFC coach. Here he addresses his players during a break in the 2002 Grand Final against Old Melburnians.

MARK ANDREW DWYER

Mick Dwyer arrived at Old Haileyburians after a distinguished VFL/AFL playing career spanning 88 games with St Kilda and Fitzroy as a nippy rover and small forward. As a player he sported a distinctive mop of curly red locks, but this had completely disappeared by the time he started coaching the Bloods, and he was never in any danger of "tearing his hair out" if they performed poorly.

Dwyer's game plan revolved around quick ball movement and one-on-one football. Many players thrived under Mick's tutelage and attributed at least a part of the 2006 A Grade premiership to the foundations he laid. Generally a quiet coach, Dwyer would lose his cool only occasionally. He brought a level of professionalism to the club that was desperately needed, and team rules and discipline were constantly reinforced.

Dwyer developed a very good relationship with his players and a strong bond with club leaders President Dennis Smith, reserves coach Andrew Bonwick and captain Matthew Armstrong. In 2002 he took his team to within two goals of winning the B Grade Grand Final and followed up by making the A Grade finals the following year. After his time at the OHAFC, Dwyer remained in VAFA football as a state selector and coach.

Coach 1sts 2000-04

In the seniors, the Bloods were thumped by 68 points in the second semi-final, courtesy of a devastating third quarter by OMs. Their only highlight was “the job that Carson was doing on Berry”.⁸⁴ They redeemed themselves the following week, however, with a solid win over North Old Boys, when after half time they “decided that enough was enough and away they went”⁸⁵ with an eight goal third quarter, into the Grand Final and A Section for 2003. Eleven players shared the fifteen goals and no-one scored more than two. Carson, Langford-Jones and O’Farrell were all named in Damian Carroll’s Team of the Year.

Carroll confidently selected OMs in the Grand Final, and Mick Dwyer also had his reservations about the Bloods’ chances. He felt they would need to do something significantly different to unbalance the favourites.⁸⁶ He decided to play his biggest gun, O’Farrell, running loose across the half-back line instead of in his normal key forward position. Dwyer’s opening line-up, where David Lappage came in for Brendan Lay, was:

Backs: Adam Forsyth, Brett Carson, Darren Lay
Half-backs: Hamish Brooks, Adam White, Geordie Smith
Centres: Adam McMahon, Brendan Mitchell, Chat Jayasekera
Half-forwards: Angus Ross, David Mason, Jeremy Bourke
Forwards: David Lappage, Brett O’Farrell, Adam Floyd
Followers: Andrew Jenke, Sam Langford-Jones
Rovers: Matthew Armstrong (captain)
Interchange: Luke Floyd, Paddy O’Donnell, David Mackenzie

In glorious spring weather, the Bloods managed to outscore OMs in the first quarter despite kicking into a light southerly. And Dwyer could claim his strategy had worked at half time, when they led by thirteen points. The third quarter was critical, however, as OMs took full advantage of the breeze to boot eight goals. To Dwyer’s bemusement, O’Farrell had taken it upon himself to return to the forward line after half time, “but I could hardly get upset with him, he had just been so terrific all year”.⁸⁷

Valiant efforts in the last quarter saw the Bloods finish within an even two goals at the final siren, and all players contributed to the effort. Down back “Hamish Brooks and Darren Lay gave great rebound drive, whilst Paddy O’Donnell shut down Mulligan keeping him goalless. Brett Carson was also solid in defence. On the wings, Geordie Smith eclipsed his opponent and his two goals included an individual play of the day gem. Chat Jayasekera weaved his magic on the opposite wing. Around the ground, Matt Armstrong was constantly contributing, as was Sam Langford-Jones”.⁸⁸ The Corder Medal for best on ground was won by OMs’ Toby Roberts, the son of Brownlow Medallist Neil Roberts.

The players consoled themselves with an end-of-season trip to Adelaide, where they took in the SANFL Grand Final and were amazed by the locals’ fighting and swearing (“more swear words than at a Rodney Rude concert”⁸⁹) - and that was in the members! Luke Pitcher won the first of his five trophies for his “bite the wall” performance.

Despite the Grand Final loss, Dennis Smith could be pleased with the year’s progress and claimed it had been the most enjoyable of his six years as President. He saw the club’s return to A Grade “exceeded what we probably thought was possible at the start of the year, given the

⁸⁴ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2002* (Vol 02, No 21) p6

⁸⁵ Damian Carroll, *The Amateur Footballer 2002* (Vol 02, No 22) p6

⁸⁶ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

⁸⁷ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

⁸⁸ Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 September 2002

⁸⁹ David Mason, personal email communication, December 2010

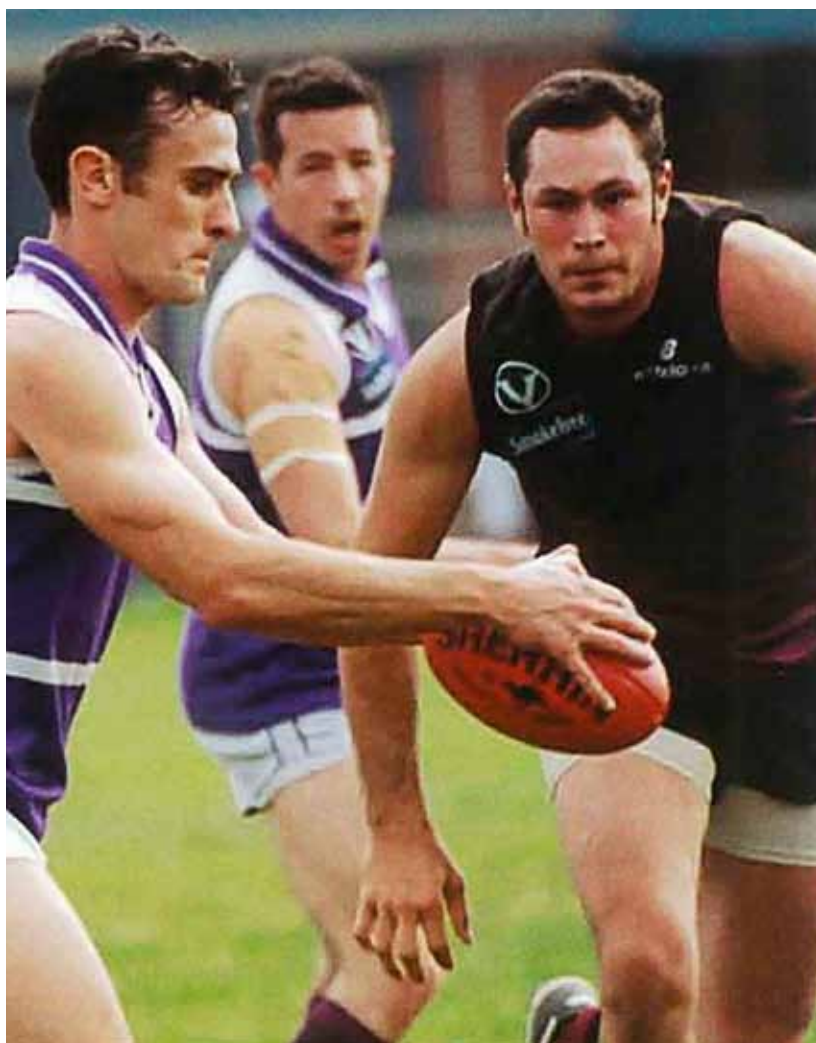
⁹⁰ OHAFC Inc 2002 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 27 November 2002) President’s Report

number of quality players we lost".⁹⁰

Smith particularly praised the contributions of fellow new life member Darren Seccull - "surely there has been nobody more passionate about our club"⁹¹- and Don Lord, whose marketing committee had enabled the club to virtually break even and recover from the previous season's terrible loss. Lord was also appointed a Patron of the club, replacing retired Principal Michael Aikman⁹² in what one suspects may have been a move doubly popular with some OHAFC members!

Mick Dwyer also looked forward to the 2003 season, but warned that although promotion to A Grade was well deserved, the Grand Final loss was nonetheless an opportunity missed. He also noted "only a few of the under-nineteen players could seriously say they committed themselves anywhere near what is necessary to be successful, (but) those who did improved considerably as the year progressed". These included Best and Fairest winner Hamish McLauchlan and the wiry Andrew Kight. Sam Langford-Jones outdid both his father and even his celebrity uncle by taking out the senior award.

Mick Dwyer felt the club had built a solid foundation for playing in A Grade, not just to make the numbers but to win.



David Mason prepares to pounce on a North Old Boys opponent in the 2002 Preliminary Final.

CHAPTER 12

OPPORTUNITY CREATED AND MISSED 2003-04



2003 – Serious Challengers

To ensure their return to A Grade was anything but temporary, the Old Haileyburians made serious additions to the playing list that had been so massively bolstered by Brett O'Farrell in 2002. Jeremy Bourke had no doubt how important Boffa was in the Bloods' rise to serious contenders. "He was the key, because without him there is no way we would have gained promotion. Without being in A Grade we would have struggled to recruit many of our major players"¹

Those major players who joined in 2003 were led by the brothers Paul and Mark "Harry" Corrigan, nephews of 1981-82 Best and Fairest John Corrigan. After his 53-game career at Geelong, Paul returned to Rythdale-Officer-Cardinia (ROC), where he had played much of his junior football, before accepting the position of Mick Dwyer's Assistant Coach.

For Corrigan, "after we won the premiership at ROC in 2002, I thought it would be good to challenge myself again and play A Grade. Having spoken to Mick and Dennis (Smith) I was convinced Old Haileyburians would be a great challenge as an assistant coach. Along with the recruits I believed they had the nucleus of a top line A Grade team. The other huge influence was catching up with a lot of friends I'd gone through school with".²

Recruiting in the lead up to 2003 was by far the busiest of Mick Dwyer's time coaching at Old Haileyburians. He felt they needed six to eight really good players if they were not to just make up the numbers. Dwyer and Smith met with Paul Corrigan at the Berwick Hotel to start the campaign.



Paddy O'Donnell wins another tap in the reserves Grand Final of his seminal 2001 season. Brendan Mitchell (left) and Angus Ross await the crumbs.

PETER RICHARD O'DONNELL

Peter O'Donnell's journey to triple premiership player was as unlikely as they come. A talented basketballer, athlete and cricketer at school, Paddy made his debut for the Bloods late in 1994, never having played football before. The team was short against Therry, so a mate gave him a call. Not really keen to play, Paddy thought at least the trip on the team bus might be a bit of fun, but he enjoyed the game enough to play the last four games of the season in the magoos, thinking that would be his short football career.

After four rounds in 1995, Ken Phillips called Paddy and asked if he was keen to play again. He played the next thirteen in a row and was selected in the seniors for the last game of the year against Banyule. In the following week's semi-final against Mazenod, Mark Orton tore his calf halfway through the game and O'Donnell acted as his replacement. Lacking any other genuine ruckmen, coach Neville Taylor took the risk on Orton in the Grand Final, but amazingly O'Donnell found himself playing in his first premiership team as a backup ruckman after only twenty games.

In 1997, a shoulder injury interrupted his career, but he returned two years later in the reformed socials team under his mate Darren Cotton. Having rediscovered the taste, O'Donnell resumed serious football in 2000, but a horrific broken ankle in the second round seemed to truly spell the end. Amazingly O'Donnell was back on the field in just six weeks and went on to win the reserves' Best and Fairest, before his career defining season in 2001 when he led the reserves to its famous B Grade premiership. The team had come from last the previous year and being the joke of the competition, to losing only three games all season. O'Donnell was simply inspiring in the ruck.

Paddy's development continued to the point where he became a regular senior player and in 2006 locked down the full back position in the star-studded A Grade premiership, his third for the club. Sometimes controversial and not one to hide his feelings, the clearest of all was his passion for his football club and his mates.

204 games (106 1sts, 91 Reserves, 7 3rds),
13 goals (2 1sts, 11 Reserves), 1994-2009

Member 1995 & 2006 1sts & 2001
Reserves Premiership teams

Jumper number 16

Best & Fairest Reserves 1995, 2000, 2003

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 2002

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2009
Captain Reserves 2004

Vice-captain Reserves 2002

¹ Interview with Jeremy Bourke, 28 April 2010

² Personal email communication, Paul Corrigan, 28 September 2010

Michael Barker was a Corrigan family friend, and Dwyer was aware of his abilities through then Richmond coach Danny Frawley, who said he'd never seen a better athlete in all his time in football.³ Barker would give great run off the half-back line. New rover Laz Siapantas had already represented the VAFA when playing for Monash. Dwyer also spoke with Heath Hopwood and Tony Brown in the off-season, and although both eventually played important roles for the Bloods, in 2003 they were still committed to other clubs.

The Bloods were further boosted by key position specialist Kynan Ford, who had played in two premierships both at Springvale in the VFL and Central Districts in the SANFL. And before too long they would have to work out how to fit in one of the biggest trees imaginable amongst their veritable forest of tall timber.

Marc Peterson and nippy wingman and defender Scott Goldsworthy also joined senior ranks on a regular basis for the first time, while other new players included Caile "son of Carl" Ditterich, Brendan Haas later in the season and Chris Waxman from the previous year's under-nineteens. But in the wake of their terrible 2002 the juniors were unable to field a team. And there were departures such as Brett Johnston, Brendan Lay, Adam McMahon, Angus Ross, Scott Rowlands and Geordie Smith.

The Bloods made an immediate, emphatic impact on the season. At least on *The Amateur Footballer's* Jesper Fjeldstad, who exclaimed, "Oh my, (they) didn't exactly tip-toe into A Section: the side entered the competition like a bull crashing into a porcelain shop. It smashed Old Ivanhoe by 46 points and worse is yet to come. The side has opposition clubs fretting after coming to the brink of adding former champion Saint Stewart Loewe".⁴

Paul Corrigan cramped towards the end of the game and Ditterich's interesting debut included five behinds in two and a bit quarters of play, but O'Farrell took up the slack with five goals. Ditterich found his range the following week with three goals and O'Farrell continued his fine start to the season with another four, but St Kevins' Giansiracusa twins shared nine goals to lead their team to a surprise one-point win at Sandringham's Trevor Barker Oval. Maybe the Bloods weren't as good as they and everyone else thought.

Three successive wins later no one had any doubt, especially their first two victims Uni Blues and Old Scotch, against whom they "went from handy to handsome ... propelled by sixteen second-half disposals from Mackenzie and drive from half-back from Barker"⁵, as they stormed home by 48 points. After five rounds, another win over Old Melburnians and securing second place on the ladder, their performances were rated as "not very polite at all"⁶ for a team just back in A Grade. The pundits even speculated whether they might become just the second team to win an A Grade flag the year after being promoted.

The joy at these early performances was dimmed by the passing of one of the Old Haileyburians' greatest clubmen and former OHA President Dicky Metherall after a long illness.

GRANT PAUL ROWLANDS

The Taipan, Grant Rowlands, was a massive unit and so-named by David Connell after the character in TV's "Gladiators" show. He had a body builder's physique and was possibly the strongest footballer ever to wear the magenta and black. Rowlands attacked the ball and the opposition ferociously; there was never the slightest hint of him looking like Tarzan and playing like Jane.

Although Rowlands suffered a number of injuries, he was a valuable player when on the field. A bit like Clark Kent, he would swap his football gear for the suit he wore when he returned to work as a solicitor. Rowlands' brother Scott also played for the club.

*106 games (42 1sts, 64 Reserves),
7 goals (2 1sts, 5 Reserves), 1994-2001*

Jumper number 25

Captain Reserves 2000

³ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

⁴ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer* 2003 (Vol 03, No 2) p2

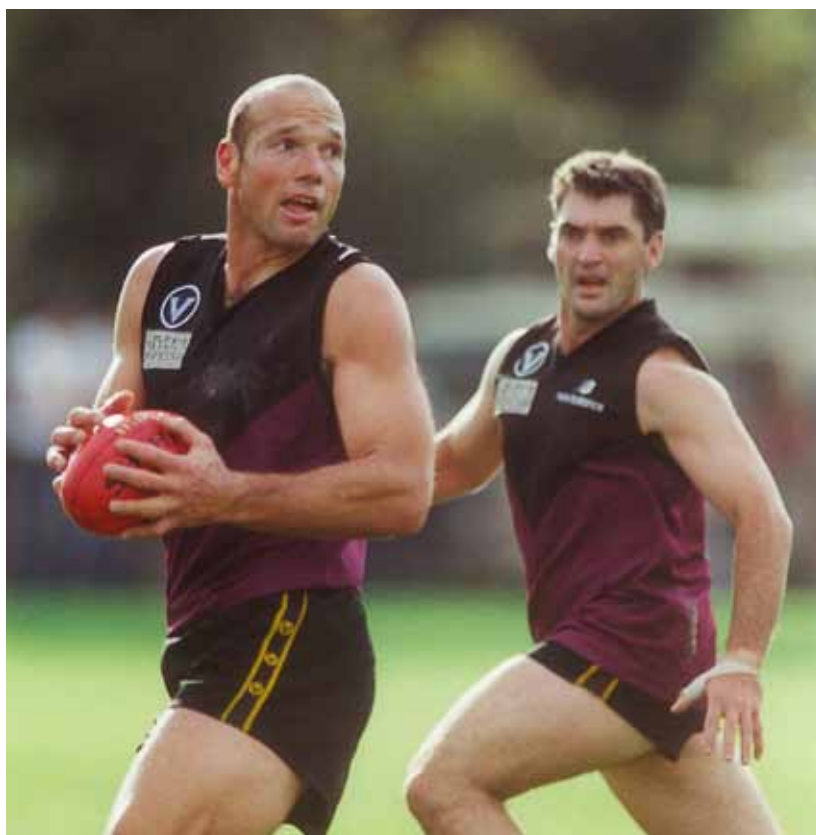
⁵ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer* 2003 (Vol 03, No 5) p2

⁶ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 11 May 2003, p12

Brett O'Farrell's early season performances came under particular notice as his form peaked. For all the stars Mick Dwyer saw playing for or against Old Haileyburians, he regarded O'Farrell as clearly the most dominant and influential in amateur football.⁷ Especially on days out like his seventeen-mark game against Old Paradians in 2002. Jesper Fjeldstad marvelled at the big man's consistency, comparing the 25-year-old to a grandfather clock, noting "opposition coaches have conceded it is one mighty job to find the right man to silence him. It is a rare week that he doesn't figure as one of the leading goalkickers or best players".⁸

When O'Farrell left the AFL, he was linked to every second suburban club. But for him it was a simple choice to join the Bloods. "I just wanted to get back and play with my mates, get the enjoyment back in footy".⁹ It helped that he had gone from being injury-plagued to playing every game in 2003. Even if his mother suggested his shorts were tighter than they should have been.¹⁰

If opposition coaches had headaches thinking about O'Farrell, they must have felt a brain tumour coming on when it was announced that St Kilda great Stewart Loewe, great mates with Dwyer for all Dwyer's career at The Saints,¹¹ was pulling the boots on for the Bloods. An assistant coach at Richmond following his AFL retirement, Loewe was arguably the highest profile player to have joined an amateur club. President Dennis Smith echoed the sentiments of Brett O'Farrell when he explained Loewe "just wants to play footy again".¹²



Stewart Loewe (left) made his debut for the Bloods in 2003 and it was a thrill even for experienced players like Jeremy Bourke to play with the former St Kilda star. *The Herald and Weekly Times Photographic Collection.*

⁷ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

⁸ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer 2003* (Vol 03, No 6) p2

⁹ Brett O'Farrell, quoted by Jesper Fjeldstad in *The Amateur Footballer 2003* (Vol 03, No 6) p2

¹⁰ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer 2003* (Vol 03, No 9) p2

¹¹ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

¹² Dennis Smith, quoted by Brad Beitzel in *The Age* (Sport section) 16 May 2003, p14

Smith had expected Loewe to play later in the season, but when he heard that the big forward with the bucket-sized hands was having dinner with his old roving mate, Smith urged Dwyer to take a registration form along. Another former league player in Leigh Carlson was coaching the Bloods' forthcoming opponents Old Trinity and with apparent bravado said, "Good on Haileyburians for getting a player of such calibre - it's great for the competition".¹³ David Mason for one noticed an amazing lift in intensity at training for Loewe's first run.¹⁴

Carlson must have known something, because his team sprung a surprise seven-point win to mar Loewe's debut, courtesy a late goal from Trinity's great ruckman Andrew Ramsden.¹⁵ This after Loewe had taken a contested mark in the goal square and kicked his third goal to give the Bloods a ten-point lead just before time-on.¹⁶ Loewe's appearance gave the VAFA wonderful exposure in the major newspapers. In a photo he knew he would treasure forever, Jeremy Bourke saw himself pictured running around the back of the champ.¹⁷



Shane Walden on the attack against Ormond in 2000, backed up by a vocal Brett Carson.

SHANE BRADEN WALDEN

The younger Walden brother Shane was a much loved character at the Old Haileyburians, and showed great tenacity and courage for a man so small in stature. He played senior football from the day he walked into the club and perhaps stood that bit taller when brother Andrew's presence helped him run the lines without fear. Shane forged an excellent career both before and after Andrew's retirement and was much respected throughout the competition.

Although not a great kick, Wally had a rare ability to find the ball and without fuss give it off to a team mate. His frequent deployment as an annoying tagger also earned him the nickname of "The Sheriff".

A fashionable dresser off the field, Shane loved hitting Melbourne's night clubs with close mates "Homey" (Cameron Home), "Muddy" (Ben Waters) and "Fluff" (Brett Carson). A funny man, friends felt he might have had a career as a stand-up comic had ANL not dragged him away to France and Hong Kong, where he was a key member of the Hong Kong Dragons when not at Happy Valley or Sha Tin racecourses.

*134 games (108 1sts, 9 Reserves, 17 U19s),
33 goals (19 1sts, 5 Reserves, 9 U19s), 1994-2006*

Jumper number 28

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 1998

Best & Fairest U19s 1996

Vice-captain 1sts 2001

Vice-captain U19s 1996

¹³ Leigh Carlson, quoted by Brad Beitzel in *The Age* (Sport section) 16 May 2003, p14

¹⁴ Interview with David Mason, 29 September 2010

¹⁵ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 18 May 2003, p19

¹⁶ *The Herald-Sun* 18 May 2003

¹⁷ Interview with Jeremy Bourke, 28 April 2010

Another loss followed when the Bloods visited reigning premiers St Bernards, under the direction of future coach Peter Nicholson. Nevertheless they “signalled they could match it with the competition’s best”,¹⁸ in what was considered the toughest test in amateur football. And Nicholson joined the list of opposition coaches lauding their performances.¹⁹ That week they were also linked with dumped St Kilda ruckman Matthew Capuano, Dennis Smith being a personal friend of Capuano’s manager Ron Joseph. Smith poured cold water on the rumour, pointing out the team was already endowed with tall timber.²⁰

By the end of 2002, David Lappage’s lower back and hamstrings were “sick of all the physio, chiro and acupuncture needed to play at senior level, but I was happy just training on Thursdays and helping Bonnas out in the twos”.²¹ He found himself back in the firsts for the vital game against Old Xaverians and kicked four goals to spearhead the win,²² and ensured his 200th game would be played in the main game against Marcellin the following the week.

Over the long weekend the VAFA journeyed to Perth to maul their West Australian opponents, 27.14 (176) to 0.3 (3) with prominent performances from the Old Haileyburians representatives.²³ Skipper Paul Corrigan was voted the Vics’ best player by the West Australian selectors, fellow All-Australian Laz Siapantas slotted four goals and Brett O’Farrell two. Later in the year the amateurs took on the Victorian Country League at Barooga, after which Country coach Rodney Eade said Mark Corrigan’s display made the trip worthwhile for AFL talent scouts.²⁴ Jeremy Bourke also played to make it five VAFA reps for the season.

After the Marcellin game the Bloods suffered a mid-season slump, losing three out of four including surprise reversals against bottom team Old Ivanhoe, then Uni Blues and fellow finals contender Old Scotch to slide out of the four for the first time in months.²⁵ They bounced back in immediately and recovered their poise with a win over Old Melburnians, led by seven goals from the Adams, Floyd and Forsyth. On a day most of the stars were missing or quiet, Simon Davey and Darren Lay also served their team well.

The Haileyburians showed solid form leading into the finals series. Loewe booted six goals in the win over Old Trinity, and victory over St Bernards at Elsternwick Park was “a massive mental boost”.²⁶ Dwyer credited the back six after the win that “turned the competition on its ear”,²⁷ believing that their dash and fizz and been the propeller in the team’s rise. The return of Kynan Ford was critical, and Dwyer was also delighted with the toe shown by captain Matthew Armstrong, who “touched more leather than an airport frisker in the middle of winter. He finished with 24 kicks and a couple of goals”.²⁸ The Bloods then pushed perennial competition leader Old Xaverians to within ten points before securing their finals berth with a last round win over Marcellin.

Helped by a third successive fifty-goal haul from Efsthathiou, Andrew Bonwick’s reserves team won ten games and finished fifth, only just missing out on the finals on percentage. They repeated this effort exactly in 2004; these two performances remain their best ever in A Reserve Grade.

BRENDAN ANDREW MITCHELL

Brendan Mitchell was a talented schoolboy footballer and a star in the First Eighteen at Haileybury. He arrived at the Bloods after a brief stint at VFL club Sandringham and invariably played in long sleeves. A quiet man, bad shoulders and knees prevented him playing at his best, and almost cost him his place in the 2001 reserves premiership team. Ironically he returned from injury for the Grand Final, replacing his brother Ryan in the side.

*121 games (78 1sts, 42 Reserves, 1 U19s),
24 goals (8 1sts, 15 Reserves, 1 U19s), 1994-2005*

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 32

VAFA Representative 1994 (U18)

²² *The Amateur Footballer* 2003 (Vol 03, No 9) p3

²³ Paul Daffey, *The Age* (Sport section) 9 June 2003, p4

²⁴ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer* 2003 (Vol 03, No 16) p2

²⁵ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 13 July 2003, p26

²⁶ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 10 August 2003, p16

²⁷ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer* 2003 (Vol 03, No 18) p2

²⁸ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer* 2003 (Vol 03, No 18) p2

History repeated itself in the first semi-final against the in form Old Scotch (only one loss in their previous ten games) at Elsternwick Park. Just like the 1997 preliminary final against the same opponent at the same venue, the Bloods held a strong advantage in height and size that was nullified by the greasy conditions - "Siberian, with a bone-reaching wind and drenching downpours".²⁹

Scotch coach Dale Tipping acknowledged the conditions suited his team given their strength on the ground, as they romped away to a 68-point win sparked by a five goal to three first quarter against the wind. Carson, Paul Corrigan and Goldsworthy were named as best players.³⁰

Mick Dwyer felt the Bloods "really had the team in 2003 to win the A Grade flag were it not for the wind, rain and hail on semi-final day. We'd beaten Old Scotch at Elsternwick Park by 13 goals earlier that year on top of the ground, but were top heavy in the poor conditions".

President Dennis Smith reflected on a "terrific season, but we finished with mixed emotions".³¹ He was disappointed that the team had not progressed further given it had beaten the other three finalists during the season. But the club had enjoyed one of its best seasons off the field, with record sponsorship of over \$31,000 generated by Marketing Director Don Lord and his team. The overall profit of over \$11,000 reported by Treasurer Adam Forsyth³² was also comfortably a club record.

Mick Dwyer was clearly excited by his team's prospects for 2004, feeling that they had improved to the point where they were "in a strong position to launch a real assault on the Xaviers and St Bernards of the competition".³³ He pointed out the team's evenness by the spread of the awards. Paul Corrigan and Brett O'Farrell shared the Best and Fairest while Michael Barker and Jeremy Bourke were joint runners-up.

Dwyer was further assisted by the appointment of Rod Clancy, formerly of Springvale and Noble Park, as his Football Manager. At first Mick had thought that Rod had come along as simply the "board man", but Clancy soon expanded his role.³⁴ Brother-in-law Darren Seccull remained a constant in the coach's inner sanctum from the Papotto days.

It was also evident the ambitious recruiting program instigated by Smith and Dwyer three years previously was in full swing. Dwyer noted the club was busily trying to entice new players to enhance the playing list, and Smith reported to the AGM that with Clancy's appointment "so far things are moving along nicely".³⁵ But there was doubt over whether there were sufficient numbers to reform the under-nineteen team despite Smith's efforts with Andrew Lynch.

Retiring after three highly successful years, reserves coach Andrew Bonwick issued a reminder of the potential to develop players internally, citing the example of Simon Davey. He predicted the enormous potential of players aged under twenty such as Chris Waxman and Andrew Kight (partners in crime in that year's players' trip to the Gold Coast), Brendan Haar and Hamish McLauchlan would see them all play regular senior football.³⁶ Best and Fairest Paddy O'Donnell and runner-up Richard George had showed tremendous courage and leadership, as had skipper James Bell.

CHRISTOPHER BRIAN POUNTNEY

A solid, dependable full back of the old fashioned variety and a trusty kick, Chris Pountney was selected for a handful of games in the firsts but played mainly in the reserves, including the 2001 premiership, and under-nineteens. Eventually he gave football away in deference to his career as a policeman. If his ability to apprehend forwards was any guide, he would have been an extremely reliable man on the beat.

*125 games (7 1sts, 84 Reserves, 34 U19s),
5 goals (3 Reserves, 2 U19s), 1996-2004*

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 43

²⁹ Jesper Fjeldstad, *The Amateur Footballer 2003* (Vol 03, No 21) p3

³⁰ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

³¹ OHAFC Inc 2003 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 24 November 2003) President's Report

³² OHAFC Inc 2003 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 24 November 2003) Report of the Treasurer

³³ OHAFC Inc 2003 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 24 November 2003) First XVIII Coach's Report

³⁴ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

³⁵ Minutes of OHAFC Annual General Meeting, 24 November 2003

³⁶ OHAFC Inc 2003 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 24 November 2003) Reserve XVIII Coach's Report

Bonwick's affection for his club shone through as he claimed "we are still easily the best run club in the competition".³⁷ The son of two life members of the club, it had been his life during the winter months virtually from birth. He may not have realised his distant dream to play more than a handful of games, but to coach and win a premiership meant so much to him. And Mick Dwyer wasn't the only person to appreciate the positive influence Bonwick had had over many people at Old Haileyburians.



200-game veteran Brett Carson puts that trusty left boot to use.

BRETT ANTHONY CARSON

Brett Carson joined the OHAFC immediately after leaving school and along with his mates Shane Walden and Cameron Home made an instant impact. A big left foot and a big backside made "Fluff" a tricky opponent whether he played forward or back. Given Carson played more often in defence, he kicked a surprising number of goals, sometimes in spectacular bursts.

Cricket commitments frequently prevented Carson from starting training until a few weeks before the season, but even an obvious lack of fitness was no barrier to his selection in the seniors for round one, such was he valued by his coaches.

Much loved by supporters and fellow players, "Carse" was always one of the last to leave McKinnon after matches on a Saturday, along with his father Barry who never missed his son's matches. Barry also made substantial contributions off the field as evidenced by his two Barrie Berggy Memorial trophies.

The crowning glory of Carson's career was playing in the 2006 A Grade premiership team after ten years at the club. He signed off by leading the goal-kicking the following year before stepping down to the reserves to help develop the youngsters coming through.

*246 games (188 1sts, 29 Reserves, 29 U19s),
144 goals (76 1sts, 34 Reserves, 34 U19s),
1996-2010*

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 29

Runner-up Best & Fairest U19s 1997

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 2007 (17 goals)

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 2008 (23)

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2006

Vice-captain 1sts 2002-04

Treasurer 2007-08

³⁷OHAFC Inc 2003 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 24 November 2003) Reserve XVIII Coach's Report

2004 - Opportunity Missed

Few observers of amateur football were surprised at the start of the 2004 season with Jonathan Horn's prediction that Old Haileyburians would finally win the A Grade premiership and his view that "surely their time has come".³⁸

Horn pointed to recruits and returning players of the calibre of Paul Geister (ex-North Melbourne and SANFL Central Districts), ruckmen Steven Rode (ex-Hawthorn) and Adam Svarc, Mark Seccull (returned from California), Ben Waite and the Hilton brothers. He didn't even mention Brett Trollope (Springvale) or pacy mid-fielder Nick Tassell. Paul Corrigan remembered "the recruitment of Rodey was really big for the team, and when he first stripped a few of the boys were taken aback by his physique. We knew he would be a big help to Boffa".³⁹

Then there was the curiosity that was the Bloods' international recruit, "the Tearaway Texan", David Thurmond, who arrived courtesy of Seccull and found himself featured in *The Age*⁴⁰ as the most extreme example of the Haileyburians' aggressive recruiting campaign.

Through Jeremy Bourke's contacts the team played a practice match at Lavington, as they had in 2003 when, good as the trip was as a bonding exercise, they were thoroughly spanked. Such was the custom for most Melbourne visiting teams. This time, however, the Bloods put on an awesome display that stunned the locals with the Corrigan brothers looking like "The Untouchables". Back home they flogged fellow A Grade team Whitefriars in another warmup. For Dwyer, "some of the stuff Steven Rode produced in the two practice games was amazing".⁴¹

So with Mick Dwyer's and Jonathan Horn's comments, their finals appearance the previous year and ominous practice match form, the Bloods entered 2004 with considerable weight of expectation. In hindsight, Bourke felt they were a better combination on paper than the 2005 team that won the minor premiership in A Section. It turned into one of their most disappointing seasons and culminated in the end of the longest continuous tenure of any OHAFC coach.

Often the opening match of a season sets a pattern and a tone. So it was when the Bloods journeyed to St Bernards' dreaded "Snakepit". The day started badly; the promising Chris Waxman was knocked out in the reserves match, didn't play for the rest of the year and never played in the firsts again.

The seniors trailed all day after conceding seven goals in the first quarter and the catch-up effort fell two goals short. Injuries to key players, in this case captain Matthew Armstrong, Laz Siapantas, Brett Trollope and Darren Lay, compounded the loss and started an unwanted trend. Kynan Ford and Paul Geister had also missed the game. Eating humble pie, Horn thought the Bloods "should be OK, they just need the Corrigan players firing and a few of their recruits standing up".⁴² In the uncompromising atmosphere Brett O'Farrell missed a goal from directly in front to hear a supporter famously and cruelly yell, "O'Farrell, you let down thirty thousand Hawthorn supporters, now you're letting down Old Haileyburians' three!"⁴³

ADAM GEOFFREY FLOYD

Predictably known as "Floydy" like his brother Luke, Adam Floyd was a super talented player who never quite fulfilled his promise. He played some exceptional games in the firsts and some very poor ones in the reserves. At his best, Floyd was capable of 15-possession quarters, a prime example being one game against OMs at the Junction Oval. Auburn-haired, except when he had the tips in, sometimes in long sleeves and a touch over six feet tall, he played mainly in attack and averaged over a goal a game. A mad Geelong supporter and handy with the ladies, Floyd moved to Sydney, where he played with the East Coast Eagles when possibly at the peak of his game.

*122 games (60 1sts, 50 Reserves, 12 U19s),
141 goals (65 1sts, 68 Reserves, 8 U19s),
1996-2006*

Jumper numbers 33 & 37

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 1999 (17 goals)

³⁸ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 1) p2

³⁹ Personal email communication, Paul Corrigan, 28 September 2010

⁴⁰ Jonathan Horn, *The Age* (Sport section) 28 June 2004, p2

⁴¹ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

⁴² Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 2) p2

⁴³ Personal email communication, Jeremy Bourke, 13 July 2010

After another two losses the Bloods' season was seriously stalled. Against University at Elsternwick Park they endured a miserable afternoon, well beaten by 46 points and especially in the midfield.⁴⁴ Steven Rode's five goals were a rare promising sign. No-one knew it at the time, but the hard-running Uni had begun a stellar season under new coach John Kanis; they finished two and a half games clear on top and romped home in the Grand Final against St Bernards. So the Bloods had played both eventual grand finalists in their first two matches.

Horn acknowledged that the Bloods had a few injuries, but "Paul and Mark Corrigan both played well and they were still way off the pace. Worrying times at Bloodville after my keyboard almost doubled over with a superlative overdose in the pre season".⁴⁵ Against the winless Old Scotch, they "put up a fight, but just can't seem to pull one off. Paul Corrigan, Brett O'Farrell and Nick Tassell were all prolific but they came up against a ferocious Scotch team that knew it was virtually curtains if they lost".⁴⁶

A brilliant eight-goal last quarter finally secured a comfortable victory against De La Salle at McKinnon, headed by the tall timber of O'Farrell, Rode and Svarc, the lightning run of Barker and Tassell, and four goals from David Mason. Their reward was a visit to reigning premiers Old Xaverians, themselves struggling, and a third two-goal loss in five games in a "pretty ordinary, frustrating, muddling affair".⁴⁷ After five rounds Horn saw that the Bloods were quickly shaping as the big disappointment of 2004.



Opponents could only bounce off the mighty man-mountain that was Chris Efstathiou, as this photo from the reserves game against Therry-Penola in 2002 shows.

CHRISTOPHER EFSTATHIOU

The goal-kicking colossus that was Chris Efstathiou had one of the biggest cult followings in amateur football, especially for an occasional senior player. An extraordinarily talented sportsman, at school he won the shot put at the APS athletics, as wicket-keeper made a record-equalling 39 dismissals, captained the First Eighteen and kicked a record 40 goals. Only Peter Bowring kicked more goals for the Old Haileyburians and Efstathiou rivalled Nik Morey and David Lappage as one of the best set shots for goal ever seen at the club.

A bare six foot tall, Efstathiou's gargantuan frame limited him to playing only at full-forward; it also restricted his senior career when opponents learnt to run off him. Some put his size down to his parents owning a fish and chip shop at which the house specialty was the battered Mars Bar. Once dubbed the Gigantor, "Foo" would rarely venture down to pre-season training, say he wasn't playing due to his bad knee, then phone the week before the first game and demand selection in the goal square.

Foo's signature season was 2001, when he equalled Bowring's all-time club record of 83 goals and shared the Best and Fairest in the reserves premiership team. This was a phenomenal effort given the twos played only twenty minute quarters with no time on. Efstathiou also gave away many goals with deft palming to his little mate Mehal Somaia in the forward pocket; he would hold off the opposition full-back and often their ruckman too.

Umpires were frequently at a loss as how to deal with Efstathiou, whose body work was so good opposition players were thrown around like rag dolls; the umps would presume there had been an infringement without knowing what the free kick they had paid was for.

Continued over page...

⁴⁴ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 25 April 2004, p29

⁴⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 3) p2

⁴⁶ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 4) p2

⁴⁷ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 6) p2

After a 99-point demolition of Whitefriars at McKinnon, the Bloods found themselves fifth on the ladder despite winning only two games of six but having a healthy percentage (112). The problem was they were three games and percentage behind the top four teams, all of whom had won five. At least they had found some form, future brothers-in-law Mason and Siapantas sharing the spoils up forward.

The following week against Old Trinity pretty much saw the Bloods' season put to bed in an extraordinary game. Fifty points behind at half time and looking listless after Paul Corrigan left the field with an injured knee, they booted nine goals in fifteen minutes, regaining ascendancy in the midfield and "goals came from all corners as Michael Barker, Mark Corrigan and Sam Langford-Jones all stepped it up a notch".⁴⁸

But then it was "a case of murder on the dance floor as Mark "Disco" Seccull had eight shots on goal in the final term for a paltry return of just one major (and anyone who gets the ball that often deserves a big thumbs up anyway) but the Bloods really threw it away".⁴⁹ Worst of all their talisman O'Farrell tore his medial ligament to end his season. So far as Jonathan Horn was concerned, with O'Farrell went the Bloods' hopes of a revival;⁵⁰ Paul Corrigan also saw it as "the last straw".⁵¹ At least O'Farrell took the opportunity to also undergo the re-construction of an elbow that had troubled him for years.⁵²

It was heartbreak again the next week, but this time for Old Melburnians who were pipped in the very last second at McKinnon as "Lady Luck finally winked at the Bloods as they kept their tenuous finals hopes alive. Mark Corrigan was the difference in the end while it was another great game for Springvale pickup Brett Trollope".⁵³ Sitting on the sidelines, the elder Corrigan brother saw "Harry rove the ball off the ruckman, run within 40 metres and nail the goal on his left. It was one of the goals of the year and one of the great wins".⁵⁴

Mark Corrigan provided some rare joy with an appearance for the VAFA against South Australia that saw him win All-Australian selection. Then three more losses, two by eleven points, somehow left Old Haileyburians sixth on the ladder with a 3-8 record, the same as ninth-placed Whitefriars. And four games outside the four. At least they had been brave at St Bernards, hitting the front in the final term before going down by eleven points with the younger Corrigan again dazzling on his wing.⁵⁵

The game at De La Salle's Waverley Road oval started sensationally. De La's Benny Corin was red-carded in the first minute and sent off, leaving the hosts a man short for the whole game. A few minutes later his team mate Ryan Sherman was poleaxed and carted off to hospital. Bolstered by the returns of Paul Corrigan and Kynan Ford, for once the Bloods were not the team disadvantaged by injury. They ran all over De La and won by thirty points.⁵⁶

After losing their first five games, Adam "Sparky" McMahon's reserves team recovered so well that they won ten of the next twelve to climb into the four. Only a demoralising last-round loss against the champion University Blues team (that finished the season with a percentage of over 380!) kept them out of the finals, and a win over the previously unbeaten Old Trinity was a particular highlight.⁵⁷

Christopher Efstathiou continued...

Taunted by a spectator about his size and ethnicity before a game out at Whitefriars, at quarter time Efstathiou told his team mates if they didn't kick the ball to him he would sit on them. A fired-up Foo kicked ten in an unbelievable display that had the seniors stopping their warm-up to watch. His remarkable skills such as the one-handed mark while fending off three defenders and the scoop off the ground on the run followed by a left foot snap for goal were there for all to see.

149 games (22 1sts, 105 Reserves, 22 U19s), 502 goals (44 1sts, 341 Reserves - club record, 117 U19s - also club record), 1996-2005

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 10

Best & Fairest Reserves 2001

Competition leading goal-kicker 2001 (B Reserve, 78 goals), 2002 (B Reserve, 62), 2003 (A Reserve, 53), 2005 (A Reserve, 61)

Leading goal-kicker U19s 1998 (53 goals), Reserves 2000 (28), 2001 (83), 2002 (68*), 2003 (53), 2004 (33), 2005 (61)*

Kicked equal most goals in a season (83 in 2001) and kicked most goals in a game (14 v Monash U19s, 1996 & v University Blacks U19s, 1998)

Vice-captain Reserves 2003

** including finals*

⁴⁸ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 8) p2

⁴⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 8) p2

⁵⁰ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 10) p2

⁵¹ Personal email communication, Paul Corrigan, 28 September 2010

⁵² Personal email communication, Brett O'Farrell, 17 August 2010

⁵³ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 9) p2

⁵⁴ Personal email communication, Paul Corrigan, 28 September 2010

⁵⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 12) p2

⁵⁶ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 13) p2

⁵⁷ OHAFC Inc 2004 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 23 November 2004) Reserve XVIII Coach's Report

Late season games tended to prove Mick Dwyer's contention that the Bloods were not that far off the pace, with four matches in a row decided by single-figure margins. Whereas finishing within eight points of Xavs was commendable, losing to lowly Whitefriars (even if only by a point) was diabolical and to OMs only marginally less. Just as well they knocked off finals-bound Old Trinity in a shock win, courtesy Laz Siapantas' six goals⁵⁸ and 36-year-old Mark Seccull's stellar game.



For once Cameron Home seems to have missed everything in this 1999 photo against De La Salle at McKinnon.

CAMERON WEIR HOME

Cameron Home grew up around the OHAFC, hardly surprising given his father's status as one of the club's true legends. Naturally he inherited Andy's famous number one when he arrived as a player in the large intake that included mates such as Shane Walden, Paul Langford-Jones, Dicky George, Luke Byrns and Brett Carson.

A very skilful player who played some excellent senior football, Home had a great pair of hands. He was an excellent kick for goal, far less reluctant than his father and with a range comfortably greater than Andy's 30 yard maximum. Cut down by a terrible knee injury, Cameron then travelled overseas. He was well liked for his sense of humour and was an excellent clubman.

*105 games (82 1sts, 15 Reserves, 8 U19s),
110 goals (77 1sts, 20 Reserves, 13 U19s),
1996-2006*

Jumper number 1

⁵⁸ Jonathan Horn, *The Age* (Sport section) 9 August 2004, p4

Mick Dwyer received an almost-final hurrah with a ten-goal win over third-placed Marcellin when Kynan Ford and Michael Barker enjoyed rare spells in attack to kick five goals each. Reviewing their season, Horn described it as an “absolute Annas Horribilis, but take Paul Corrigan and Brett O’Farrell out of any team and watch the wheels fall off. The main criticism of course is that they are a big, lumbering side with not enough bite around the packs but it’s not all doom and gloom. They always recruit well and the school team won the APS flag, so expect the competition’s big enigma to ruffle a few feathers next year”.⁵⁹



The athletic Chat Jayasekera streams down the Elsternwick Park wing.

CHATURA JAYASEKERA

One to regularly catch the eye of the umpires as well as the ladies, Chat Jayasekera had a terrific physique and was a very quick and athletic wingman. After a distinguished career in the under-nineteens including a competition Best and Fairest he made a fine start to his career in the firsts, but he played just as many games in the reserves. Along with his mates James Bell, Mehal Somaia, Simon Davey and Chris Efstathiou he formed the heart of the 2001 reserves premiership team. Eventually Jayasekera's medical studies curtailed his football career.

*111 games (41 1sts, 41 Reserves, 29 U19s),
59 goals (22 1sts, 18 Reserves, 19 U19s),
1997-2003*

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 18

Best & Fairest U19s 1997

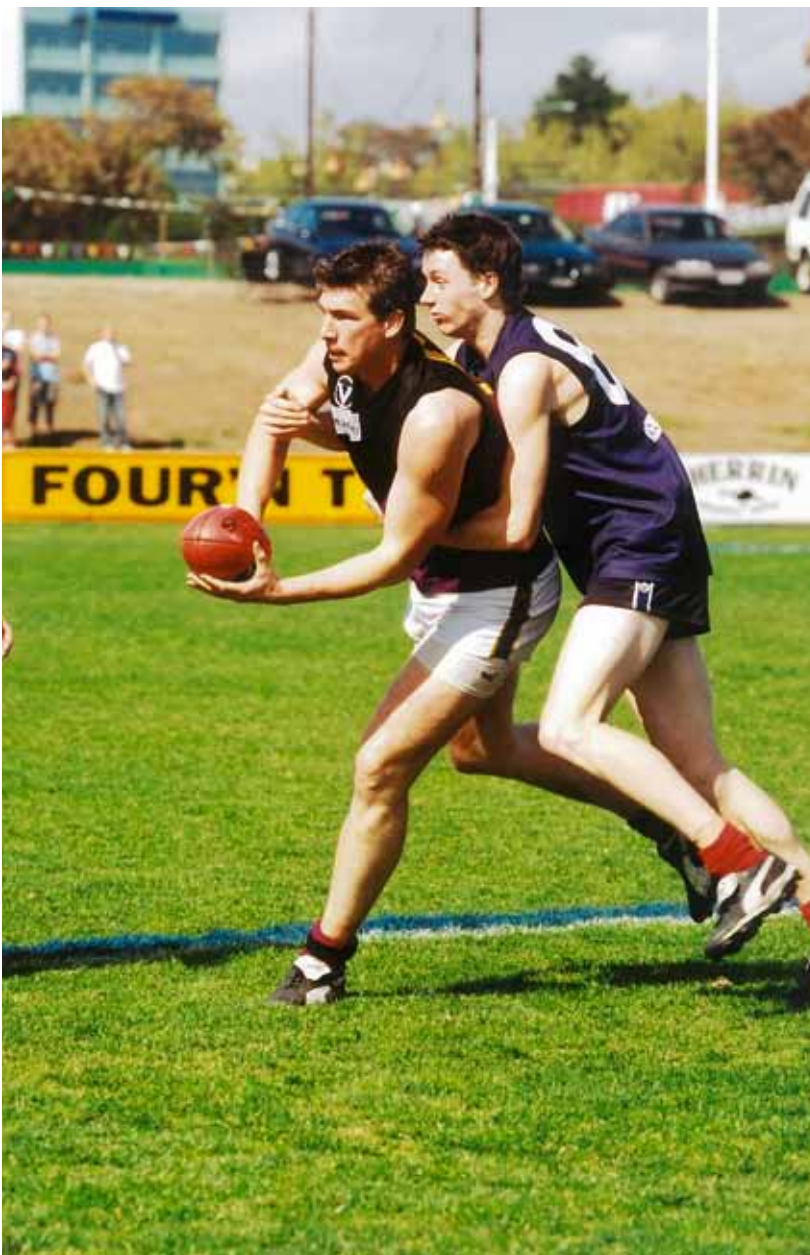
Runner-up Best & Fairest U19s 1998

Best & Fairest Reserves 2002

VAFA Junior 2 Section Best & Fairest 1998

⁵⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer* 2004 (Vol 04, No 19) p2

The winning of the first of three successive APS flags had already ruffled feathers. Around late 2002 Principal Robert Pargetter, previously disinterested in sport, saw its marketing potential and decided Haileybury needed a more prominent and successful sports program. He gave former OHAFC under-nineteen premiership player and coach, school Director of Football and from 2003 First Eighteen coach Andrew Lynch carte blanche to use sporting scholarships to bolster the team. "Pargetter told me to find as many players as I needed, and my main condition was that if he was serious he needed to offer full scholarships rather than partial ones".⁶⁰ In his first year as coach Lynch also had the legendary Allan Jeans as an assistant, followed later by Stewart Loewe.



Former Swan and Hawk Brett O'Farrell shows off his size and mobility as he shrugs a tackle from his Old Melburnians opponent in the 2002 Grand Final at Elsternwick Park.

BRETT GRANGER O'FARRELL

His AFL career cut short by injury, Brett O'Farrell's arrival at the Old Haileyburians had a major impact, similar to Wayne Shand's some years beforehand. It was immediately obvious that "Boff" was in a league of his own, especially when it came to contested overhead marks on the forward line, where he would frequently outmark three opponents. He was such a commanding player.

O'Farrell also had a habit of lifting when the team needed him most, such as at Old Brighton in 2002 (the day of Darren Seccull's infamous warm-up). Swung into the ruck at the last change, he dominated the last quarter with sixteen possessions to almost single-handedly swing the game the Bloods' way. It was a similar story in another last quarter comeback a few weeks later at Ormond, when he dominated the forward line.

Off the field the genial O'Farrell was the life of the party, his exploits memorably including a nude bike ride on one players' trip away. No longer restricted by AFL post-match procedures, Boffa enjoyed victories to the fullest, especially the reward of a cold one. He would lead the charge and ensure everyone around him had a good time too. Not one to lead the time trials, an expanding girth seemed only to help his football - especially his penchant for fearlessly and ruthlessly splitting a pack in an aerial contest, eyes fixed firmly on the ball.

More than once an opposition coach would send a hapless defender to stand in the hole in front of Boff. Much as they would do for Chris Efstathiou in the reserves. O'Farrell would politely warn the player, "I wouldn't stand there if I was you". The player would plea that the coach had told him that he had to stay there, and Boff would say, "OK, but I warned you". Sooner or later the inevitable would occur and Boff would run through the hole and the man in it like a Mack truck, and it would be the last time someone would stand in the hole for the day.

Eventually this style of play was O'Farrell's demise. Early in 2006 one of his pack-splitting exploits resulted in a break to the top of his femur, which effectively finished his career. One of the few sad notes of the first ever A Grade premiership win later that year was that Boffa was not in the team on Grand Final day, a tragedy given all he had done to lift the team over the previous few years.

Other than his short-lived comeback in 2008 and a few runs in the twos when they were short, after his playing days O'Farrell assisted the Bloods' forwards and rucks as a development coach. He was also involved in an AFL indigenous development program to develop and recruit future Aboriginal stars.

69 games (64 1sts, 5 Reserves),
191 goals (176 1sts, 15 Reserves), 2002-09

Jumper number 12

Best & Fairest 1sts 2003

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 2002 (36 goals),
2003 (41), 2005 (64)
VAFA Representative 2003

⁶⁰ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Lynch, 21 July 2010

Lynch's prominent competitive streak, hardened by over a decade with the highly successful St Kilda team in Melbourne's tough Premier cricket competition, meant there would be no half measures. Not wasting this gold-plated opportunity, Lynch gorged himself to such effect he faced uncomplimentary remarks like those from fellow APS coach Francis Jackson from Brighton Grammar, who legendarily thanked him for "f..king up APS football".⁶¹

Complaints like Jackson's cut no ice with Lynch, because almost all the schools were using sporting scholarships and it was only a matter of degree. They were all "a little bit pregnant", even if Haileybury was at nine months. Lynch felt only Scotch and Xavier didn't need scholarship programs as they had tradition and especially great demographic areas for football, whereas the Haileybury's primary campus at Keysborough was in the middle of a huge soccer area.

The scholarship program also had significant implications the Old Haileyburians, although they would not have been a prominent consideration for Pargetter and Lynch, and were therefore unintended. The main problem for the OHAFC was not the awarding of the scholarships but their timing. Lynch's targets tended to be local players at around the under-fifteen level, mainly boys entering Haileybury at Year 10, too late for them to form an association strong enough with the school and their team mates to encourage them to play for the Old Boys.

Cheltenham was a rich source of players, including Shane Valenti, as was St Bede's, a huge catholic school which "Pargetter viewed as just another high school".⁶² Other APS schools tended to be off-limits. Lynch found that Haileybury was once again recognised as a "football school" and started receiving phone calls from other parents interested in their boys playing football at Haileybury, so it was a two-way street. Although he conceded that "we might have gone a bit over the top"⁶³ with the extent of the program, Lynch felt it was necessary to recruit large numbers to be successful.

This was a huge turnaround from Michael Aikman's attitude when Dennis Smith raised the issue of former OHAFC President John Warnock's large sons and future AFL players Matthew and Robbie, both of whose talent was obvious. Smith advised Aikman not to muck around with part scholarships as other schools would offer full ones, and sure enough Brighton Grammar did.⁶⁴ No one could blame the Warnock family for taking up the better offer despite their strong ties with Haileybury.

Back in the VAFA Mick Dwyer was amazed to be asked by members of the Executive about school scholarships he had nothing to do with.⁶⁵ There were others who saw the program hindered rather than helped the Old Haileyburians. In 2006, for example, five former St Bede's boys played in the Haileybury College First Eighteen while also playing in premierships amateur teams with St Bede's Mentone Tigers. Brett Collins, whose father was a past president at St Bede's, kicked three goals in the seniors' grand final while the other four played in the under-nineteens. It was hardly surprising none played for the Old Haileyburians after leaving school.⁶⁶ There was also the potential for short-term school recruits to take Haileybury boys with them back to their original clubs, made easier by the Bloods having a weak under-nineteen team or no team at all.

SIMON PETER DAVEY

Simon "Bugsy" Davey was a big-kicking left-footer whose long roosts down to the likes of Efsthathiou and Somaia were integral to the reserves' 2001 premiership. His mother Jenny and sisters Kate and Sarah were also heavily involved in the club, especially in the canteen. In his mid-twenties, Davey was struck down in his prime with non-Hodgkins lymphoma; the club responded with a fund-raising night at the Mackie bowls club to help with his medical bills. Over \$10,000 was raised, John Connell starred as the auctioneer for the large crowd, and happily Bugsy made a full recovery.

*109 games (19 1sts, 70 Reserves, 19 U19s, 1 3rds),
58 goals (1 1sts, 21 Reserves, 36 U19s), 1997-2005*

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper numbers 40 & 2

Committee 2004

⁶¹ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Lynch, 21 July 2010

⁶² Personal telephone communication, Andrew Lynch, 21 July 2010

⁶³ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Lynch, 21 July 2010

⁶⁴ Personal telephone communication, Dennis Smith, 21 July 2010

⁶⁵ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

⁶⁶ Personal email communication, David Lappage, 20 July 2010

Patriarch and former president Ken Allison was another critic of the school program. He felt, “the scholarships run at the school will no doubt do more harm to the OHA as well as the OHAFC. Friendships are created by doing things together and the real creators are not necessarily the ‘best players’ but those who have had to try harder to win a spot, or get credit from their mates. Build from the ground, under-12’s, under-13’s, and create a bond, a desire to be part of something forever. The scholarship idea is a total failure in promotion of the Haileybury community and affiliated clubs. The school has not gained any credibility from this exercise”.⁶⁷

Robert Pargetter was initially immune to the criticism of the scholarship program, but eventually became more sensitive and wound it down. Lynch was not fussed at all, and enjoyed giving talent opportunity in areas other than sport and the dream to build a highly successful team. “They were some of the best days of my life”.⁶⁸ By 2010 there were few remnants of the program and other schools took their turn at attracting criticism.



Darren Lay and Chat Jayasekera apply the pressure to an Old Melburnians opponent in the 2002 Grand Final.

DARREN PHILLIP LAY

Dual premiership player Darren Lay was an extremely athletic and courageous player who spent most of his time in defence minding small forwards. He made a habit of toweling up and shutting down the likes of Old Trinity’s gun Andy Cultrera. Lay’s shoulders gave him a hard time, and he popped one in the 2006 second semi-final. Amazingly but in some ways hardly surprisingly he proved his fitness a fortnight later and played a significant role in the premiership win. Darren’s brother Brendan finished only two short of also playing a hundred games while father Barry served as team manager for many years.

*130 games (97 1sts, 12 Reserves, 21 U19s),
33 goals (14 1sts, 4 Reserves, 15 U19s),
1997-2006*

*Member 2006 1sts & 2001 Reserves
Premiership teams*

Jumper number 31

Best and Fairest U19s 1998

⁶⁷ Personal communication, Ken Allison, 13 December 2009

⁶⁸ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Lynch, 21 July 2010

There was a positive outcome for the OHAFC from the school's period of renewed if slightly misdirected interest in football. Largely at John Twist's instigation, coaches of major school teams were required to organise their own support groups, typically from parents of boys in the team.⁶⁹ The football support group that started in 2004 formally became the Coda Club in 2006. Last but not least of the Corda Club's objectives was to foster and encourage a close relationship between the school and the Old Haileyburians. Corda Club Presidents such as Alan Steen and Greg Chisholm did so enthusiastically as their boys made the transition from school to Old Boys.

The Old Haileyburians' season died with an appropriate whimper as they subsided quietly by ten goals at the University Oval, never a happy hunting ground. Hardly a rousing farewell to their long-serving coach, although quietly tended to be Mick Dwyer's way. Although capable of a decent spray, he rarely took this path but picked his target when he did so.⁷⁰

Dwyer's decision to no longer coach was a difficult one that had brewed for a few months. "Five years without a premiership was a long time and I'd heard there was a feeling a new approach could be looked at. Given the players we'd started with, we'd had opportunities in 2003 and 2004 to win an A Grade flag but had failed. A Director of Coaching type role was discussed but I was not attracted to it".⁷¹

Not only did 2004 see the end of the Old Haileyburians' longest continuous coaching tenure but also that of the longest serving President. Dennis Smith's eight years as President, all but the first also as Secretary, were an enormous contribution. Despite having the stage show "Dusty" coming up, Smith was not desperate to vacate the Presidency, especially without finding a suitable replacement.⁷² Meanwhile former OHAFC coach Phil Stevens also completed the last of his sixteen seasons as VAFA General Manager.⁷³

Mick Dwyer felt 2004 had been an opportunity missed.⁷⁴ As he noted in his Coach's Report, "the early season promise of success with what looked like our best player group for many years was interrupted by our inability to get our best team onto the field. Too many games given away by small margins (eight losses by two goals or less) only added to the frustration".⁷⁵ Despite the disappointment of 2004, Dwyer obviously still looked back with affection on his time at Old Haileyburians, having felt genuinely welcome at the club.⁷⁶ After announcing his resignation at Presentation Night, he graciously thanked the many people who had helped him and warmly welcomed his very different successor.⁷⁷

Looking at Dwyer's relative strengths and weaknesses, captain for his final three years Matthew Armstrong believed the players respected him as being a very honest coach, one who let them know where they stood. Armstrong praised Dwyer's football brain and said "everything was thought out - I only wish some of the people watching our games had a better understanding of some of his moves and decisions because they were always well justified and made sense".⁷⁸ A lot of training was based around match day pressure, but Armstrong felt at times that Dwyer should have been harder on the group

ANDREW JAMES KIGHT

Andrew Kight is probably best remembered for his Daicos-esque goal in the 2005 A Grade preliminary final against Old Xaverians. Kicked in the game's dying minutes from the scoreboard forward pocket at Elsternwick Park, it appeared to have sealed the game for the Bloods and a place in their first A Grade grand final.

Small, slightly built and quiet, Kight had plenty of speed as well as courage in abundance. He frequently preferred long sleeves. Kight loved his footy trips and often played a starring role in them. Noted as one of the smarter men in the club, his work took him to Sydney.

*105 games (46 1sts, 43 Reserves, 16 U19s),
36 goals (11 1sts, 16 Reserves, 9 U19s), 2002-09*

Jumper number 57

ROBERT MCGREGOR LADD

Very talented, enough to play just about every key position, the quiet Robert Ladd was an excellent reserves player. When he overcame his injuries the dark-haired right-footer also managed a few senior games. Ladd's brothers David and Peter each played 20-odd games for the club, but they were relatively small compared to Robert, who had more of a Fred Flintstone physique.

*107 games (13 1sts, 56 Reserves, 38 U19s),
29 goals (3 1sts, 15 Reserves, 11 U19s),
1998-2005*

Jumper number 50

⁶⁹ Personal telephone communication, Alan Steen, 15 September 2010

⁷⁰ Interview with Matthew Armstrong, 25 April 2010

⁷¹ Personal email communication, Mick Dwyer, 24 September 2010

⁷² Interview with Dennis Smith, 25 April 2010

⁷³ Phil Stevens, *The Amateur Footballer 2004* (Vol 04, No 22) p3

⁷⁴ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

⁷⁵ OHAFC Inc 2004 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 23 November 2004) First XVIII Coach's Report

⁷⁶ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

⁷⁷ OHAFC Inc 2004 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 23 November 2004) First XVIII Coach's Report

⁷⁸ Personal email communication, Matthew Armstrong, 26 July 2010

On Dwyer's standing down Paul Corrigan also remembered "a feeling of real disappointment from the team in the way we had performed. There were really high hopes for this team in 2003, although injuries didn't help. From the point of view of the players and as an assistant coach, working with Mick was fantastic. All the players had huge respect for Mick and I know as a team they were really disappointed".⁷⁹



Mark "Harry" Corrigan's skills were on full display when he won the Best and Fairest in 2004. Here he runs down the Elsternwick Park flank against Old Ivanhoe the previous year.

MARK WILLIAM CORRIGAN

The outrageously skilled Mark "Harry" Corrigan was one of the most talented players ever to pull on a boot for the Bloods, but his aspirations spread beyond A Grade amateur football, which made his career at McKinnon a relatively brief if brilliant one. Other than chasing his AFL dream he followed brother Paul around to premiership teams at ROC and South Barwon. A personal trainer like Paul, Harry shared his brother's love for, and rivalled his performances at, the major club functions.

Playing on the wing or in the midfield, one of Corrigan's finest attributes was his virtually ambidextrous kicking. In his first year at Old Haileyburians most thought he was a left-footer because he usually used this foot at training. But then they were surprised at games when he took deliberate shots for goal with his right. Many went through the year still not knowing which was the silky-skilled one's preferred foot.

Perhaps Harry's most memorable moment was at McKinnon in a game against arch rivals Old Melburnians in 2004. In the dying seconds, all seemed lost although there was less than a kick in it. Corrigan took a boundary tap 60 metres out, ran his full distance at top pace and, to seal a miraculous win, from 50 slotted the goal on his non-preferred foot. We think.

37 games (all 1sts), 46 goals (all 1sts), 2003-06

Jumper number 7

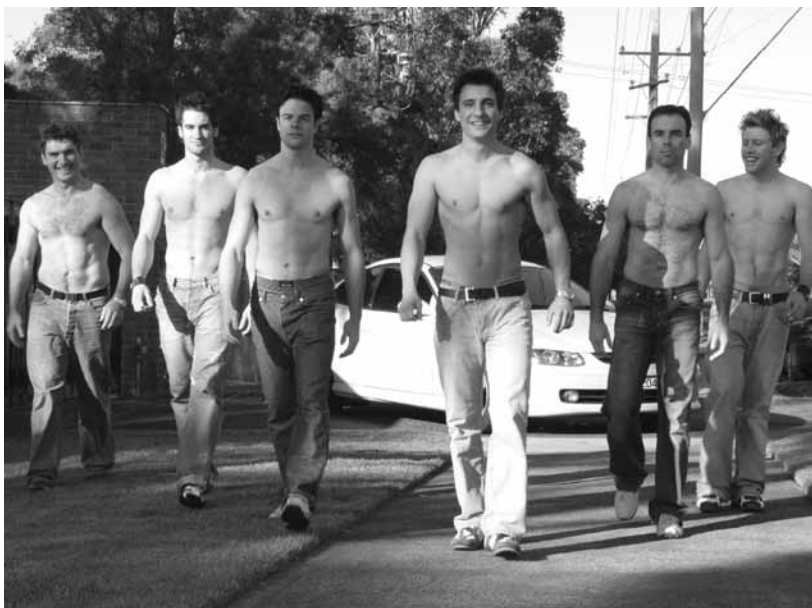
Best & Fairest 1sts 2004

*All-Australian Amateur 2004;
VAFA Representative 2003, 2004*

⁷⁹ Personal email communication, Paul Corrigan, 28 September 2010

At least the boys could console and amuse themselves with their annual trip away, this time to Byron Bay, where the highlights included Brett O'Farrell's nude bike riding into a lake and Brett Carson racing the caravan park boom gate.

From the end of 2000 Dennis Smith and Mick Dwyer had embarked on an ambitious campaign to bolster the Old Haileyburians' playing list. How well they succeeded in this task became their substantial legacy, one strikingly evident over the next two years.



Celebrity calendars were a popular fund-raiser in the general community in the 2000s. The Bloods' version featured (from left) Jeremy Bourke, Michael Barker, David Mackenzie, Laz Siapantas, Matthew Armstrong and Mark Corrigan.

DAVID ROBERT WARNES

David Warnes came to the Old Haileyburians from South Australia. A very athletic big man with a booming kick, ideal for centre half-forward, injuries cut short his career in his prime. A plumber by trade, the likeable "Warnsey" had no trouble mixing in with his more academic team mates. He could be provoked, however, as an Old Ivanhoe opponent found out when he punched Warnes not once but twice, and was memorably paid back ten times over - but at the cost of a four-week "holiday".

130 games (42 1sts, 88 Reserves),
92 goals (23 1sts, 69 Reserves), 1999-2009

Member 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper numbers 11 & 30

Best & Fairest Reserves 2005

Leading goal-kicker Reserves 2007 (11 goals)

CHAPTER 13

OVER THE TOP AND DOWN AGAIN 2005-07



2005 - Birth of The Badlands

The youthful Tim Chegwin played as an athletic ruckman/defender in 1989's watershed premiership triumph when the Old Haileyburians emphatically departed C Grade. After "a bit of a break from the footy club, Pennant golf at Huntingdale and being busy with a young family",¹ in 2004 "Cheggers" moved to Ormond and found himself regularly wandering down to the Bloods' home games at McKinnon.

Before long Chegwin fielded a phone call from Ken Allison, who suggested he take over the reins of Presidency from Dennis Smith. It seems Allison did more than put Chegwin up to the job as "his office was nearby (to both home and McKinnon), so he also acted as a mentor and sort of held my hand. I was pretty gung ho about taking on the job, even if I was a bit naive".²

Chegwin's first major task was to find a new senior coach. Prior to the 2004 AGM the club had advertised the position. Mick Dwyer decided not to apply, effectively stepping down from the role, but along with Allison and Darren Seccull, Chegwin had a high quality field of applicants to choose from, including former AFL players Dean Rice (St Kilda and Carlton) and Darren Kappler (Fitzroy, Sydney and Hawthorn).



Tim Chegwin lying down on the job back in his playing days in 1991, well before he became President when the Bloods took out their first A Grade flag.

¹ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 2 November 2010

² Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

Peter Nicholson was not in the original bunch of applicants, but through Keith Schilling and Rod Clancy the club heard the St Bernards coach might also be available. After the interviews and input from senior players such as new captain Paul Corrigan and his predecessor Matthew Armstrong, it came down to a choice between Rice and Nicholson. Carlton premiership player Rice had no VAFA experience at the time, but went on to coach Old Melburnians.

For Chegwin, “the head said Rice and the heart said Nicholson. His X-factor and record of success won it for him”.³ That record of success included two premierships at both Box Hill and Springvale in the VFL, another at East Burwood (Eastern Football league) and St Bernards’ first A Grade flag in nearly two decades. Jonathan Horn later described him as “an intense man, not averse to sledging opposition stars and umpires ... (who) has a remarkable rapport with his charges; he is very much a players’ coach. You’ll never hear a bad word about him at Springvale, Bernards or Haileyburians”.⁴

Nicholson was the only Level 3 accredited coach in the VAFA. From his days at St Bernards he already held a level of respect for the Old Haileyburians that did not extend to all other opposition clubs - “there were definitely some clubs I was really keen on keeping an ‘us versus them’ mentality”.⁵ Like Mick Dwyer, Nicholson also felt that the Bloods had under-performed, but he appreciated the legacy of the playing list left behind by his predecessor.

As ever, that vaunted list underwent further inter-seasonal change. Mark Corrigan’s departure to Sandringham was the biggest loss. When coaching St Bernards, Nicholson saw the younger Corrigan as a dangerous player, if not as consistent as his brother. “Most coaches would tag Paul, but I’d tag Harry instead because Paul would still get 35 touches anyway”.⁶ The talented Geister, Svarc and Tassell all departed after just one season. Despite being first to greet Nicholson at the “Meet the Coach” night, so did Steven Rode.

There were some handy replacements. The biggest name was Carl Steinfort, Paul Corrigan’s former Geelong team mate. Steinfort had limited influence in 2005, missing the pre-season and only playing a handful of games while training as a pilot. An impressive group of youngsters headed by Tom Chisholm, Dan Brown, Adam McIntyre and Farooq Mohammed made an immediate impact.

Although Shane Walden happily returned for his first senior games since 2001, Nicholson had more persuading to do with ruckman Andrew Jenke. Jenke felt he hadn’t had a fair go in 2004 when he played only three matches. Nicholson met him at a bar at the The Glen Shopping Centre and was a little taken aback when Jenks ordered a cup of tea. “I realised he was a little bit different”.⁷ The tee-total Nicholson settled for a soft drink but won his man, to the extent that Jenke eventually nominated Nicholson as the best coach he played under at Old Haileyburians. “He understood my somewhat casual approach to training and playing and was very supportive. Provided I put in on a Saturday he was satisfied”.⁸

Andrew Bonwick joined the committee for the first time and, after a year off, returned as reserves coach. More significant was “footy club legend”⁹

TIMOTHY PAUL CHEGWIN

Tim Chegwin started as a tall, skinny colt, quickly promoted to the seniors to play in defence on resting ruckmen and tall forwards. Not a great kick, he more than made up for it with his intensity at the ball and opponents. Always one of the first to “fly the flag”, he established some fierce rivalries, none more so than with Ormond’s Paul Schuhkraft. His talents soon extended to running the pool competition at South Yarra’s Saloon Hotel. “Cheggers” even dropped out of medicine at Monash University for a crack at professional golf, worked his handicap down to one and later in life won the Bintan Open in Indonesia.

After playing in the drought-breaking 1989 premiership, Chegwin’s liking for bourbon and cigarettes produced a widening physique and more regular appearances in the reserves, where he was the toughest player by a mile. He frequently rucked, then roved his own tap out. Even a fractured skull, 22 stitches, 18 staples and six days in hospital couldn’t halt his career.

Chegwin’s stint as President saw the Bloods finally reach their Holy Grail of an A Grade flag. With his father Dick helping along, the big fellow’s confidence and boisterous nature infused itself around the club and helped provide the self-belief needed to climb the final summit.

123 games (30 1sts, 59 Reserves, 32 U19s, 2 3rds), 44 goals (3 1sts, 28 Reserves, 13 3rds), 1988-97

Member 1989 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 10

Best & Fairest U19s 1988

Vice-captain U19s 1989

President 2005-06

³ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁴ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 22) p4

⁵ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁶ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁷ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁸ Personal email communication, Andrew Jenke, 22 October 2010

⁹ *The Haileyburian*, May 2005

David Lappage's appointment to coach the reformed under-nineteens. A staff member at the Castlefield campus, Lappage became probably the most important link between the OHAFC and the school from this point on.

In top shape after Nicholson's Spiroline-infused training sessions, at McKinnon the Bloods won the all-important first game of the season. "With the rare luxury of a full list, (they) upset Old Scotch by a point after a long Michael Barker behind in the final seconds".¹⁰ Nicholson was especially pleased with the win, given Scotch kicked the first six goals of the match. It also paved the way for motivational comments at training such as "they wouldn't be doing this at Scotch, they'd all be having lattes".¹¹

The Bloods followed up with a 93-point flogging of one of Nicholson's other favourites, Old Trinity, who he often referred to as "The Hedge-burners" ("they always wished they'd been in the APS").¹² In Jonathan Horn's eyes the Bloods had changed from "something of a joke last year but now look very much the benchmark. How would you like to be an A Grade full back playing on Brett O'Farrell with Corrigan, Siapantas, Barker and co streaming down? They won the school flag last year a bunch of ring-ins but their Old Boys side are all home grown and pretty impressive. Could this be the year?"¹³ After seven rounds O'Farrell led the section goal kicking list and eventually finished third.

Missing Paul Corrigan for Nicholson's first game as coach against his old team, the Bloods kicked poorly (3.8) in the first term before they fell behind and trailed by eight goals halfway through the third term. A five goal burst just before the final change changed the game and they led by a point with thirty seconds to go. St Bernards' Troy Legudi fluffed both his kick for goal from thirty metres and the chance to win the game for his team; the result was A Grade's first draw for the season.¹⁴

The form in the reserves of "the biggest man in amateur football, indeed the biggest man in town, Chris Efstathiou" had Jonathan Horn wondering whether Nicholson would "pull out a smoky and promote the gargantuan one as the winter months approach and the footy gets slower",¹⁵ but in Nicholson's view this was never really likely,¹⁶ despite Foo winning the reserves section goal kicking for the fourth time in five years. Horn was obviously still traumatised by his most vivid footballing memory, playing on Efstathiou as a student at Caulfield Grammar, "having him pick me up and throw me approximately ninety metres across the turf".¹⁷

As expected the Bloods, "often dismissed as the league's loose cannon",¹⁸ easily accounted for the struggling Collegians, their biggest problem being a burst water main in the rooms before the game.¹⁹ After this game Horn listed his "Top 40" players in A Grade, which included Haileyburians' Paul Corrigan (2), Brett O'Farrell (5), Michael Barker (19), Laz Siapantas (34) and Kynan Ford (38).²⁰ After leading the Bloods early, St Kevins were easily dismissed, courtesy of a thirteen-goal avalanche led by Barker's six majors from the half-back flank.

By the end of his time as coach, Mick Dwyer knew that other teams hated visiting McKinnon.²¹ Nicholson's harder edge made the venue even more dreaded, and in reviewing the St Kevins game, Horn for the first time referred to the Bloods assuming top position at "Reno Raines'

¹⁰ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 2) p2

¹¹ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

¹² Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

¹³ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 3) pp2-3

¹⁴ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 1 May 2005, p30

¹⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 4) p3

¹⁶ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

¹⁷ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 4) p3

¹⁸ Jonathan Horn, *The Age* (Sport section) 9 May 2005, p11

¹⁹ Interview with Peter Nicholson and David Mackenzie, 25 June 2010

²⁰ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 5) p1

²¹ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

Badlands".²² Horn drew his inspiration from the American television series "Renegade", whose main character Reno Raines was a policeman who testified against other cops gone bad. In the words of the show's introduction, Raines was "framed for murder, now he prowls The Badlands. An outlaw hunting outlaws, a bounty hunter, a Renegade". The moniker stuck quickly and like glue.

Nicholson happily played up to the aura of The Badlands.²³ When the coach barked from the scoreboard and a couple of the Bloods' more vocal supporters were in full flight the mood could turn decidedly hostile and be distinctly removed from the family atmosphere that had generally been nurtured by the club and the VAFA over the years.

Nicholson's view on his relationship with the umpires was he wanted them to think they had been giving his team a rough deal and that "they owed us one".²⁴ And although he conceded being vociferously critical of the men in white sometimes meant they gave the next free against the Bloods, he felt they would be very wary of giving away the one after.



In 2006 Andrew Jenke was the dominant ruckman in A Grade, won the Woodrow Medal for Best and Fairest in the competition and played a major part in the Bloods winning their first A Grade flag. Here he towers over his Old Scotch opponents to easily win another tap out. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

ANDREW KRYSTIN JENKE

Old Haileyburians' only Woodrow Medallist Andrew Jenke played a major role in their first A Grade premiership the year he won his medal. With his high jumping background, this gentle giant would collect marks all over the ground like a giant spider catching flies in its web, regularly taking fifteen or more a game. An unusual kicking action belied Jenke's record as a reliable set shot for goal after towering grabs, and he could be unpassable across half-back. A profuse bleeder, the only blood spilt by Jenke was typically from his own nose. Legend has it his socks and handkerchief always matched!

Although Jenke was generally a quiet man he had little trouble speaking to the playing group when needed. He would warm up for games with a song to himself before becoming more animated, and excelled in Dennis Cometti impersonations. He was not an obviously brilliant player when he joined the club but improved every year, apart from 2004 when he "retired" after the first three games due to work commitments. After Peter Nicholson cajoled "Jenks" into a comeback he proved one of the vital links in the 2006 triumph, especially once Nico urged the team's runners to feed more frequently for handballs.

That Grand Final was Andrew Jenke's last game in magenta, black and shin guards. His work at PriceWaterhouseCoopers in debt recovery had always restricted his pre-season training, and he was rarely seen on Tuesdays. After 2006 PwC took him away to London for good. At least his father Peter continued to monitor the interchange bench, always arriving at the game with his two dogs.

110 Games (96 1sts, 2 Reserves, 12 U19s),
71 Goals (60 1sts, 5 Reserves, 6 U19s), 1999-2006

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 21

Best & Fairest 1sts 2006

VAFA A Section Best & Fairest
(Woodrow Medal) 2006

²² Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 6) p2

²³ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

²⁴ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

President Tim Chegwin was aware that some members questioned whether such an unfriendly atmosphere was a necessary price of success and whether they wanted to pay that price. Jill Phillips, for example, wrote "It concerns me that the McKinnon Reserve is referred to as The Badlands because of the behaviour of some spectators. It continues to amaze me that the stalwart mentoring group of Old Boys have not taken action to rectify this situation".²⁵ Even some players had their reservations, including Andrew Jenke, who observed, "nobody likes being slammed at other grounds, so there's no need for it at the Badlands".²⁶

Occasionally Chegwin would also be uncomfortable with the situation and the behaviour of some club members, and wondered whether The Badlands label contributed to his sense that the club was not particularly liked by the VAFA over the time of his Presidency (other than when it provided players for representative teams).²⁷ He noted, however, "we were driving for success, and when doing so it's difficult to be everyone's friend. We had been fully aware of the aura and the distinct psychological advantage of St Bernards' "Snakepit". I also felt issues were blown out of proportion and the "Badlands" tag was more a perception than reality. I'm certain this did not please everyone, but I think the majority of OHAFC supporters walked a little taller at McKinnon as a result".²⁸

For Nicholson, a lot of the shenanigans were just part of the theatre that helped him motivate his team. He also saw that theatre was very important for variety in delivering what were often very similar messages repeated many times.²⁹ And Chegwin noted, "you could be distracted by some of the negatives, but you have to remember that it could be terrific entertainment too, which also attracted people to our games. As well as the team being successful".³⁰

When they visited reigning premier Uni Blues, the Bloods suffered their first come-uppence. "If Paul Corrigan knocks up 35 touches and Brett O'Farrell dobs seven you'd put your house on the Bloods to win, right? Well no, they were thumped by more than eight goals"³¹ reported Horn. Carl Steinfort made his debut in the following week's win against a plucky Old Melburnians, while David Mason played his 150th game. He and father Peter thereby became the first father-son combination to each pass this milestone.

The pundits were not overly deterred by the Bloods' mid-season loss by 29 points to premiership rival Old Xaverians, after a frenetic seven goal to six opening quarter at Elsternwick Park. Jonathan Horn wrote, "Be assured, the Bloods are pretty handy themselves. Paul Corrigan, like he has for years, is playing a fearless brand of football and is almost untaggable while Mark "Disco" Seccull, who may well have been a member of the founding team in 1961, looked a class above everyone else up forward. Put Brett O'Farrell back into that side and get Carl Steinfort fit and they will be the real deal".³² Nicholson had clearly "galvanised the enigmatic Bloods".³³

These assessments were vindicated by only one loss, and that by only two points to Old Xavs, in the last ten home and away games. Siapantas' seven goals did for lowly Marcellin, while the Bloods could afford to have Brett O'Farrell and Mark Seccull boot 2.9 between them³⁴ and still defeat Old Scotch. Laz Siapantas kicked three goals in five minutes in

²⁵ Personal email communication, Jill Phillips, 25 October 2010

²⁶ Personal email communication, Andrew Jenke, 22 October 2010

²⁷ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

²⁸ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 2 November 2010

²⁹ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

³⁰ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

³¹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 7) p2

³² Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 9) p3

³³ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 10) p1

³⁴ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 26 June 2005, p10

the last quarter, while “youngster Ben Waite played the game of his life”³⁵ to keep the competition’s leading goalkicker James Gerstman down to a solitary major.

As had become the norm, VAFA representative teams brimmed with Old Haileyburians players. Paul Corrigan captained the VAFA against the Victorian Country Football League and was joined in the team by Laz Siapantas and the consistent Brett Trollope. Even better, Michael Barker and Waite were named in the All-Australian Amateur under-23 team to tour Ireland later that year; Barker was appointed captain. But the VAFA was understandably upset when the two failed to return to amateur football after the tour.³⁶



Clever left-foot rover Laz Siapantas clears against Old Scotch at McKinnon in 2006.
(photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

LAZ JOHN SIAPANTAS

Whilst a student at Caulfield Grammar, Laz Siapantas had legitimate ambitions to play AFL along with a younger member of the First Eighteen in Chris Judd. When osteitis pubis ended this dream, the nippy rover played at Sandringham in the VFL, St Kevins under-nineteens and Monash. Far too good for D Grade, he looked at A Grade clubs including Old Melburnians, but luckily for the Bloods his sister’s relationship with David Mason won the day.

Hamstring problems slowed Laz’s start, but soon his explosive speed, acceleration, silky left foot and ability to collect the ball while running at top pace saw him tear games apart. Opposition coaches at Scotch, Trinity and OMs rated him the best player in A Grade. Little wonder given performances such as the burst when, playing in the midfield, he kicked six of the Bloods’ seven goals in pouring rain against Trinity in 2004, as well as a couple of posters. The following year he placed fourth in the competition Best and Fairest.

An integral member of the 2006 A Grade premiership team, unfortunately Laz’s 2010 Grand Final was far shorter-lived when he broke his arm in the first contest of the game. That year his father John served as club Treasurer, while Laz carved out his own career in finance. Eventually what was probably Laz’s real motivation for joining the Old Haileyburians became clear, when he started dating his sister’s boyfriend’s sister, Sally Mason.

*109 games (106 1sts, 3 Reserves),
141 goals (140 1sts, 1 Reserves), 2003-10*

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Vice-captain 1sts 2007-09

Jumper number 6

All-Australian Amateur 2003

VAFA Representative 2003, 2005

³⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Age* (Sport section) 27 June 2005, p7

³⁶ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

Chegwin's education as President continued in unusual ways. One of the last to leave at the end of a Club Clymax night at McKinnon, he agreed for the cleanup to be done the next day. But he failed to realise that junior football was played on Sunday mornings. And that one of the player's party tricks of putting his head into an inflated condom meant leftovers scattered around outside the clubrooms. Chegwin soon received a particularly stern letter from the City of Glen Eira over the French letter litter.³⁷

Two-thirds of the way through the season it was clear the A Grade premiership was a three-horse race between defending premiers University Blues, perennial champion Old Xaverians chasing their eighth flag since 1995, and Old Haileyburians.³⁸ The Bloods grew in stature by the week and showed their mettle by keeping St Bernards to a miserable, solitary goal and eight behinds in heavy conditions at their own Snakepit. After limping home against the struggling St Kevins and facing Uni Blues in the next game, however, Jonathan Horn asked whether the Bloods were "the real deal or just a pack of loud mouthed hoons"?³⁹



A Grade premiership captain Paul Corrigan takes a mark clear above the pack in the 2006 Grand Final with David Mackenzie (15) at his feet. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

PAUL DAVID CORRIGAN

After 50-odd games wearing number 33 for Geelong and a successful stint at Rythdale-Officer-Cardinia (ROC), former school vice-captain Paul Corrigan returned to the Bloods in 2003 as they built towards their greatest achievement in amateur football. He arrived with gun recruits Michael Barker, Ben Waite and little brother Mark. Corrigan was the classiest of mid-fielders, a penetrating right-foot kick, fierce tackler and a strong mark for his size. His uncle John won two Best and Fairests for the Bloods in the early 1980s.

As captain Corrigan led from the front in all he did, inspiring others around him with a commanding voice and AFL-like commitment to training. Quieter off the field, he suffered classic "white-line fever". Fearless and unstoppable once the ball was bounced, "Corra" often ran straight into packs and repeatedly put his body on the line. It was a miracle that Corrigan was not injured more often, but at the business end of 2005 he pulled up lame at the worst possible time, in the final home-and-away game. Gamely he played in the heart-breaking preliminary final loss to Old Xaverians.

Success never eluded Corrigan for long, however. Already a premiership player for ROC, he shared the 2003 Best and Fairest with former classmate Brett O'Farrell and won it on his own two years later when he also captained the VAFA team. And in 2006 of course he became the Old Haileyburians' first ever A Grade premiership captain. Further triumphs followed in the form of three premierships with South Barwon, reinforcing just what a loss he was to the Bloods.

Off the field Paul Corrigan also led the charge, in memorable trips to Lavington and at functions such as Club Clymax and the Blood Bath Ball. Corrigan worked as a personal trainer and for a time at sportswear company New Balance, and his wife Ainsley also taught for a time at Haileybury.

65 games (64 1sts, 1 U19s), 38 goals (all 1sts), 1996-2006

Captain 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 3

Best & Fairest 1sts 2003, 2005

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 2004

Captain 1sts 2005-06

All-Australian Amateur 2003

VAFA Representative 2003, 2005 (Captain)

³⁷ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

³⁸ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 17 July 2005, p26

³⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 14) p3

Not surprisingly there was an enraged response. The club felt a line had been crossed and complained to the VAFA.⁴⁰ Horn issued a retraction. Vocal long-time supporter and sponsor John Doyle mobilised his printing resources with a large fence-side “loud-mouthed hoons” sign. But Nicholson didn’t remember being particularly bothered by the brouhaha, despite being an obvious target for the barb. He tended to regard what was written in *The Amateur Footballer* as relatively unimportant.⁴¹

Horn did more than apologise after the Bloods’ important 29-point win over Uni Blues, calling them “Good things” and saying “they certainly have one hell of a footy team down at McKinnon, with Jeremy Bourke (five goals) playing another cracker and Carl Steinfort playing his best game for the club”.⁴² He also paid tribute to Mark Seccull, who in his mid-thirties lined up against old foes Old Melburnians for his 200th game for the club.⁴³

Having firmed as flag favourites with the Uni win,⁴⁴ the Bloods took a stranglehold on top position when they smashed OMs. “Disco” played a belter, Andrew Jenke took fourteen marks and Sandringham and future Melbourne player Shane Valenti made an eye-catching sole appearance for the Bloods. In a dark portent for the finals, however, Carl Steinfort tore a hamstring.⁴⁵

A second loss to Xavs, this time narrowly at their Badlands home, was seen by some as a good sign given they “squandered a lot of opportunities, played badly and had little input from their guns”.⁴⁶ Then the wheels started to fall off when “Frogger” Mohammed broke a hand against Marcellin and turned into a full-scale train wreck in the final game against Collegians.

Striving to avoid relegation, the Lions gave Old Haileyburians a sterner workout than they would have wished for prior to the finals, and led by three goals at the last change. Perhaps they had been stirred by the exercise bike strategically placed in the middle of their rooms as payback for the leaking water main earlier in the season. A seven goal last-quarter burst from the Bloods sealed Collegians’ fate, however, and provided some revenge for the events of the last round of 1994. And for the first time they finished the season on top of the A Grade ladder.

But the game was a disaster for the Bloods’ premiership aspirations. Before half-time the two brightest of all their stars, Paul Corrigan and Brett O’Farrell were off the ground injured. Unlike Phil Stevens in 1988, Nicholson had no thought of resting key players prior to the finals.⁴⁷ Where Stevens made a misjudgement, Nicholson was just dead unlucky and couldn’t help but think “just finish the game” as the injuries mounted.⁴⁸

The reserves and under-nineteens both missed the finals. For the twos, who won eight games and finished seventh, it was the last time they were even vaguely competitive before they fell away disastrously in the second half of the decade. Despite only six wins, coach David Lappage was delighted with the performance of the under-nineteens, pointing to the 42 players who had pulled on the boots, the five who made the seniors, the 137-point turnaround against Salesians and finishing within three points of eventual runners-up Mazenod. He felt the club was back on track.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁴¹ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁴² Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer* 2005 (Vol 05, No 15) p2

⁴³ *The Amateur Footballer* 2005 (Vol 05, No 15) p3

⁴⁴ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 31 July 2005, p26

⁴⁵ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 7 August 2005, p30

⁴⁶ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer* 2005 (Vol 05, No 18) p2

⁴⁷ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁴⁸ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁴⁹ OHAFC Inc 2005 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 23 November 2005) Under 19 XVIII Coach’s Report

Financially the club was also travelling in the right direction, despite a paper loss of over \$12,000 following a \$7,000 loss in 2004. But the deficit was entirely due to asset write downs and, after these were taken into account, there was an operating profit.⁵⁰

The second semi-final was a 71-point drubbing for the terribly undermanned minor premiers. Horn accused Nicholson of “throwing wobbles in the end”,⁵¹ probably as a result of the volatile coach giving away a free for shouting at the umpires. He felt they had failed to protect ruckman Andrew Jenke, who came off the ground streaming with blood. Nicholson retorted to Uni fans giving him a hard time with “at least I’ve had a stat!”⁵² But he rated Blues highly and felt they were still the competition yardstick; he thought they would have won again in 2005 had they not got ahead of themselves.

Corrigan and Steinfort desperately returned for the preliminary final against Old Xaverians, but not O’Farrell. It turned out to be an extremely emotional 300th game for Matthew Armstrong, the first Old Haileyburian to achieve the feat. All but twenty of those games had been in the firsts.

The Bloods put in an extraordinarily gallant performance, and against expectations led for most of the day. President Tim Chegwin thought they were home when they led by three goals with ten minutes to play after Kight’s major.⁵³ The memory of many supporters is that of Ben Waite keeping Xavs’ star forward Damien Lynch goalless and almost kickless - until the tragic last ten seconds when Waite dropped a mark, Lynch took one and finally kicked truly to give his team a two-point win. In Nicholson’s view the villain was not Waite but the unidentified defender who handballed back into the centre corridor from a boundary throw-in close to goal.⁵⁴

The rooms were particularly tearful after what was virtually Armstrong’s last game and not helped by incidents such as the Xavier-supporting VAFA umpire’s abuse of Mark Seccull after the game.⁵⁵ And of course “the Xaverians were singing their song as close as they could to us and giving us all sorts of shit”.⁵⁶ Although the Bloods would try to use these insults as a spur for the future, there was no getting around they had fallen short in an A Grade preliminary final for the second time.

There was some consolation in the selection of Paul Corrigan, Brett O’Farrell, Brett Trollope and Mark Seccull in the A Grade “Team of the Year”.⁵⁷ Both Nicholson and Chegwin resisted the temptation to view the disappointment and missed opportunity of the preliminary final as a tragedy. Instead they eagerly looked ahead, and Nicholson urged all players, officials and supporters to do their little bits and have ownership of the ultimate glory in 2006.⁵⁸

⁵⁰ OHAFC Inc 2005 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 23 November 2005) Report of the Treasurer

⁵¹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 21) p2

⁵² Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁵³ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁵⁴ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁵⁵ Interview with Darren Seccull, 25 June 2010

⁵⁶ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁵⁷ *The Amateur Footballer 2005* (Vol 05, No 22) p5

⁵⁸ OHAFC Inc 2005 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 23 November 2005) First XVIII Coach’s Report

2006 - Over the Top with Nico

"It wasn't a subtle statement. It was loud, powerful and crystal clear. Old Haileyburians means business this year".⁵⁹ So wrote Cameron Noakes in *The Sunday Age* after the Bloods' 59-point demolition of University Blues in round two.

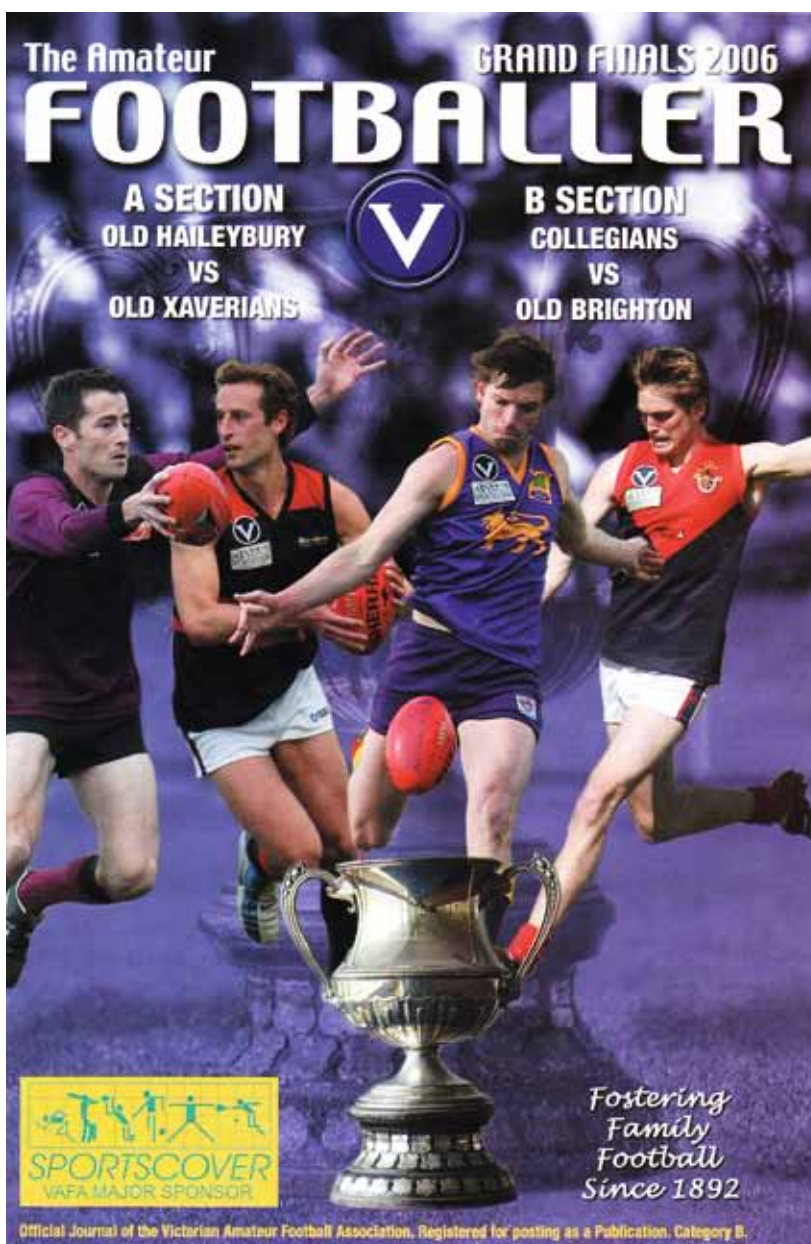
The frightening display showed life under Peter Nicholson at The Badlands was in full swing. Uni felt the full brunt of the Bloods' characteristic wealth of big men as Andrew Jenke controlled the ruck while Brett O'Farrell and Mark Seccull shared eight goals.



In 2006 the Bloods boasted an embarrassment of big man riches. Other than the likes of Jenke and Seccull, they were able to call on future and former AFL players Stefan Martin (32) and Stewie Loewe, seen here taking a strong mark against Old Scotch a few weeks before the finals campaign began. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁵⁹ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 30 April 2006, p17

O'Farrell spectacularly reinforced his reputation as the most awesome splitter of packs since Roger Paul's heyday. Frustrated by a University defender bravely camped in his hole, "Bof" saw an opportunity when the hapless student found himself at the base of a monster wave of bodies. By the time the big fellow had ridden the peak, crashed his way through, taken a ball-bursting mark and turned around to review the carnage, two Uni players lay on the ground, one with a broken jaw and the other with cracked ribs. No wonder the contest was described as fearsome when the Bloods finished with one fit man on the bench and the Blues none.⁶⁰



The cover of *The Amateur Footballer* for the Bloods' first ever A Grade Grand Final and premiership featured half-back Brett "Tommy" Trollope (far left).

⁶⁰David Hastie, *The Herald-Sun*, 1 May 2006, p55

Although Noakes contended the Bloods were slow to start in the season opener at De La Salle, they still had time to win that one by ten goals too. Little wonder they were well fancied from the start in 2006, although their list had been depleted by the departures of Barker and Waite, and the effective retirement of Matthew Armstrong. Jeremy Bourke also retired, to join VAFA administration; Tim Chegwin felt “although we’d lost a player at least we’d gained a source of insight and advice at Elsternwick Park”.⁶¹

The gains included the very substantial one of Heath Hopwood, linked to the Bloods through Kynan Ford who had also played at Central Districts. Dennis Smith had held the South Australian in his sights for a long time,⁶² had wined and dined him, but not quite convinced him to move to Melbourne. Hopwood’s employer solved the problem when they moved him interstate, and the Bloods were prime position to snare Hopwood despite offers to play professionally. He wanted to play for enjoyment.⁶³

Hopwood’s record included five SANFL premierships, twice best on ground in a grand final and captaincy of his native state.⁶⁴ It even extended to “establishing himself as one of SA’s foremost male models, hunking it up in a string of bank commercials. It’s never dull at the Badlands”.⁶⁵ Hopwood was accompanied by the chunky Matthew Brewer, son of former Melbourne and Collingwood player Ross.



Well suited to the heavy conditions, Matt Brewer played probably his best game for the Bloods in the 2006 Grand Final. Here he boots one of his three goals. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁶¹ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁶² Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁶³ Personal telephone communication, Dennis Smith, 6 November 2010

⁶⁴ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 22) p4

⁶⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 1) p2

Then there was the rawest of recruits, school leaver Stefan Martin, playing his first football for five years. Watching the youngster in a pre-season match at the Fisher Oval, the prescient Hopwood told an astounded Tim Chegwin, "This kid will be drafted".⁶⁶ By the end of the year he was (by Melbourne), after polling 23 of a possible 24 votes in his eight under-nineteen games to win the competition Best and Fairest. Martin's team mate Brad Dolman polled 19 votes to complete a competition quinella.⁶⁷

The Bloods lost only one of their first eight games, at St Bernards in Round three, and continually gave loud and clear notice of their intentions. They buried Old Trinity and Old Melburnians by 86 and 103 points respectively in successive weeks. O'Farrell was rampant in the first win, booting a career-best nine goals, while Hopwood kicked just one less against OMs as Nicholson taunted the opposition bench with cries of "Who's on Hoppy?"⁶⁸ The McKinnon Badlands was entrenched as "Amateur football's very own house of horrors".⁶⁹



Held up by team mate David Mackenzie, All-Australian Tom Chisholm celebrates one of his two goals in the 2006 Grand Final. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁶⁶ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

⁶⁷ OHAFC Inc 2006 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 16 November 2006) Under 19 XVIII Coach's Report

⁶⁸ Interview with Peter Nicholson and Darren Seccull, 25 June 2010

⁶⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 6) p2

The OM's win came at a sad cost, however. Brett O'Farrell sustained a shocking hip injury in a marking contest. During his reconstructive surgery it was discovered the big bloke had also broken the top of his femur in the hip socket. O'Farrell sadly announced his retirement⁷⁰ to team mates at training, giving the Bloods further motivation to achieve their A Grade dream.

The return of Harry Corrigan (but only for one game) and Brett "Thank God for Tommy" Trollope the week after O'Farrell's last match was some consolation. Trollope had played in a premiership under Nicholson at Springvale, leaving him open to Nico's powers of persuasion.

Last in the early string of wins was an important 31-point victory over Old Xavs, "with David Mason, Paul Corrigan and El Disco all starring ... the long-term loss of O'Farrell is the only lingering question mark, otherwise the Bloods are spot on for their first ever A Section flag".⁷¹ Such was his form, Mason was named at full-back in the mid-season A Section Team of the Year; Andrew Jenke and Heath Hopwood made up the following division.

There were other causes for joy after the Xavier win. One was the opportunity to relive the day's events in the musings of veteran supporter Tony Doyle, aka The Oracle. By the middle of his first season as club correspondent he was well into his stride, reporting on the deeds of favourites such as Jenks, Captain Corras, Maso, Corca, Chis and Hammer. As well as Mark Seccull's inspired performance in the EJ Whitten Legends Game.⁷²



Capping a great career, veteran Mark Seccull roars with delight at one of his goals in the middle of his match-winning burst in the second quarter of the 2006 Grand Final. Team mate David Mackenzie (15) looks ahead to the next contest. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁷⁰ For The Love of the Game, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 12) p32

⁷¹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 9) p2

⁷² Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 June 2006

The second reason for happiness also attracted the attention of The Oracle. In 2006 the VAFA began playing 20-minute quarters plus time-on to streamline with the AFL and to prevent games blowing out. Against Uni Blues the Bloods played no quarter longer than 25 minutes.⁷³

To The Oracle's obvious delight the Xavier match ended around 4:15pm, and "many folks turning up late almost mistook the end of the game for three-quarter time. As the Oracle joined the Throng for a round of winners' beers, theories were afoot that the shorter quarters and earlier finishing time may well be a conspiracy launched by the breweries to increase sales of green cans around Amateur clubs. Surely not!"⁷⁴



Roaming across the half-back line, former Geelong and Collingwood player Carl Steinfort won the Jock Nelson Medal for best on the ground in the 2006 A Grade Grand Final. Here he is pictured in a rare ungainly moment blocking Xavs' Matt Handley and watched by David Mason (22). (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁷³ Cameron Noakes, *On the Record, The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 3) p1

⁷⁴ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 June 2006

Well as the seniors were playing, the reserves under new coach Benny McGee showed an alarming lack of depth on their way to a one-win season. Jonathan Horn pondered whether the Haileyburians could win an A Grade flag with “a reserves team with a percentage barely above room temperature? Oh how they miss Chris Efstathiou, the Biggest and Baddest of the Badlands. Haileyburians are Fooless and bottom of the table in the seconds but their seniors are the obvious benchmark. Go figure”.⁷⁵ Fellow columnist Cameron Noakes was also alarmed at the Bloods’ percentage of 18.02 after four rounds.⁷⁶

President Tim Chegwin was acutely aware of the club’s lack of depth. “Without a consistent feed from the school, depth was always going to be an issue. Unfortunately we were not blessed with an annual influx of promising footballers and scratched around most of the time just to put eighteen on the paddock. To be honest I take my hat off to the wonderful clubmen who showed up week after week, knowing they would probably be flogged, and who always the same guys who put up their hands to help out around the place. They are unsung heroes, and a club can’t survive without them”.⁷⁷

Chegwin also understood the detrimental effects for the OHAFC of the school’s football scholarship program. Recruiting players from the school “became even worse. Kids arriving in Year 11 to play in an APS premiership were either destined for higher grades, or developed no affinity for the school and departed to play with their mates. Worse still, a lot of our lifeblood of home-grown talent was disillusioned by the game when they saw much-coveted spots in the First Eighteen taken by scholarship players”.⁷⁸

After Xaverians the wheels quite suddenly fell off, first with narrow losses to the unfancied Old Scotch and De La Salle, the latter in Shane Walden’s last game before heading overseas in what was “quite a day at McKinnon. A howling gale, absolute pandemonium in the reserves game (Matt Dowling was king hit 50 metres behind play) and Stewart Loewe playing his first game in years” (since 2003).⁷⁹ On a dark day for the Bloods they gave up a four goal three-quarter time lead and top place on the ladder.⁸⁰

The Dowling incident was the latest in a long line involving De La Salle games, which started in 1978 with the abandoned under-nineteen game. Then there was the 1991 melee involving the Dunn brothers; Dennis McGrory’s raiding of De La players in 1992; the “spirited encounter” at Elsternwick Park when Darren Seccull was reported in 1994; Tim Chegwin’s hospitalisation the same year; 2000’s “heated match”, which had spilled over from the reserves; and the 2004 game where one De La player was red-carded and another pole-axed.

Worse followed with the season’s heaviest defeat, at the dreaded University Oval, and the only time all season the Bloods were beaten by more than a couple of goals. This was Matthew Armstrong’s only senior game for the season and the last of his record 302 for the club. A fourth consecutive loss, to Old Trinity, had the Doyle brothers gloomily predicting they would not win another game for the season.

At committee level there were murmurings about the coach, although these were related more to his central role in the Badlands landscape

⁷⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 5) p2

⁷⁶ Cameron Noakes, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 1) p1

⁷⁷ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 2 November 2010

⁷⁸ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 2 November 2010

⁷⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 11) p2

⁸⁰ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section) 3 July 2006, p13

rather than the string of losses. Some committee men even moved to have Nicholson replaced at the end of the season, regardless of the team's result.⁸¹

Peter Nicholson thought the team was in a spot of bother during the cool down after the Trinity game. His right-hand man Rod Clancy had initiated a bout of plain talking, which turned into exactly what Nicholson didn't want, a bitching session. But then two of the more senior but quieter players in Carl Steinfort and Kynan Ford took an important lead, urging the team to train harder. David Mackenzie started the "200 club", designed to encourage players to do extra work after training in the form of a lung-busting array of 200-metre sprints. Club great Roger Gerny returned to introduce the "Circle of Commitment" used by the Sydney Swans, and reinforced his address with a video on their 2005 premiership season.⁸²

The return of "Frogger" Mohammed, chased by Rod Clancy, for his first game since breaking his hand the previous season, coincided with the Bloods' return to the winners' list against OMs, from which they rarely skipped a beat. It was if someone had turned the lights back on. The Oracle rejoiced in the performances of Ferg, Frogger, Funky and Fordy, to say nothing of Kyttey, Hoppy, Sammy and Brownny.⁸³

Stefan Martin made his senior debut against Old Ivanhoe in round fifteen. Nicholson couldn't believe his eyes when "Stef arrived late, a girl on each arm, with a donut jammed onto the top of his slurpee, drinking through the donut. Later when I asked him if he was ready to go on he told me he wasn't feeling so good. I told him it was that f...ing slurpee!"⁸⁴

Later in the year Martin missed the senior Grand Final with a broken finger. Although Nicholson appreciated his talent and athleticism, Martin was so raw and the Bloods so laden with big men, he probably would not have been selected despite what was written in the papers.⁸⁵

The key game of the home and away season was against Old Xaverians at Toorak Park. In Nicholson's parlance it was a "Cage Match" and one that confirmed the team's belief that it could always beat Xavs, as well as confirm Xavs' lack of confidence the other way.⁸⁶ He might have doubted these thoughts at quarter time when the Bloods trailed by five goals and looked second rate.

What followed was a twelve goal to one burst, led by young guns David Mackenzie, Dan Brown and Tom Chisholm, the grizzly Paddy O'Donnell at full-back and fierce tackling from all, highlighted by Kynan Ford's chase just before half time. With this result behind them, Nicholson could tell the Bloods before the Grand Final against Old Xavs that if they were within four goals at quarter time they would have the game in their keeping.⁸⁷

Matthew Armstrong might not have been completely surprised by the Xavier result, but he was by his testimonial dinner at Milano's that night. Around 200 guests greeted the diminutive champion as he walked through the door to the strains of his favourite song "Achy Breaky Heart". Mysteries were solved as a panel of VAFA umpires explained why Armstrong had collected more Woodrow Medal votes than any other amateur player. The room was decorated with *Amateur Footballer* covers and guests had the dubious pleasure of eating off Matthew Armstrong

⁸¹ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Bonwick, 14 November 2010

⁸² Interview with Peter Nicholson and David Mackenzie, 25 June 2010

⁸³ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 July 2006

⁸⁴ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁸⁵ Steve Perkin, *The Herald-Sun*, 8 September 2006, p 107

⁸⁶ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁸⁷ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

placemats! The night was superbly organised by his great mate Andrew Bonwick and predecessor as number nineteen, Roger Gerny.⁸⁸

The Bloods warmed up for the finals with an eleven-goal hiding of fellow finalist Old Scotch. The Oracle effused how they “snorkled” seven goals to three points in the second quarter in “one fine quarter of football”;⁸⁹ the game was over at half time. An almost out of character Nicholson even admitted to feeling sorry for his old club St Bernards after Loewe’s bag of seven goals helped the Bloods to a 113-point victory.⁹⁰ They were minor premiers again, a game and percentage clear of Xavs, and “the Oracle and Throng adjourned for some of the coldest green cans ever put on ice”.⁹¹

Leading into the finals series Andrew Jenke took out the Woodrow Medal for the Best and Fairest player in A Grade by three votes, the first Old Haileyburian winner. Jenke had given no thought to the medal - “Cheggers rang me up and said it would be good if I attended (the vote count) but I was flat out with work and said no. He then rang back and insisted and honestly still it didn’t click!”⁹² Nicholson’s cup of tea and soft drink at that bar in The Glen had paid great dividends.



Action in the Bloods’ back line during the 2006 Grand Final as Brett Trollope (24) and Hamish “Hammer” McLauchlan both fly for the ball. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁸⁸ For The Love of the Game, *The Amateur Footballer* 2006 (Vol 06, No 18) p32

⁸⁹ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 2 September 2006

⁹⁰ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

⁹¹ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 2 September 2006

⁹² Personal email communication, Andrew Jenke, 22 October 2010

For his part Chegwin revealed “our man at Headquarters had suggested it would be a very good idea if both Jenke and his father Peter attended the night, although he swore he had no insight as to the final result. Always a very good judge of football, our Jeremy”.⁹³

Paul Corrigan and Heath Hopwood joined Jenke in the A Grade Team of the Year. Tom Chisholm won All-Australian under-23 selection on the wing.⁹⁴ Stefan Martin and Brad Dolman made the combined VAFA under-nineteen team.⁹⁵ And Russell Davidson, another Old Haileyburian, was named VAFA Umpire of the Year.

The seniors weren’t the only Old Haileyburian team to make the finals. David Lappage’s under-nineteens were one of three undefeated teams in all of the VAFA. But they were cruelled in the finals, inexplicably drawn to play under Elsternwick Park’s barely adequate lights on successive Friday nights, and departed in straight sets.



After 46 years the Bloods finally reach their Holy Grail. Coach Peter Nicholson and captain Paul Corrigan, no strangers to success, lift the A Grade premiership cup. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁹³ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 2 November 2010

⁹⁴ For The Love of the Game, The Amateur Footballer 2006 (Vol 06, No 20) p32

⁹⁵ The Amateur Footballer 2006 (Vol 06, No 21) p50

These were the first VAFA finals to be played under lights. Watching from the comfort of their car, Andrew Bonwick, Matthew Armstrong, David Connell and Adam Kirkwood-Scott were joined by former team mate and VAFA Operations Manager Jeremy Bourke. Just in time to see the horror on Bourke's face when the Elsternwick Park sprinklers burst into life as usual on a Friday night, but midway through the third quarter of the game in progress. No one at Headquarters had foreseen the need to change the programme.

Despite the setback, Lappage was characteristically upbeat, pointing to the eight players who had played senior football, two of them in the Grand Final ("the Fank and the Wizz", Matthew Fankhauser and Chisholm).⁹⁶ Over the next few years, many of Lappage's team became regular senior players, including Chisholm, Criticos, Gill, Johnson and Harrison.

It looked like being "A Very Badland September" after the Bloods' impressive second semi-final win over Old Xaverians, their third in as many meetings. Jonathan Horn enthused the game as "an absolute gem. A fantastic advertisement for Amateur Football (has an A Section game ever featured more heralded players?). A large (and definately pro Haileyburians) crowd. An engrossing battle between Stewart Loewe and Damien Lynch. Nico going ape droppings at the umpires. Plenty of needle on the ground. Scott Mollard carrying on like a pork chop. A 38-year-old sailing enthusiast plying his trade up one end. The canny Laz Siapantas getting the better of finals specialist Simon Lethlean.



Happy campers. The Bloods celebrate their first A Grade premiership. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁹⁶ OHAFC Inc 2006 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 16 November 2006) Under 19 XVIII Coach's Report

The Bloods deserved to win, no doubt about it. They got to the right spots, exploited their height dominance and weren't overawed".⁹⁷ Siapantas' four goals, Ford's three and the games of Tommy Trollope, Frogger Mohammed, Sammy Langford-Jones and Hammer McLauchlan were all important components in the win.

After a training session the Bloods enjoyed the luxury of watching Old Xaverians notch another improbable preliminary final win over Uni Blues, kicking eight goals in the last quarter after trailing by two at three-quarter time. In the week leading up to the Grand Final they watched the video featuring Hawthorn's tackling in the 1989 VFL Grand Final. They also trained at Elsternwick Park on the Monday night, the night Jeremy Bourke ramped up the PA System.

Old Haileyburians lined up for their first A Grade Grand Final as follows:

Backs: Darren Lay, Paddy O'Donnell, David Mason
Half-backs: Brett Trollope, Carl Steinfort, Hamish McLauchlan
Centres: Sam Langford-Jones, Paul Corrigan (captain), Dan Brown
Half-forwards: Matt Brewer, Kynan Ford, Farooq Mohammed
Forwards: Mark Seccull, Stewart Loewe, Laz Siapantas
Followers: Andrew Jenke, Heath Hopwood
Rover: David Mackenzie
Interchange: Brett Carson, Matthew Fankhauser, Tom Chisholm, Adam McIntyre



The 2006 premiership team.

Back row: Peter O'Donnell, Brett Carson, Andrew Jenke, Mark Seccull, Stewart Loewe, Carl Steinfort and David Mason.
Centre row: Tom Chisholm, Matt Brewer, Hamish McLauchlan, Dan Brown, Heath Hopwood, Brett Trollope and Matthew Fankhauser.
Front row: Darren Lay, Sam Langford-Jones, Kynan Ford, coach Peter Nicholson, captain Paul Corrigan, Laz Siapantas and David Mackenzie.
 Farooq Mohammed and Adam McIntyre missed the photograph.

⁹⁷ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 11) p2

On a drizzled Sunday 24 September 2006 the Bloods conclusively showed their mettle by defeating one of the all-time great dynasties of amateur football for the fourth time in a season. Cameron Noakes liked the drive in Peter Nicholson and the energy about the Bloods that he usually associated with Xavier.⁹⁸ Jonathan Horn took a deep breath, flirted with VAFA history and tipped not so much for the Bloods but against Old Xaverians “with considerable trepidation ...”⁹⁹

The Bloods kicked into the breeze and Stewie Loewe’s hamstring was put to the test in the first minute of the game. “I remember Disco slamming a 50 metre mongrel punt straight up in the air. I couldn’t quite get there and twanged it on the last stride. I blame Disco. Though I consider I did the side a favour by letting him take over the forward line and winning the game off his own boot.”¹⁰⁰

This statement was made with the benefit of hindsight. At the time Loewe was bitterly disappointed; he took out his mouthguard, hurled it into the crowd, hitting a spectator in the head. Halfway through the first quarter, umpire Russell Davidson thought, “Haven’t seen much of Stewie Loewe; then I noticed him in a dressing gown on the boundary line.”¹⁰¹

After conceding their customary quarter time lead Xavs, the Bloods hit back with six goals in the second term, including three in an incredible five-minute burst of “Discomania” from Mark Seccull that turned the game. In hindsight, the result was never really in doubt after that. “They just never came back at us”, said Nicholson, “they didn’t have enough big guns.”¹⁰²

In the vital third quarter the Bloods held their nerve and the Xaverian forwards with Jock Nelson Medallist Steinfort (ten marks) and ruckman Andrew Jenke impassable at centre half-back, to retain their two goal lead by the last change. Jenke felt, “the game itself was just a slog. I don’t remember marking everything but knew that Funky Steinfort and I were doing OK. I rucked the whole day and was absolutely knackered; my legs were so heavy from the sloppy centre square.”¹⁰³

Many of the players remembered the huge crowd of supporters around the huddle at three-quarter time. The sight of those faces, so full of hope and support, lifted them and felt great for years after.

Old Haileyburians extended their lead in the last quarter. Sam Langford-Jones’ goal from a set shot that took an eternity to line up was the sealer in the 23-point win. Skipper Paul Corrigan played his usual outstanding game and Matthew Brewer his best of the season, using his strength in the middle of the ground and also kicking three goals, one of which he followed by “rocking the cradle” in the tribute to his newborn baby. Said Nicholson, “Brewer’s tackling in the middle ... he just smashed blokes.”¹⁰⁴

There were many heroes and memories from the game, most of which coach Nicholson immortalised in a poem entitled “That Day at Elsternwick”. He raved about the “manufactured” back line of Darren Lay, David Mason and Paddy O’Donnell; the blanketing and harassing jobs the latter two performed on Xav’s stars Handley and Lynch respectively were critical. Nicholson also admired the performances of the “young guns”

⁹⁸ Cameron Noakes, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 22) p3

⁹⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2006* (Vol 06, No 22) p5

¹⁰⁰ Interview with Stewie Loewe, 17 January 2011

¹⁰¹ Interview with Russell Davidson, January 2011

¹⁰² Interview with Peter Nicholson, 17 January 2011

¹⁰³ Personal email communication, Andrew Jenke, January 2011

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 17 January 2011

Chisholm, Fankhauser, Mohammed and McIntyre, as well as the tagging roles played by Dan Brown and David Mackenzie.

2006 A Section Grand Final at Elsternwick Park, 24 September 2006

Old Haileyburians	2.2	8.3	10.6	13.8 (86)
Old Xaverians	4.4	6.4	8.6	9.9 (63)

Goals: Seccull 4, Brewer 3, Langford-Jones 2, Chisholm 2, Fankhauser, Jenke

Best players: Steinfort, Corrigan, Brewer, Seccull, Hopwood, Trollope

The Bloods had won an A Grade Grand Final at their first attempt. They became the eighteenth club to win the competition since the VAFA was separated into sections in 1923, sixth of the APS Old Boy clubs and second of the “new” APS schools, after Old Caulfield Grammarians in 1970. Since 1981 the only other club to have won their first A Grade premiership had been Marcellin, in 2001.

So far as Andrew Jenke was concerned, “the whole team enjoyed in particular the way Mark Seccull performed in the Grand Final, richly deserved after giving so much for so long to the club”.¹⁰⁵ He also felt captain Paul Corrigan was a major influence and a great player for them all to look up to and rally behind.

Umpire Russell Davidson had no idea who to award the Jock Nelson Medal to after the game. So “Davo” asked his father who made his mind up for him - “Steinfort best on ground”. So history was made.

The man who had put much of the list together, Mick Dwyer, watched the game contentedly from the sidelines. He could have been excused for rueing past opportunities and thinking “it could have been me”, but he was simply happy to see the Bloods reach the pinnacle. Although after Dennis Smith’s many years of hard work, Dwyer said, “I would have loved it had Dennis still been President when we finally won that flag”.¹⁰⁶

At least for David Mason, Mad Monday weeks were shortening. In 2001, after winning the reserves premiership on a Saturday, the celebrations concluded the following Wednesday. But in 2006 after playing on Sunday it all wrapped up on Monday.¹⁰⁷ And the players’ “mystery” trip away by bus was far less onerous, visiting only Bendigo and Ballarat.

An obviously chuffed Tim Chegwin congratulated his players, committee and supporters on their efforts. Retiring from the presidency due to work and family commitments, he said, “We have climbed the mountain and frankly the view is pretty good, so let’s all make sure we stay here”.¹⁰⁸

Under-nineteen coach David Lappage also looked more broadly at the club’s future when he congratulated the seniors on their success. “We’ve finally done it. Now it’s time to start a dynasty! With the players that we have coming through and a strong affiliation with the school, the club is in the position to be the powerhouse of the competition”.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁵ Personal email communication, Andrew Jenke, 22 October 2010

¹⁰⁶ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

¹⁰⁷ Interview with David Mason, 29 September 2010

¹⁰⁸ OHAFC Inc 2006 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 16 November 2006) President’s Report

¹⁰⁹ OHAFC Inc 2006 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 16 November 2006) Under 19 XVIII Coach’s Report

2007 - Exodus from the Promised Land

"The Badlanders adjourned to Darren Seccull's farm to celebrate their stellar Premiership win last year. The way things are shaping up, I reckon most of 'em are still in the barnyard. Corrigan's gone to play in the Geelong league, Jenke is sitting out because of work commitments, Martin, McIntyre¹¹⁰ and Brown are off to the VFL, Trollope and Steinfort have packed up and young gun Tom Chisholm is an indefinite out with a back strain. Seccull and Stewie Loewe are fronting up again but they're pushing forty. Three years ago, I picked Nicholson's St Bernards to finish in the drop zone and I reckon I'm lucky he didn't burn down my house. This time around I'm willing to take the risk – goodbye Premiership Cup, hello B Section. Not even you could pull this off Nico".¹¹¹

So said Jonathan Horn in *The Amateur Footballer*, predicting the Bloods would finish tenth in 2007. Unfortunately he proved deadly accurate.



The A Grade flag flies for the first time at McKinnon for the opening round of 2007 at McKinnon.

¹¹⁰ McIntyre didn't go to the VFL but instead to Old Haileyburians' McKinnon co-tenants St Pauls, much to the Haileyburians' grief as they saw him train each week with the Doggies

¹¹¹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer* 2007 (Vol 07, No 1) p3

Outgoing President Tim Chegwin had been aware that the premiership win would be at the cost of a few retirements given it was a perfect way for a handful of players to end a chapter. He felt that had the Bloods not won in 2006, some but certainly not all would have returned for another tilt at the ultimate.¹¹² For Nicholson, it seemed the departures just kept mounting one after another. It was obvious to all that his team was going to struggle, so most supporters appeared to be prepared for the worst and accepted the situation pretty well.¹¹³

Stepping into Chegwin's shoes was Andrew Bonwick, who had served the longest apprenticeship of any President in the ways and personalities of the Old Haileyburians Amateur Football Club. Chegwin's departure was relatively abrupt and although the committee searched desperately for a replacement none could be found. "When no one would stick their hand up and Hicksy not yet able to take over, I realised I would probably have to do it", said Bonwick.¹¹⁴

Nor was there any easy or other way of replacing the club's first ever A Grade premiership captain and best player; Paul Corrigan's departure must have torn a big chunk out of the heart of the place.

Although surprised by Corrigan's departure, announced on Presentation Night, Nicholson understood Corrigan's family ties. "I don't believe his departure was more significant than others, I think it was the fact so many departed or were injured that compounded our woes. I don't believe his decision impacted others to leave - each case seemed to have its own circumstances".¹¹⁵

The Bloods started bravely enough against Old Scotch, the "band of brooding Badland bandits ... nice and fired up at the House of Badness".¹¹⁶ Captain of the club's Team of the Century, Roger Paul, unfurled the A Grade flag. New skipper Sam Langford-Jones was amongst the best players along with other premiership heroes Ford (five goals), Mackenzie, Hopwood, Mohammed and Mason. So there were still some very handy players left. A point ahead at the last change they fell only two goals short at the final siren.

The early draw was tough though, and three games later it was clear the Bloods were in serious trouble, demolished by finals rivals Old Xavs and Uni Blues by 83 and 92 points respectively. The Uni game was Hopwood's last for the club, and Ford's work commitments took him to Tasmania halfway through the season.

Nicholson tried to rev his charges into action at De La Salle's dung heap with John Farnham's Playing to Win "piercing the Malvern afternoon air. Nicholson looked as though he could punch a battleship unconscious. And the Badlanders were amped, determined to roll the always-unpredictable De La team. On the field - disaster. Haileyburians were winging it from the first minute and never looked in the hunt. Farooq Mohammed continued his stellar season for the Bloods, but these are dark days indeed for the reigning premiers".¹¹⁷ They lost to De La by nine goals, but the agile "Frogger" went on to win the Best and Fairest.

Collegians returned to the Badlands looking to settle the score of their last round relegation in 2005. "Problem was, the Badlanders were in

¹¹² Interview with Tim Chegwin, 2 June 2010

¹¹³ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

¹¹⁴ Personal telephone communication, Andrew Bonwick, 14 November 2010

¹¹⁵ Personal email communication, Peter Nicholson, 10 August 2010

¹¹⁶ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 2) p2

¹¹⁷ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 5) p2

a pretty angry frame of mind themselves. A highly physical, highly controversial, high standard game which Haileyburians were unlucky to lose".¹¹⁸ Trailing on the scoreboard for most of the day, Stewart Loewe's report and send-off left them with seventeen men. But they looked like pinching it until a Collegians player retrieved a ball that should have been called out of bounds and set the Lions up for the winning goal. Nicholson was filthy as he felt "normally when you lose you deserve it, but in this instance we really deserved to win the game".¹¹⁹

An unhappy Oracle thought Loewe's clash with his Collegians opponent was "innocuous", but wrote "the physical nature of the game was taking their toll on the Wesley boys, as their bench resembled a scene from Grey's Anatomy".¹²⁰ Along similar lines, "Fluff had his neck removed without anaesthetic but failed to gain the free". The Oracle also reported the goal umpire had clearly indicated the ball had crossed the line but the field umpire had ignored his signals.



Peter Nicholson addresses his players in the opening round of 2007 as tougher times beckon with the loss of many star players. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

PETER JOHN NICHOLSON

Stories abound regarding the Blood's first and only A Grade premiership coach, Peter Nicholson. He arrived with a reputation for being "out there" and a great coaching record at Springvale and St Bernards. In his first night at training he tried to impress upon the players how important footy was to him. "Nico" related how his wife had complained that he loved football more than her. He replied that she was right but at least he loved her more than tennis or basketball. When he repeated the story in an interview on ABC radio, there was a switchboard meltdown.

Nicholson's players quickly realised just how good a motivator he was. In his first year he took the team to within a kick of an A Grade grand final, but the following season they achieved their impossible dream of an A Grade flag, and the tee-totaller fulfilled his promise to the players to drink out of the premiership cup.

Whilst tactically smart and always well prepared, Nicholson's real focus and strength as a coach was in the psychological and motivational side of the game. He would remind players struggling for form just how good he thought they were and how they had his support, even though in reality the player might have been on their last chance. The player would emerge feeling ten foot tall and, boosted by Nicholson's words, invariably perform well the following game.

Favourite Nicholson strategies included stretching opposition teams up forward, and never moving a player who was winning his position. He would also pay as much attention to who was not getting the ball as to those who were.

At times the VAFA tired of Nicholson's ways and he found himself embroiled in controversies such as being cited at Elsternwick Park for abusing an umpire. Despite this, many players and supporters loved his humour and sense of theatre. He would of ask of Uni Blues, "what sort of footy club has an Art Night?!", but players thrived under his style.

Perhaps the best example of Nicholson's ability to inspire came not in the premiership year of 2006, but the following season when the Bloods lost their first sixteen games on the way to relegation, beset by countless player departures. At Thursday night's training before the last match against third-placed Old Ivanhoe, an emotional Nicholson announced it would also be his last as coach. The players rallied and won comfortably in a tribute to the man who helped them achieve the ultimate.

Coach 1sts 2005, 2006 (Premiers), 2007

¹¹⁸ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 6) p2

¹¹⁹ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2007

¹²⁰ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 26 May 2007

The five point loss was as close as the Bloods would get for many weeks and had multiple repercussions. Loewe was unable to attend his tribunal hearing, ironically because it clashed with his duties as an AFL Tribunal member, and accepted a two-week penalty.¹²¹ The effort left the players really flat, especially Matthew Brewer, who had virtually tried to win the game on his own.

Then there was the charge from the VAFA of conduct unbecoming, alleging “abuse was directed towards the umpires from a spectator on the far wing” and that Brewer and Kynan Ford “told the umpires in no uncertain terms that they were not welcome in the social rooms”.¹²² Despite the evidence of the Ground Manager for the day, Roger Gerny, and the surprise of the 250-game amateur veteran at the complaints,¹²³ the charges were proven, Old Haileyburians were fined \$100, required to apologise to the umpires and Ford and Brewer each placed on \$100 bonds.¹²⁴



Club Best and Fairest winner in 2006, a muddied Heath Hopwood adds to his impressive Grand Final record in the decider, while team mate Matt Brewer keeps his Old Xaverians opponent pinned in the bog. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

HEATH JARROD HOPWOOD

Unlucky not have played at AFL level, Heath Hopwood played in five premierships teams with Central Districts in the SANFL and was runner-up in the Magarey Medal. He came to the Bloods with a reputation as a strong defender and mid-fielder and, like his fellow former Centrals team mate Kynan Ford, took full advantage of his fame when it came to hitting the Adelaide night life.

Comfortably over six feet, for the Bloods “Hoppy” was a smart, damaging player. Paul Corrigan frequently attracted the hard tag, which freed Hopwood to push forward unmanned. The prime example was against Old Melburnians in 2006 when he kicked eight goals and coach Nicholson taunted his opposite number. Hopwood always seemed free when in the forward line, but was also hard at the contest and could bring down the opposition’s strongest players with fierce tackles.

Generous with his footy smarts, Hopwood freely shared his knowledge with the playing group and often spoke up in the huddles. He was one of the few to appreciate the Seinfeld quotes that were littered throughout coach Nicholson’s speeches. Hopwood was less enamoured with the nickname “Sparkles” he picked up after the Herald-Sun published a picture of him out on the town with his wife who was wearing a “sparkly” dress. A badly broken collarbone in 2007 ended Hopwood’s football career, after which he completed his MBA and pursued business life.

23 games (all 1sts), 32 goals (all 1sts), 2006-07

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 5

Best & Fairest 1sts 2006

¹²¹ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sport section), 27 May 2007

¹²² Letter from Sue Anderson, VAFA Tribunal/Investigations Co-ordinator, 26 May 2010

¹²³ Email communication from Roger Gerny to Andrew Hicks in OHAFC archives, 5 June 2007

¹²⁴ *The Amateur Footballer* 2007 (Vol 07, No 7) p61

The reserves lost five of their first seven games by over one hundred points, including a 198-point nightmare at the Snakepit followed by a slightly narrower loss, 181 points at the Brighton Beach Oval. At least Nicholson retained some sense of humour when he drew the raffle after the St Bernards game, plucking out the entry of a supporter responsible for some cutting banter at half-time. Quick as a flash Nico demanded a redraw before the sheepish supporter fronted up for his prize.¹²⁵

The seniors put in a ferocious effort at Brighton. Youngster Spencer Roberts led the way and the Bloods were in front at the last change before Old Brighton, bound for their first A Grade Grand Final, kicked away with the breeze. Brett Carson sparked his team with four first-quarter goals against Old Trinity, enabling the Bloods to lead comfortably at half-time before being mown down by an eleven-goal third quarter blitz. Carson's eventual bag of six goals was his team's biggest for the year. He shared the goal-kicking with Kynan Ford with a meagre seventeen goals, the lowest ever winning total in the first eighteen.



Victories were hard to come by in 2007, but when the Bloods won their last two games they celebrated with gusto. Here Mark Seccull (23) leads the singing after they shocked finalist Old Ivanhoe in the final round.

¹²⁵ For the Love of the Game, The Amateur Footballer 2007 (Vol 07, No 7) p19

The Oracle continued his medical bent in his report on the Trinity game, noting Ferg's "sickening headclash which left him with a black eye".¹²⁶ At three-quarter time coach Nicholson tried to rally his troops by inviting the parochial Haileyburian supporter "Throng" to join the players' circle.

The reserves enjoyed their sole victory for the year at Old Ivanhoe and the seniors outscored their opponents after the main break. But this was of limited value as they entered the second half eight goals down. With Ford's departure, Jonathan Horn said "you can write Haileyburians off though. They're cactus. And you wonder how much worse it can get. Who's gonna save the day - The Big Foo? King Wally? Jeremy Bourke in his VAFA sweater? To their credit, they're still fighting out games and doing all they can to defy the odds but it is a remarkable set of circumstances".¹²⁷

This might have seemed like a generous dose of sympathy towards a team that had crushed all before it without mercy the previous season, but at no stage did Nicholson feel any extra *schadenfraude* from other clubs over the Bloods' staggering fall from the top.¹²⁸



Kynan Ford takes a strong mark over two Old Scotch opponents in the opening round of the 2007 season. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

¹²⁶ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 June 2007

¹²⁷ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 10) p2

¹²⁸ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

Even grimmer days followed later in the season with a trio of thrashings. "The Grand Final rematch was always going to be messy and it was",¹²⁹ as the Bloods lost to Old Xaverians by 95 points before suffering 105 and 106 point defeats to University Blues and De La Salle respectively. Against Blues the reserves were in serious danger of becoming the first Old Haileyburian team to play a game without scoring, but were saved by a solitary behind in the last quarter.¹³⁰ As well as registering this lowest ever score, they also finished the season as the lowest scoring OHAFC team (498 points) and with the lowest percentage (21.8%) ever.

The De La game was a rout. Horn saw that the Bloods' situation was "totally unprecedented and you really must feel for them. And you've got to admire guys like Seccull, Siapantas, Langford-Jones and co who have stuck around and taken the bad with the good. When they celebrate that premiership every 5, 10, 15 and 20 years, the guys who hung around in 2007 are the ones who will cherish it most".

Despite sixteen successive losses under their belts, the Bloods had not by any means given it away. They just tried even harder, and David Mackenzie remembered, "we trained our asses off".¹³¹ They awaited an out of form St Bernards unit in a match that Jonathan Horn saw had danger written all over it. And so it proved.

The Badlands was where it was all at. The Sunday Age should have been all over Nico and Seccull and the fact that a club that had not won a game at senior or reserves level since last spring (the reserves had actually won one game) were able to pull off such a rousing win.

*But good on you Haileyburians. And good on you Peter Nicholson, who threatened to tear me a new limb as I pronounced them as good as gone a couple of months ago. That would have been a celebration to rival the premiership and Mark Seccull, Froggy Mohammed, Laz Siapantas and all the rest of them have a right to be pretty pleased with their efforts.*¹³²

The Oracle was also overjoyed, noting a week was a long time in football, but eleven months was even longer not to have sung the club song. His excited description of the last quarter read,

Laz was on fire and kicked one that Warnie would have been proud of. His second for the quarter was never going to miss and the crowd sensed a song coming on. Moseby chipped in a beauty with the wind from a long way out and Big Stewie was placed on the goal line after his opponent back-chatted the ump. Fluff banged in one and the momentum was all ours. The Bloods were running their opponents ragged. Macca, Johnno, Frogga and Brew were everywhere. Hammer was standing firm in defence and young Loewe was marking everything in sight.

*The game came to an end and the Bloods had turned a 21-point three-quarter time deficit into a grand 16-point victory. The victorious under-nineteens joined the team and supporters in the rooms for what was regarded by many as the loudest ever singing of the club song. A relieved Prez Bonners appeared more emotional than when we won the flag in 2006 and the Throng then flowed into the clubrooms to enjoy the best can of beer for the year.*¹³³

¹²⁹ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 15) p2

¹³⁰ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 15) p2

¹³¹ Interview with David Mackenzie, 25 June 2010

¹³² Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 19) p2

¹³³ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 August 2007

Having re-discovered the winning formula, the Bloods followed-up with a stunning win over third-placed Old Ivanhoe in the last match of the season. Ivanhoe took one look at the jagged centre wicket area and decided they didn't really want to play, their President and his contingent approaching the umpires before the game. Never one to miss an opportunity for psychological ascendancy, Nicholson called his players out to show them how apprehensive the visitors were. He followed up by sending his runner Alex Shepherd around to the Ivanhoe players at the start of the game, offering them each a bandaid, "in case you get cut"!¹³⁴

The sight of a rampaging Stewart Loewe and Mark Seccull, who each booted four goals and saw the Bloods to a seven goal lead at quarter time, was all too much for the young Ivanhoe team. A second fantastic win to finish the season had Jonathan Horn applauding. "Fair dinkum Nico you've got to be having a lend. In all seriousness, what a great way to finish a dismal year, despite the fact their ground is beginning to resemble something out of Road Runner with all the lava rocks everywhere",¹³⁵ in what looked like a dig at Ivanhoe's reticence at playing.

For any sort of regular joy from 2007 the Old Haileyburians had to look at David Lappage's under-nineteen team. They powered home to win their last five home and away games and followed up with an impressive win in the first semi-final against Monash. Captain Ben Hampton and Sam Casey were prominent in the victory with four goals apiece, while Anthony Wright and Stef Erikson gave notice of their promise with fine displays. A poor start against old rivals Hampton Rovers ended their run in the preliminary final, again in a Friday night match, despite Wright and Brad Dolman both kicking three goals.

If there was a fundamental lesson that was reinforced by the Old Haileyburians' rapid decline after the mass departures at the end of 2006, it would be that they laid truly bare the club's critical lack of depth. It was an unusual feat to win a senior premiership, especially in A Section, with such a poor reserves team as the Bloods fielded that year. Perhaps the recruiting drive concentrated too heavily on attracting the elite talent that drove the club to the pinnacle, at the expense of paying insufficient attention to also developing the necessary underlying depth.

It was hardly surprising for Andrew Bonwick to report that 2007 had been a long year, as he joined Barry Berggy and Don McQueen as Presidents who had suffered the despair of relegation in their first year in office. It was the first time the Bloods' senior team had finished bottom of the ladder in their 47 years of competition.

At least Bonwick could look at the positive of many younger players gaining invaluable senior experience that could fast track their development, and take heart at the two last rousing performances of the season. And he was receiving significant help off the field, especially from the indefatigable Vice-President/Secretary Andrew Hicks, and canteen and Grand Final Breakfast organiser Ward Caspers.¹³⁶ Like the good backman he was, Treasurer Brett Carson kept club expenditure tightly in check, 12% less than in 2006.¹³⁷

Peter Nicholson and David Lappage both stepped down from their respective coaching roles. Despite Nicholson's occasionally excessive

¹³⁴ Interview with Peter Nicholson, 25 June 2010

¹³⁵ Jonathan Horn, *The Amateur Footballer 2007* (Vol 07, No 20) p2

¹³⁶ OHAFC Inc 2007 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 27 November 2007) President's Report

¹³⁷ OHAFC Inc 2007 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 27 November 2007) Report of the Treasurer

abrasiveness towards opposition players and umpires, Bonwick could recognise the enormous amount of respect he had generated, along with the humour, passion and knowledge he had injected into the club. For his part, Nicholson departed with obvious affection for a club he had coached to its first A Grade flag, an achievement no one could ever take away from him.

Also evident was the growing dynasty of younger players Lappage had brought to the club, including new names in 2007 such as Chris Morrison, “DK” Lillie, Liam Donnelly and Lance Baptist. Year 10 students still at Haileybury Peter Gleadhill and Jack Gunston also made their debuts in Lappage’s team; Gunston was drafted by the Adelaide Crows in 2009. Bonwick no doubt hoped Lappage had more to offer and would be back in the future.

There was dramatic change at the school too. Robert Pargetter died in August, only days after resigning as Principal. Derek Scott, formerly the Head of the Senior School, was appointed as his successor in December and became Haileybury’s eighth Principal.

CHAPTER 14

WHERE TO NOW? 2008-10



2008 - The Haileybury Saints?

Haileybury and the Old Haileyburians had long-standing informal links with the St Kilda Football Club from its VFL days. Once the Saints moved their home base to Moorabbin in 1965, geography made them a natural focal point for bayside schools such as Haileybury and Brighton Grammar. The outcome was a regular flow of players and coaches all ways between the school, the Old Haileyburians and the Saints.

Dave Eagle played in St Kilda's reserves around 1960, but Rodger Head was the first Haileyburian to have a significant impact at VFL/AFL level after the school joined the APS in the late-1950s, playing in St Kilda's famous first premiership victory. Peter Gadsden and Andrew Langford-Jones tried to follow in Head's footsteps by training with the Saints later that decade, as did Peter Mason for their under-nineteens. In the early-to-mid-1970s Rod Galt made a larger mark at Moorabbin, David Legge managed three senior games and, early in his career, Roger Paul was invited to train at Linton Street.

Soon after Simon Meehan took over as the Old Haileyburians coach in 1989, Sean Ralphsmith and Laurie Bingham were making regular senior appearances for St Kilda. Wingman Brett Moyle carried the Haileybury torch at St Kilda in the early 2000's while Mick Dwyer coached the OHAFC. With Dwyer, eventually came his big mate Stewie Loewe, whose interest in the club was sufficient for him to join Andrew Bonwick's Committee in 2008. The last link in the chain started by Head was Andrew Lynch's son Tom, who made his AFL debut in 2010.



In 2010 Tony Brown (left) captained the team and Spencer Roberts (right) won the Best and Fairest. Here they run downfield in tandem against the Bloods' eventual grand final opponent Old Carey at the Bulleen playing fields. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

ANTHONY JAMES BROWN

Tony Brown brought a wealth of experience to the Old Haileyburians from St Kilda, the Port Adelaide Magpies and Leopold. A cousin of 2006 premiership wingman Dan Brown, "The Brown Dog" was an immediate success both on and off the field, winning the competition Best and Fairest in his first year. Much loved by his fellow players, they took great delight in calling him "Tony B" after an umpire did so during a game.

A superb reader of the play, particularly around stoppages, Brown loved a goal and regularly accumulated over thirty possessions per game. Easily distinguished by his long curly hair and familiar mattress padding on his right knee, the little rover may not have looked an imposing player at first glance, but once the ball was bounced it was obvious he was a more than serious footballer, especially with his blinding speed over twenty metres.

Something of a reluctant captain at first, Brown performed the role with distinction. His last quarter in the 2010 preliminary final helped swing the game the Bloods' way and he played his usual superb game the following week despite a torn AC ligament in one shoulder and injuring the other during play.

Off the field the Castlefield staff member loved a function, especially Club Clymax and the Blood Bath Ball. The would-be fashionista also loved crusing down to Acland Street in his T-shirt.

Like his former team mate Brett Voss, Brown embraced the Old Haileyburians and became highly popular in return. His parents and wife attended most home games, along with their young daughter who would frequently greet him coming off the ground at the of the game.

49 games (all 1sts), 68 goals (all 1sts), 2008-10

Jumper number 2

Best & Fairest 1sts 2008

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 2010

Captain 1sts 2010

*VAFA B Section Best & Fairest 2008
(GT Moore Medal)*

VAFA Representative 2008-09

The Saintry links at the OHAFC approached their height late in 2007 with the appointment of former St Kilda (and Melbourne) defender Jamie Shanahan as coach for 2008. Shanahan had coached VAFA representative teams, lived locally and was recommended by Stewart Loewe.¹ Shanahan also brought with him two players with over 100 games of AFL experience in Brett Voss and Tony Brown (a cousin of premiership wingman Dan Brown). Brown started teaching at Castlefield in 2008.

Shanahan was probably an obvious choice for the job, although he first had to survive the inevitable question about the 1997 AFL Grand Final from selection panel member Peter Mason, not one for hanging back. "What was on your mind when Darren Jarman was kicking all those goals on you in the last quarter?"²

Although critics might have questioned whether the Old Haileyburians were becoming the "Haileybury Saints", the commitment and example provided by Voss and Brown to a largely young and inexperienced senior team over the next three years was never in question. And there was no real suggestion that the Bloods had especially cultivated the St Kilda relationship. In the mind of Mick Dwyer, for one, the links were simply happenstance and a consequence of the relationships between the players and coaches involved.³



Wearing their away "clash" jumpers for the first time, the Bloods listen to new coach Jamie Shanahan at Marcellin in 2008.

¹ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 19 August 2010

² Interview with Andrew Hicks, 29 September 2010

³ Interview with Mick Dwyer, 25 April 2010

Shanahan understood his brief was to blood young players who felt their opportunities had been limited in previous years. The club's other immediate goal was to be competitive in B Grade, win games, and rebuild confidence that was understandably low after winning only two games in 2007. "Personally, I would never put getting back into A Grade as a goal. Winning a premiership is always the ultimate aim of a season while getting promoted is a sidebar".⁴

As had been the case the previous year, Melbourne's continuing drought and water restrictions seriously disrupted pre-season training for many clubs. The City of Glen Eira restricted training access of winter sporting clubs to many grounds, including the McKinnon Number Two oval which was unavailable due to re-surfacing works. Only moulded sole boots were permitted for training and screw stops were prohibited.⁵ The local State MP, Liberal Andrea Coote, wrote to local sporting clubs including the OHAFC, perhaps opportunistically pointing out how she had raised the issue in Parliament and criticised the government's failure to provide appropriate funding in their 2008-09 Budget.⁶



Skipper from 2007 to 2009, running machine Sam Langford-Jones heads down the McKinnon wing against Old Marcellin late in 2008. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

SAM LANGFORD-JONES

Son of Bruce and nephew of Andrew, Sam Langford-Jones' career probably justifies his claim of outstripping his famous forebears. Sam also continued the long family tradition of great involvement in the club, which he captained for the three years immediately after the A Grade premiership. He was handed down Chris McKenzie's famous number four jumper when he arrived at the club in 1999 - or was it Uncle Andrew's?

In his first year in amateur football Sam found himself playing on Craig Kelly and told everybody how close an eye the former Collingwood great had kept on him. Sam became well known for taking his time over deliberate kicks for goal, no more so than when kicking the sealer in the 2006 A Grade premiership win, to the point where the umpire called play on and the man on the mark almost smothered the kick. Sam always was a dashing rover, never more so than after joining the Musashi Club in 2010 and dropping kilos off that robust frame to turn into a running machine. Coaches loved him, even if Luke Pitcher was a bit testy when Sam, returning from injury in the reserves, decided to take over the captaincy from "Pitch" for a day.

A single figure golfer and a massive St Kilda fan, Sam also made enormous contributions to the life of the club off the field, organising the players' footy trip for a decade and even controversially winning the coveted yellow jersey for best on tour (now known as the Luke Pitcher). He claims never to have missed a Club Clymax or Bloodbath Ball, and was one of the great club organisers. As team mate Tom Chisholm said in response to one of Sam's jokes - "you're not meant to be funny Sam, you just organise things!"

193 Games (179 1sts, 9 Reserves, 5 U19s),
140 Goals (124 1sts, 13 Reserves, 3 U19s),
1999-2010

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 4

Best & Fairest 1sts 2002

Captain 1sts 2007-09

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 2004-06

Captain U19s 2000

Committee 2007-10

⁴ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

⁵ Letter from Glen Eira City Council to winter sporting clubs, 28 February 2008

⁶ Letters from Andrea Coote MP to Andrew Hicks, 18 April & 4 June 2008

The Bloods were probably inconvenienced less than many other clubs as they enjoyed full use of the school's Keysborough facilities for pre-season training, which was well attended.⁷ Furthermore the McKinnon Reserve was on the City of Glen Eira's priority list for extra water.⁸ At least the season started around the normal time, unlike in 2007 when the opening round was put back to the last Saturday in April.

Other than the additions of Voss and Tony Brown, the Bloods were boosted by the full-time return of two premierships wingmen. Tom Chisholm was back from injury, while Dan Brown had finished his trial with Casey Scorpions that involved a number of games in 2007.⁹ Brett Trollope also resumed service, although for only a handful of matches. Recruited from OMs through his close friendship with Laz Siapantas, the clever James Magee would lead the goal-kicking.



Farooq "Frogga" Mohammed in the thick of the midfield action, chasing St Kevins Old Boys captain Ben Dowd early in 2010, when he commuted from Canberra to play for the Bloods. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

FAROOQ MOHAMMED

Farooq "Frogga" Mohammed's story is one of the most fascinating and inspirational of any OHAFC player. Born in Afghanistan, he fled the Taliban with his parents when he was twelve, won a scholarship to Haileybury and played for the Sandringham Dragons in the under-18 TAC Cup. When Frogga joined the Old Haileyburians there was no under-nineteen team and he was thrust into senior football.

By 2006 Mohammed was entrenched as an integral part of the A Grade premierships line-up, thanks to his fitness, tackling pressure, strength and determination, especially in close finishes. Not blessed with an imposing physical presence, Frogga faced additional challenges, such as the day he was racially vilified at St Bernards by a supporter who was eventually banned from attending amateur games.

In the very tough year that followed the flag, Mohammed blossomed into an elite player and regularly racked up over thirty possessions for a side that was often well beaten. He particularly savoured the round 17 win that finally broke the drought, especially given it was over St Bernards.

After completing his degree in Criminology, in 2010 Frogga ditched his Coles uniform to take up a position for the Federal government in Canberra. He trained with a local team and flew down each weekend to play for the Bloods, such was his dedication. In his long journey, Frogga's passion and pride for his club was as strong as anyone who had pulled on the magenta and black.

*103 games (92 1sts, 9 Reserves, 2 U19s),
28 goals (21 1sts, 5 Reserves, 2 U19s), 2005-10*

Member 2006 1sts Premierships team

Jumper number 8

Best & Fairest 1sts 2007

Runner-up Best & Fairest 2009

⁷ OHAFC Inc 2008 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 26 November 2008) President's Report

⁸ Interview with Andrew Hicks, 29 September 2010

⁹ Tahl Lerner, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 1) p8

Further improvement would come from the development of players like Nick Criticos, Rhys Johnson, Chris Ferguson, Nick Thomas and Spencer Roberts, together with the regular inclusion of former under-nineteen players Lance Baptist, Stef Erickson, Ben Hampton and Chris Morrison. Shanahan felt youth and experience contributed about equally - "the experience of particularly Tony Brown and Vossy was invaluable, and along with Harvs and Loewie they gave the younger players a deal of confidence and took the pressure off them to an extent".¹⁰

Blessed by an early-season draw that didn't see them play away until round five, the Bloods opened brightly with a nine goal win over Beaumaris with Trollope, Roberts, Thomas and Criticos leading the way. B Section scribe Tahl Lerner was impressed enough to conclude "there will be no need for elevators as Old Haileyburians and St Bernards won't be coming down from the top this year".¹¹ Lerner saw the round two meeting between the two clubs as a pointer to the finals and was inspired when the Bloods opened up with a seven goal first quarter.



In 2008 an increasing number of younger players such as Chris Morrison started to make their mark at the Bloods. Two years later Morrison captained the VAFA under-21 team (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

¹⁰ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

¹¹ Tahl Lerner, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 2) p8

But St Bernards pegged back the lead all day, hit the front for the first time halfway through the last quarter and hung on to win by four points in a high-scoring game.¹² David Warnes' five goals were best for the Bloods, who were unlucky to lose given they had a shot on goal in the last few seconds that was punched back into play to land at Nick Harrison's feet, yet called a behind. As Shanahan lamented, "No-one, not even (VAFA Umpires' Advisor) Benny Goodman has been able to tell me how that's possible - it's either a goal, or no score and play on".¹³

Old Haileyburians' season really kicked into gear with a twenty goal win at Elsternwick Park over Old Caulfield Grammarians, who were held to just three goals. Other than Shanahan, Voss and Brown, the strong ex-St Kilda presence at the ground included Stewart Loewe, Luke Beveridge and Dean Anderson, as well as Old Caulfield coach Gary Colling.¹⁴

After four rounds the two Essendon-based clubs, St Bernards and Old Essendon Grammarians, stood two games clear on top of the B Grade ladder. This after the latter had taken the points at McKinnon. The Bombers won the second quarter by four goals and the game by the same margin, despite a third-quarter comeback by the Bloods. The Oracle reported that the big crowd grew during the afternoon and were treated to a "fabulous first quarter of tough, unrelenting football".¹⁵ He was impressed by the opportunistic Essendon forwards, especially goal sneak Condos who finished with seven.

Despite the loss the Bloods clung to third on the ladder courtesy of their excellent percentage, having already played the two top teams. The journey to the Junction Oval to play Old Melburnians had The Oracle in reflective mood. "Whether it was the golden days of King Wally and Tanner, the years of perennial Bloods' nemesis Micah Berry, Mark Seccull's celebrated milestone or the much talked-about appearance of Shane Valenti, something always happened when we played OMs at Fitzroy Street".¹⁶

Against their old rivals the Bloods jumped the gun and led by nine goals at half time. Hammer McLauchlan and Tommy Trollope provided plenty of rebound from defence, debutant Stef Erickson looked at home in the big league and Fluff (Brett Carson) ended up with "five wickets" (goals). "Nimble rover" Mark Seccull waited down for a perfect crumber's goal, Magee showed silky skills and Critta (Nick Criticos) took off on several occasions. After only two wins the previous season, the three early wins of 2008 gave the faithful much joy.¹⁷

On "the coldest Melbourne day for thirty years",¹⁸ The Oracle and Throng looked to see how the Bloods would fare against Old Carey in their "first real test of winter football in years! Sometimes in sport nearly everything goes right and that was the case for the first twenty minutes produced by the Bloods. Paddy winning knockouts, Sammy and Tony Brown clearing the ball from the stoppages and the forwards not missing an opportunity. Magee banged on the first two and all of a sudden Fluff had three. Secc popped up for another and Vossy booted a long distance bomb from half-forward. Young Lance (Baptist) got the ball to Laz and all of a sudden the boys from Bulleen found themselves eight goals down".¹⁹

¹² Tahl Lerner, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 3) p8

¹³ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

¹⁴ Tahl Lerner, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 4) p8

¹⁵ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 3 May 2008

¹⁶ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 May 2008

¹⁷ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 10 May 2008

¹⁸ Tahl Lerner, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 6) p8

¹⁹ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 May 2008

Old Carey's comeback was interrupted by one of the field umpires leaving the field early in the last quarter with a suspected broken ankle. Runner Alex Shepherd returned from delivering a message to report, "it looks like the umpire has snapped a boot lace, and the recoil has broken his ankle!", to much mirth in the coach's box.²⁰

When play resumed the Bloods regained the initiative through Mark Seccull's goal. The Oracle noted that "Despite being around in the time of Noah, even the ageless Secc was finding the rain a pain with the ball resembling a bar of soap".²¹ They found out later that their eight-goal first quarter was more than four teams in the Section would score for the match; Beaumaris was held goal-less in the conditions. For Tahl Lerner, "Tony Brown continued his stellar form to be favourite for the B Section Best and Fairest",²² in what proved an incredibly accurate prediction after only six rounds.

At Marcellin the Old Haileyburians' first official away strip, a mainly white jumper, made an inglorious debut²³ as they lost by 75 points. The morning after the match, the Marcellin full-forward Sean Connell awoke with a broken jaw. Ten days after the match, Marcellin requested a VAFA investigation into Connell's injury, alleging that it had resulted from Paddy O'Donnell's actions outside the normal course of play.²⁴

President Andrew Bonwick consulted his predecessor Tim Chegwin on how to deal with the matter. Legal argy-bargy followed, partly over the timing of the hearing (it was adjourned for a week), partly over which law the VAFA was using (Rule 124 and/or Article 5) in conducting the investigation and partly whether the VAFA had followed its own processes correctly.²⁵ The saga probably didn't help the relationship between the club and the VAFA.

Bonwick and Chegwin were surprised when Marcellin willingly provided them with video footage of the incident, especially when it showed it had occurred in the play and not behind it! At the hearing, held some twenty-four days after the incident, O'Donnell was found not guilty. No involvement by the Langford-Jones boy was required, but Chegwin couldn't resist having a crack at the Marcellin President the next time he saw him.²⁶

It took an undistinguished loss to St Kevins to really kick-start the Bloods' season, in "a finish that not even Steven Spielberg could have produced".²⁷ Despite St Kevins kicking only a solitary goal to half-time, the Bloods' poor last-quarter record continued as they allowed their visitors to storm home with 8.5 to lose by seven points. They responded in the best possible way, however, with seven successive wins, and secured a finals place with four rounds remaining.

The Bloods returned to Old Camberwell's Balwyn ground for the first time in over twenty years to find that the years of drought had left the playing surface resembling "the recent ANZAC dig at Fromelles".²⁸ Camberwell had their share of former AFL players in Kent Kingsley, Rayden Tallis and Rory Hilton, but "Macca, Chis, Roberts, Thommo and Frogger all played blinders with Brew and Brown not too far behind".²⁹ Shanahan thought Erikson's fine effort on Kingsley boosted his self-belief enormously.

²⁰ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

²¹ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 May 2008

²² Tahl Lerner, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 7) p8

²³ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 24 May 2008

²⁴ Letter from Michael Howard, Marcellin Old Collegians Football Club to VAFA, 3 June 2008

²⁵ Letter from Andrew Bonwick to VAFA President, Nick Bourke, 16 June 2008

²⁶ Interview with Tim Chegwin, 3 June 2010

²⁷ Matt Cosgriff, *The Amateur Footballer 2008* (Vol 08, No 9) p8

²⁸ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 June 2008

²⁹ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 June 2008

The Oracle was also impressed by the after-match scene at “the OC” and rated the frosties and sausages as perhaps the season’s best away from home. He had never seen so much red wine being drunk at 5pm in all his life!

Andrew Jago’s reserves began the day against Old Caulfield with the best of their eventual seven wins of a much improved season, a 91-point demolition. They were led by six goals from Brett Carson, retired from the seniors but enjoying his footy in the twos. One of his replacements was James Magee, who incredibly kicked all the Bloods’ seven first-quarter goals. The Oracle was not joking when he predicted history was about to be written for the OHAFC and he proceeded to do exactly that in a colourful narrative.

*“Chis found James Magee who received a free after having his head removed. Goal. Brew, who was on fire early, then found Magee with a lace out pass. Number two. Brew then found Magee again for number three. A Nostradamus-style opposition prophet suggested our number one was in for a tough day, but couldn’t have been more wrong. With Paddy rucking strongly, Stef and the Hyphen rebounding well off half back and Frogger racking up more tackles than a State-of-Origin team, it was left to Laz to pass to Magee for another. Secc got Magee his next and another head-high tackle the one after. It was fitting his seventh for the quarter was from another Brew pass”.*³⁰

Satiated, Magee kicked only one more goal, in the last quarter, as the Bloods completed a solid win. He hadn’t played for some time before 2008, but for his quarter of magic he lined up against one of his old mates. Unfortunately usual suspects of injury (bad knees), work and domestic commitments restricted his appearances the following year to a couple of fill-in games for the reserves.³¹



Reserves coach and later president Andrew Bonwick addresses his team at one of the breaks in their 2001 Grand Final.

ANDREW JAMES BONWICK

Other than for a brief sojourn in Sydney, Andrew Bonwick hardly ever knew life without the OHAFC. As a child the club was his Saturday playground. Bonwick, his close friend David Connell, and David Lappage are the only Life Members whose parents are also both Life Members.

At school “Bonners” was a lean, speedy wingman, distinguished by his curly fair hair protruding from a tightly fitted helmet. His family’s move to Sydney in the late 1980s deprived Andrew of the opportunity to lurk on a McKinnon wing, but he played for Sydney University until he tore a hamstring in his mid-twenties and retired.

Bonwick’s success in taking the reserves to a premiership should have been no surprise as he had a sharp football brain and his players just loved him. He made them all feel important and an integral part of the team. His trade-mark as coach was the shuffle from the coaches’ box wearing his blue rain coat, Old Haileyburians cap and glasses, with his hands in his pockets and a serious look on his face.

When no one else would put their hand up to be President, Bonwick took on the role. He showed admirable commitment and enthusiasm, and was always determined to make a difference. He was a classic “people’s president”; his strength lay in being able to talk to anyone at any level and make them feel a part of the club. This would apply equally to the VAFA (usually!), the Glen Eira Council, a senior player or an under-nineteen parent. He would handle all these situations well, and all those who came into contact with him enjoyed the experience.

25 games (20 Reserves, 5 3rds),
2 goals (both Reserves), 1996-2009

Coach 2001 Reserves Premiership team

Jumper number 50

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2004

Coach Reserves 2001-03, 2005

President 2007-09; Committee 2005-10

³⁰ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 21 June 2008

³¹ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 19 August 2010

Even better followed for the Bloods at Old Essendon as they jumped the previously undefeated competition leader early and held on to win by a point in probably their best performance of the year. Froggy Mohammed survived being thrown into a wheelie bin on the boundary line. Brewer was outstanding with four goals and Big Benny Hampton played an inspired last quarter to deliver on the promise he had shown in glimpses all season.

Shanahan also remembered Hammer McLauchlan “had 24 touches to half-time, copped a knock and had no idea even how to sing the song after the game”.³² Brett Voss’ calf warmers’ first appearance in the rooms before the game obviously did the trick as he “single-handedly repelled about twenty Old Essendon advances in the last quarter”,³³ he was awarded a tutu at training the following week.³⁴

Mark Seccull celebrated the 250th game of his distinguished career with four goals and an easy win over OMs. This match also received some unusual attention from *The Age* journalist Caroline Wilson, who questioned Stewart Loewe’s position on the AFL Tribunal³⁵ after he was reported in his first game for the season.

Nick Thomas produced the game of his career at Old Carey’s Bulleen playing fields, taking seven marks in the third quarter alone while “Big Benny (Hampton) was annoying the daylights out of the Carey defenders and was very hard at the ball”.³⁶ At the Righetti Oval the Bloods also found redemption for their previous performance against St Kevins with a flurry of scoring late in the game.

Against lowly Beaumaris at Sandringham’s Trevor Barker Oval, the Bloods had to battle for their win, “but the toughness of the boys could not be dismissed. Vossy was superb all day. Sammy led from the front. Frog was Frog and Ferg has a hatred of losing only a dictionary could define. For the first time in a long while, all three teams had won. Fresh faced recruits Boffa (Brett O’Farrell) and Lappage had run amok in the twos with four goals each and Al Johnston had bagged seven for the under-nineteens”.³⁷ Johnston was on his way to a 56-goal season, the best for a junior since Brudar’s all-time record of 78 in 1999, and good enough to lead the section. Regrettably Brett Trollope suffered a depressed fracture of the cheekbone and split palate; his recovery took the best part of a year and the Beaumaris game was his last for the club.

The next week at St Bernards, O’Farrell had Haileyburian supporters misty-eyed when he returned to the seniors for his first game since early 2006 and led the goal-kickers with three. Alas, this really was his last game in the firsts. He recalled, “Missing the (2006) premierships with injury hurt me deeply, and the thirst of that elusive flag was too much so I attempted a comeback. But the broken leg, bad knees and too many hours enjoying retirement with a beer in hand proved too much and I realised in the days after that match that enough was enough”.³⁸ Work commitments with the PGA didn’t help, but in the eyes of many, in that one game O’Farrell “looked like he still had it”.³⁹

Despite a last round win against Old Camberwell, the Bloods’ form leading into the finals was not impressive, having dropped games to other finalists St Bernards and Marcellin.

JAMES KEVIN SHANAHAN

Best known as a defender with St Kilda and Melbourne, Jamie Shanahan helped the Bloods pick up the pieces after their fall from grace and from A Grade in the mother of premierships hangovers. After the club won only the last two matches of the previous season, he led their bounce back into the finals in B Grade in 2008, where they narrowly lost to eventual premiers Old Marcellin.

The old story of injuries, lack of depth and inconsistent performance made 2009 a difficult year. Winning eight of the last ten games was not enough to make up for losing to the bottom three sides, despite beating most of the top four.

Shanahan’s main coaching style was to give his players freedom, encouraging them to back themselves. “Take the game on”, was his motto. He understood that everybody made mistakes, but it was what you did after the mistake that mattered most.

Usually a very calm coach, “Shannas” had a hatred of losing that was generally well contained. He could let rip, however, as he did at the University Oval when his team came in ten goals down at half time. Furious, he fired volleys of abuse at all and sundry, and capped the performance by slamming the magnet board to the floor. Not a single magnet was left on the board. Andrew Bonwick and Andrew Hicks did their best to pick them all up while still keeping out of Shannas’ way. Although the outburst didn’t save the Uni game, the Bloods lost only one other for the rest of the season.

Coach 1sts 2008-09

³² Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

³³ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

³⁴ Interview with Andrew Hicks, 29 September 2010

³⁵ Caroline Wilson, *The Age* (Sport section) 8 July 2008, p2

³⁶ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 12 July 2008

³⁷ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 2 August 2008

³⁸ Personal email communication, Brett O’Farrell, 17 August 2010

³⁹ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 19 August 2010

The Oracle's form could not be questioned, however. He noted contrasting themes such as "Bloods favourite Lappa lay waiting for the ambos in the changing rooms with a facial injury while inside the clubrooms tomato sauce, cocktail frankfurts and chips were on display for the annual kids' luncheon". Later he held "concerns about what happens to the Bloods upon their return after half time. The suggestion was made we should have run across the road to the 7/11 for a slurpie, and that may have been sound advice as the OC bounded out of the blocks like an under-age Chinese gymnast to bang on three easy goals". Finally he observed "Fluff and a few of the Magoos had lost the power of speech over the past three hours after visiting another establishment that was definitely not the 7/11".⁴⁰

The story for Lappage was less amusing. "I couldn't help myself (coming back) - filled in for the twos and got the bug. Played the last four games and was going alright. We're getting beaten and I tried to change the game, ran into the pack and the shoulder of the smallest man on the ground and my former student Julian Bayard. Stupidity! Depressed fracture of the cheekbone and eye socket, ambulance to the Alfred, two weeks off work and the boss wasn't happy (both my wife and Castlefield headmaster Scott Doran). Ironical thing was Paddy O'Donnell did exactly the same the week after, so the two Haileybury staff members went down".⁴¹

The Bloods lined up for their first semi-final clash with Marcellin as follows:

Backs: David Mackenzie, Chris Ferguson, Stef Erikson
Half-backs: Brett Voss, Nick Thomas, Hamish McLauchlan
Centres: Chris Morrison, Matt Brewer, Sam Langford-Jones (captain)
Half-forwards: Tom Chisholm, Mark Seccull, James Magee
Forwards: Lance Baptist, Ben Hampton, Laz Siapantas
Followers: Stewart Loewe, Tony Brown
Rover: Farooq Mohammed
Interchange: Al Johnston, Rhys Johnson, Nick Criticos, Paddy O'Donnell

Marcellin comfortably had the Bloods' measure during the season but the semi was a nail biter. Brett Voss won plenty of the football, Laz Siapantas finished off many strong passages of play with four goals and the consistent Hammer McLauchlan played another blinder. Leading by two goals at the last change but kicking into a strong breeze, Tony Brown and Stewart Loewe set up a couple more for a 25-point lead.

After four successive goals from outside forty metres by Marcellin the game slipped away for the Bloods to be well down at the start of time on. Majors from Voss and Siapantas narrowed the gap to six points, where it remained despite continual attacks forward by the Bloods. In *The Amateur Footballer*, Matt Cosgriff wrote the match was "a great advertisement" for amateur football and "a fantastic match of finals football",⁴² but this would have been of little consolation to the Bloods.

Although Andrew Hicks felt the Bloods may have been a little flattered by the final margin,⁴³ Jamie Shanahan was extremely proud of his players. "We only had sixteen fit players at best, were kicking into a huge wind, but for the entire last quarter refused to give up hope of winning. Entering

⁴⁰ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 23 August 2008

⁴¹ Personal email communication, David Lappage, 26 July 2010

⁴² Matt Cosgriff, *The Amateur Footballer* 2008 (Vol 08, No 21) p8

⁴³ Interview with Andrew Hicks, 29 September 2010

time on the game was over in most eyes, but still the team fought back and seized the momentum in the last couple of minutes, but just couldn't get the final goal they needed. It is one of the very few times I've felt that a losing team fully deserved to be applauded off the ground".⁴⁴

Looking back over the season, like many of his predecessors Shanahan saw that although many of the Old Haileyburians' supporters felt the club should be in A Grade, it was seriously under-resourced off the field. A lack of helping hands meant that on some training nights the entire staff consisted of a trainer in the rooms with injured players, plus Shanahan and reserves coach Andrew Jago. "Considering how few people I saw involved in the club, I was amazed at how successful the OHAFC has been".⁴⁵

Unsurprisingly Tony Brown added the Haileyburians' Best and Fairest to his GT Moore Medal for B Section. Brett Voss was a worthy runner-up while in the under-nineteens Matthew Lillie and Al Johnston gave notice of good things to come with their first and second placings. President Andrew Bonwick looked forward to the 2009 season, heavily hinting at the possibility of a recently "retired St Kilda legend who wore number 35" joining his former team mates to don the Magenta and Black.⁴⁶



With the departure of many senior players after the A Grade premiership, David Mackenzie became one of the more experienced in the team. Here he takes a mark against Old Scotch in the opening round of 2007. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

DAVID JOHN MACKENZIE

For older supporters the sight of Tommy Fisher's grandson playing a major role in the club's first A Grade premiership was a fairytale. David Mackenzie did a fine job in shutting down Old Xaverians' prime on-ballers in his valued role as a tagger. Fitness and hard work endeared him to all his coaches. Courageous despite his small stature, he often played on bigger and more physical opponents without taking a backward step.

Although not with the silky skills of some, with application even his awkward kicking style improved. "D-Mac" was invariably last off the track, except in the pre-season sessions and then only because he usually finished at the front of the distance runs. The jovial Mackenzie also involved himself in organising the club's social life, especially when it came to events like Club Clymax.

Mackenzie's father, Dr John, played for Old Brighton but provided important support for the Bloods with his injections during finals campaigns. Mother Pam would hardly miss a game and often brought her mother, Tommy's widow Jo, along for the ride.

More recently dodgy hamstrings frustrated Mackenzie's aim to pass the games record of his original mentor at the club, Matthew Armstrong, another small, dark man with plenty of run. To overtake him would be, as Macka would put it, "a Terrific effort"!

*173 games (122 1sts, 29 Reserves, 22 U19s),
33 goals (20 1sts, 9 Reserves, 4 U19s), 2000-2010*

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 15

Vice-captain 1sts 2010

Deputy vice-captain 1sts 2007-08

Vice-captain U19s 2001

⁴⁴ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

⁴⁵ Personal email communication, Jamie Shanahan, 20 November 2010

⁴⁶ OHAFC Inc 2008 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 26 November 2008) President's Report

2009 – Banger, Vossy the Virtuoso and the Very Old Haileyburians

It was just about the story of the decade in amateur football. Forget Craig Kelly. Even forget Stewie Loewe. Dual Brownlow Medallist Robert Harvey was pulling on the boots for the Bloods.

Chairman of Selectors Darren Seccull briefed the major press. Confirming Harvey's selection for the opening match against Old Trinity, Seccull also predicted appearances for another former Saint (and Magpie) Shane Wakelin and even 41-year-old coach Shanahan, saying "He's been talking himself up over summer".⁴⁷ Big Secc might have had his tongue stuck firmly in his cheek, but the papers were suggesting the Bloods should be called Very Old Haileyburians.⁴⁸ Especially with Mark Seccull still going strong.

Come the big day, an estimated 1400 spectators⁴⁹ devoured sausages and hamburgers to the extent that Seccull boasted, "We sold our quota for the year".⁵⁰ Harvey passed up Chris Ferguson's offer of the number 52 jumper⁵¹ and instead wore number 53, the jumper he grabbed from the pile before the game. Wingman Tom Chisholm retained custody of 35, Harvey's famous old number at the Saints.



Former St Kilda legend Robert Harvey in the warm up before his first game with the Bloods against Old Trinity at McKinnon for the opening round of 2009. His new team mate Tom Chisholm wears the number 35 that Harvey made famous with the Saints. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁴⁷ Darren Seccull quoted by Paul Daffey in *The Age* (Sports section) 15 April 2009, p12

⁴⁸ Paul Daffey, *The Age* (Sports section) 22 April 2009, p12

⁴⁹ Cameron Noakes, *The Sunday Age* (Sports section) 19 April 2009, p28

⁵⁰ Darren Seccull quoted by Paul Daffey in *The Age* (Sports section) 22 April 2009, p12

⁵¹ OHAFC Inc 2008 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 26 November 2008) President's Report

With regular captain Sam Langford-Jones out injured, premiership veteran David Mason led the Bloods out along with 150-gamer David Mackenzie. For Mackenzie, and probably most of his team mates, running out with the quiet legend was “just unbelievable”.⁵² Mason felt the team coped with the distraction fairly well, probably because a lot of the players had played with Stewart Loewe before.⁵³ Watching on, David Lappage was struck by how Harvey’s fitness and running gave him so many “two for one” possessions.⁵⁴ For James Pitcher, even training with Harvey meant “the juices are flowing!”⁵⁵

A handy starting on-ball trio of Loewe, Harvey and Brown saw the Bloods off to a bright start and five goal lead midway through the second quarter. They had also survived “cameras, journalists and possibly the biggest quarter-time huddle ever”.⁵⁶ The Oracle was still haunted, however by Old Trinity’s eleven-goal third quarter in 2007, and again a blistering ten minutes in the premiership term from Trinity’s star goal sneak Andy Cultrera, who finished with seven, swung the game for the visitors.



A youthful Andrew Hicks in footy card pose with that familiar smile on the dial. This shot was taken a year or two after he won the under-nineteens’ Best and Fairest in 1981 and nearly thirty years before he became President, when he hardly looked any different.

ANDREW JOHN HOOPER HICKS

In four thousand years’ time an archaeologist will uncover a sports pavilion that was once known as the McKinnon Reserve and discover many beer cans with only one sip taken from them. Historians will record they all belonged to Andrew Hicks when this modest, tireless worker’s presidential brain spent hours in overdrive and the distractions of club duties over-rode his natural inclination to imbibe. “Hyxy” was also known to put the cans “somewhere safe” and never find them!

No superstar on the field other than in the wet, the mudlark Hicks was nonetheless no mean player early in his career. Roaming across the half-back line or in the midfield, he was reliable, robust and rarely injured, although he slowed in later years. Hicks’ endless enthusiasm extended off the field, especially on train trips and when it came to singing rude ditties such as the infamous “Alouette”, disrobed and uncovered. He loved nothing more than acting as the coach’s runner after his playing days.

Indefatigable, Hicks returned to the club with gusto after a spell in the UK, taking over its communications with weekly emails or “Bloods Bulletins” to members. The club’s rise back to the VAFA’s Premier section in 2010 was a reflection of the energy and inclusiveness Hyxy generated as President. Some felt that when the word “clubman” was invented, it was with Andrew Hicks clearly in mind.

146 games (82 1sts, 47 Reserves, 17 U19s),
45 goals (17 1sts, 15 Reserves, 13 U19s),
1981-88

Jumper number 15

Best & Fairest U19’s 1981

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 1988

Captain reserves 1987

President 2010

Vice-President/Secretary 2007-09

Committee 1984-88, 2005-2010

⁵² Interview with David Mackenzie, 29 September 2010

⁵³ Interview with David Mason, 29 September 2010

⁵⁴ Interview with David Lappage, 29 September 2010

⁵⁵ Interview with David Mackenzie, 29 September 2010

⁵⁶ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 18 April 2009

Trinity were aware that Harvey's coaching commitments at Carlton meant that he had to leave the game early, so they delayed their return after half-time. By the time he left at the last change, Harvey had still racked up 26 possessions and amazed team mates with a passage of play that started at half-back and ended with him goaling.⁵⁷

Behind the scenes Shanahan had been very serious about playing, to the point where he and President Andrew Bonwick met with VAFA chief Michael Sholly. A decision was required before the first game as VAFA rules relating to payment of playing coaches was an issue. Bonwick was keen, at least partly because it meant the most Shanahan could be paid to coach while also playing was \$1,500. But ultimately Shanahan was unsure how his body might stand up to playing and how his players might react.⁵⁸

It was left to BOO (Brother of Oracle) to report on the Haileyburians' visit to Old Camberwell's leafy patch, which in contrast to the previous year now looked like a fairway at Woodlands. Being ANZAC Day, a bugler played the Last Post before the game. Stewie Loewe "had more marks than a VCE examiner",⁵⁹ but the Bloods trailed at half time by virtue of their less accurate kicking (5.11 to 8.1). After the break they found their range to break away for a solid win, Voss and Loewe leading the way for up-and-comers Stef Erikson, Spencer Roberts, Matthew "DK" Lillie, Al Johnston and Chris Morrison.



What better than to share the joy of a win and a sing-song with the likes of Tony Brown and Robert Harvey? Jake Muir is the lucky young man in between the former Saints. The Bloods celebrate in the rooms after a win at home in 2009.

⁵⁷ Paul Daffey, *The Age* (Sports section) 22 April 2009, p12

⁵⁸ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 19 August 2010

⁵⁹ John Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 25 April 2009

The VAFA didn't always follow the AFL when it came to rule changes, and occasionally led its professional brother, for example with the melee rule. But at the start of 2009 it adopted the AFL's rule changes penalising deliberate rushed behinds and contact that prevented players who had disposed of the ball from taking part in the next contest.⁶⁰

Obviously inspired by the VAFA's dabbling, prior to the Haileyburians first ever game against University Blacks, President Andrew Bonwick decreed any player without the sponsor's badge on their jumper would be penalised. Given the sponsor in question was coach Jamie Shanahan's company Skylift Cranes, it probably wasn't a bad idea for those serious about playing in the firsts to comply anyway. But Brett Voss left things so late his team mates found him with needle and thread, sewing his badge on in the rooms before the game. At 31, Vossy felt too old for punishments like push-ups and 200m sprints, and was pleasantly surprised when his stitching lasted the game.⁶¹

Unfortunately Voss' stitching endured better against the students than his team. In an arm wrestle the Bloods looked good with a three kick lead with twenty minutes to go.⁶² But five successive goals to Blacks was too much, even for the likes of Stef Erikson at full-back, in what was the stalwart Matt Brewer's last game.



Vossy the Virtuoso evades another opponent and heads for goal against St Kevins in 2010, when the Bloods lost on virtually the last kick of the day. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

BRETT CHARLES VOSS

No debate on who was ever the best player to wear the magenta and black would be complete without serious consideration of Brett Voss' claims. The "Vossy" highlights reel from 2010 alone, for example, included his five-goals-in-a-quarter blitz against Uni Blacks, his 69 goals for the season and his Lazarus-like performance in the Grand Final when a serious ankle injury interrupted his game for only a few minutes and failed to stop the usual flow of goals, even if it stopped the champ walking for weeks afterwards. This is to say nothing of Vossy's almost weekly contenders for Mark of the Year.

Voss came to the Old Haileyburians partly because of his relationships with former St Kilda team mates Jamie Shanahan and Stewie Loewe, but also because he felt comfortable bringing his kids to VAFA games with its reputation for alcohol free, clean, family footy.

Of all Voss's many attributes, the most amazing was probably the ability of this sub-six-foot marvel to mark in a pack either on his chest or overhead, usually while being manhandled by at least three opposition defenders. It was just as well he was such a good mark, because umpires rarely paid him the free kicks he deserved. He could play forward, back, or all over the ground.

Vossy loved post-training sessions at McKinnon on Thursdays, whether this meant showing he was a freak at the table tennis table too, or looking serious in the long-running poker school. He could win anything, even the coveted Yellow Jersey for best performance on the 2010 footy trip away to Byron Bay. In just three years, Voss and his wife Carley had well and truly assimilated themselves into the OHAFC family.

Continued over page...

⁶⁰ Bloodlines (OHAFC Newsletter) No 1, 2009

⁶¹ Bruce Eva, *The Sunday Age* (Sports section) 10 May 2009, p28

⁶² William McCann, *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 4) p8

Premiership favourites Old Melburnians were quick out of the blocks at the Junction Oval in Kynan Ford's first game since mid 2007. Early on, rising ruckman DK Lillie bizarrely clashed heads with the field umpire, lost a tooth and was taken to hospital with concussion. This was not a good sign, but the Bloods dominated possession in the second quarter only to squander their opportunities. The Oracle and BOO gathered voice and "a fan club made up of Mensa graduates whose late Saturday class in Existentialism must have been cancelled".⁶³

Seven goals down at the last change, late heroics witnessed eight straight goals, where "every ball that went forward seemed to be sucked into a funnel at the city end",⁶⁴ including Vossy belting a blinder from 50 metres. The champ also threaded the eye of a different needle for another of his five goals, but to no avail as the Bloods swallowed a 21-point loss and a poor start to the season.



A perennial contender for Mark of the Year, Brett Voss puts in another nomination, this time against Hampton Rovers in 2010. Al Johnston feels the weight at the front of the pack. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

Brett Charles Voss continued...

Perhaps surprisingly for a brand manager for sporting wear firm 2XU, one of the few things that Voss didn't seem to completely have under control was his clothing. Other than the infamous leg warmers and having to stitch on his sponsor's badge before a game, there was the training night his three-quarter compression pants looked suspiciously like Carley's. And the time he turned up to training from the airport with no gear and raided all his team mates' bags for clothes and shoes.

When, at the 2010 Grand Final luncheon, MC Ian Cover asked coach David Lappage about how long Brett Voss had attended Haileybury, tables of OHAFC supporters echoed "forever". Brett Voss – super bloke and superstar.

54 games (all 1sts), 123 goals (all 1sts), 2008-10

Jumper number 13

Best & Fairest 1sts 2009

Runner-up Best & Fairest 1sts 2008

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 2009 (38 goals), 2010 (69)

VAFA Representative 2009 (Captain)

⁶³ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 9 May 2009

⁶⁴ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 9 May 2009

Against ladder leaders St Kevins and perennial pests Garvey, Simpson and Giansiracusa they came back in style. Observed William McCann, "Dual Brownlow medallists tend to inspire things. Harvs was sensational, his constant movement and goal from the boundary line a joy to watch".⁶⁵ Only a goal ahead at three-quarter time the Bloods finally converted their aerial supremacy to run away and win by five. There was much for the Throng to be excited about, including promising efforts from on-baller Nathan Holloway, debutant big Jake Muir and Spencer Roberts in defence. And pleasingly "final results from the thesis into post match frosty consumption once again pointed out what we all knew - beer tastes better when you win".⁶⁶

Given The Oracle's enthusiasm, it may have been just as well the club had been invited by the City of Glen Eira to its "Responsible Serving of Alcohol" course the previous October,⁶⁷ as part of a government campaign to improve sporting clubs' awareness of their responsibilities.

Things were looking up with a trio of matches against teams outside the four. But the Bloods lost all three, to Old Carey, Ormond and worst of all Hampton Rovers (the only loss since 1986), to leave them with a 2-6 record, ninth place on the ladder and a season in tatters. Despite half a dozen injuries in each game it was difficult to deny that opportunities had been wasted. When Spencer Roberts' father died in the week before the Ormond game, even Benny Hampton's emotional pre-match address to the players failed to have the desired result.

Later in the season there was even more emotion when Dan and Ash Brown's mother died on the morning of the OM's game at McKinnon. Ash was told the news while playing for the reserves and left the ground in his playing gear. Dan also withdrew from the senior game.

Shanahan mustered his troops and for the first time all four ex-Saints against new top team St Bernards,⁶⁸ for a much-needed but comfortable 25-point win. One passage of play went Voss, Brown, Harvey, Loewe, goal.⁶⁹ At the halfway mark of the season the Bloods were labelled, not for the first time in their history, as the "Jekyll and Hyde of the competition. They have knocked off two ladder leaders but have only had one other victory. It would not be over-stating things by saying they are a better side when Harvs pulls on the purple. Will keep away from trouble this year but don't have the depth to trouble".⁷⁰ Brett Voss was the only Haileyburian named in the B Section team of the first half of the year.⁷¹

Against Old Trinity, Voss outshone all his former and present team mates with another in what was becoming a long line of virtuoso performances, on the way to a clear win in the club Best and Fairest. In attack, defence or at the clearances, Voss seemed to be everywhere on the vast Bulleen playing fields, even more so at the clinches late in a game the Bloods hung on to win by eleven points. Voss had 34 touches, Tony Brown 32, both kicked five goals and they shared 23 possessions between them in the last term. Young Sam Casey proved a lively forward foil with three important goals.

Jamie Shanahan's "Coach's Corner" in the club newsletter gave a rare glimpse of his thoughts on the Bloods' progress in his second season. There was the usual coach's lament on the injury list, which included the

⁶⁵ William McCann, *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 6) p8

⁶⁶ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 16 May 2009

⁶⁷ Letter from City of Glen Eira to Andrew Hicks, 10 September 2008

⁶⁸ Harvey, Loewe, Voss and Brown all played together twice, against St Bernards in Round 9 and the following week against Old Trinity

(when a 5th former AFL player in Brett O'Farrell also played in the reserves)

⁶⁹ Personal email communication, Andrew Bonwick, 20 August 2010

⁷⁰ William McCann, *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 10) p9

⁷¹ William McCann, *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 11) p9

retirement of club hard man Matty “Bad Boy” Brewer after regularly not being able to walk properly until Thursdays. Shanahan saw the upside of opportunity to the club’s younger brigade and also responded to the “Very Old Haileyburians” taunts by lauding the contributions of the veteran ex-St Kilda quartet, stating “there is no limit to how much the young players at the club can learn from Harvs if they pay attention”.⁷²

Old Carey’s three goals for the game were comfortably eclipsed by Stewart Loewe’s five in a thumping win that had William McCann warning, “Get on the Badlands bandwagon ‘cos it’s filling up quick!”⁷³ A fourth successive win, over Ormond, and they were finally in the four and “the dark horse of the competition”.⁷⁴ The Gunn Reserve again turned on a hurricane northerly wind to rival that of the famous 1992 game. The Oracle effused that “rarely has a scoreless last quarter been so exciting and so meaningful to our fortunes”,⁷⁵ as the Bloods conceded only a goal and a behind to the draught. Lillie was superb in the ruck; there were over twenty ball-ups in the last term and his jumping and follow-up repeatedly denied Ormond first use of the ball.

Having added another contender for mark of the year in the Ormond game, Brett Voss captained the senior VAFA team only a few years after Paul Corrigan. The amateurs were defeated with a kick on the final siren by the VCFL, but Voss was their best player so far as the Country’s coaching panel was concerned.⁷⁶ Tony Brown also pulled on the Big V, as did Ed Limon in the corresponding Under-19 match.



David Mason is chaired off after his 200th game, played against Oakleigh at McKinnon in 2010. Coach David Lappage, also a 200-game player, allows himself a grin in the lower right-hand corner of the photo.

DAVID MASON

Like his great mate Sam Langford-Jones, David Mason enhanced the family name at Old Haileyburians, wearing the same number 22 as his father. Always a thinker and a team leader, young “Mase” joined Peter in the 150-game club in quick time, then took another five years to reach 200. The injuries retarding his progress included the usual suspects of twangy hamstrings and calves. In 2006 these restricted his match time between round 15 and the Grand Final to a few minutes and almost kept him out of the club’s first A Grade premiership team.

Dave repeatedly reincarnated himself. An influential forward in the early 2000’s when the club returned to A Grade, by 2006 he was playing full back in a premiership team and thriving under Peter Nicholson. His performance in restricting Old Xaverians’ star spearhead Matt Handley earned him selection in the VAFA’s halfway “Team of the Year”. By 2010 he was filling in as a ruckman. In all roles his strong marking was almost as prominent as his father’s. Another proud moment was as acting captain for the opening round of 2009, when he led out former AFL stars Harvey, Loewe and Tony Brown. Mase’s party was spoilt a little, however, by team mate David Mackenzie playing his 150th game and thereby heading the one-off skipper out the race!

Another stalwart of the Bloods’ social scene, Mase never missed a Club Clymax and turned his talents to organising the Bloodbath Ball. When Mase hooked up with his future wife Sophie, there was the bonus of a friendship with her brother and future gun recruit Laz Siapantas. The boys ended up marrying each other’s sister.

211 Games (154 1sts, 37 Reserves, 20 U19s), 229 Goals (123 1sts, 63 Reserves, 43 U19s), 1996-2010

Member 2006 1sts & 2001 Reserves Premiership teams

Jumper number 22

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2010

Leading goal-kicker 1sts 2004 (22 goals)

Vice-captain 1sts 2007-08

Committee 2009-10

⁷² Jamie Shanahan, *Coach’s Corner in Bloodlines* (OHAFC Newsletter) No 2, 2009

⁷³ William McCann, *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 12) p8

⁷⁴ William McCann, *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 14) p8

⁷⁵ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 11 July 2009

⁷⁶ *The Amateur Footballer 2009* (Vol 09, No 14) p13

Back in the 1980s the Old Haileyburians frequently lamented the loss of talented school players to other clubs. But by 2009 these clubs tended to be at the elite level, and Old Haileyburians playing at AFL clubs were viewed with pride. They included Jarred Moore (Sydney), Shane Valenti (Melbourne), Stefan Martin (Melbourne), Tom Lynch (St Kilda) and Tyrone Vickery (Richmond).⁷⁷ Sam Sheldon made Brisbane Lions' list as in the west did Alex Silvagni (Fremantle) and Ash Smith (West Coast).

After a loss (Uni Blacks) and a win (Hampton Rovers), the Bloods put in the performance of their season with a 77-point triumph to inflict St Kevins' first defeat at their own "Rat Cage", with many supporters rating it as one of the better performances in the club's history.⁷⁸ Right from the outset, "this game only had one winner. Old Haileyburians started at a terrific tempo having first use of a 3-4 goal wind. Voss was in a dominant mood and his attack on the ball seemed to inspire. Beautiful duking and even more impressive kicking for goal had Haileyburians out by seven goals at the long break and the game looked over".⁷⁹

The Bloods' tardy start to the season had left them chasing tail. After the Uni Blacks loss in Round 13 they were marooned in sixth position, only outside the four on percentage, despite winning four of their last five and eight of their last ten games. Not nearly good enough to knock over OMs, they snuck in against St Bernards, courtesy of a late conversion by Tony Brown from 65 metres out.⁸⁰ In the last game they demolished Old Camberwell by 90 points, but were still four percent adrift.

Brett Voss completed his stellar season with six goals to join Peter Bowring, Roger Gerny, Nik Morey and Brett O'Farrell in leading the club goal-kicking and winning the Best and Fairest in the same year. As William McCann noted, "the Bloods would be ultra disappointed to have missed out (on September action) given their record over the finalists; the lack of depth proved fatal".⁸¹ Retiring President Andrew Bonwick pointed to the local derby losses against Hampton Rovers and Ormond and hoped they might serve as a lesson for the future.⁸²



Coach David Lappage and his brains trust overseeing proceedings at McKinnon in 2010 when the Bloods took on Oakleigh.

⁷⁷ *Bloodlines (OHAFC Newsletter) No 1, 2009*

⁷⁸ *OHAFC Inc 2009 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 19 November 2009) President's Report*

⁷⁹ *William McCann, The Amateur Footballer 2009 (Vol 09, No 17) p8*

⁸⁰ *William McCann, The Amateur Footballer 2009 (Vol 09, No 19) p8*

⁸¹ *William McCann, The Amateur Footballer 2009 (Vol 09, No 20) p8*

⁸² *OHAFC Inc 2009 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 19 November 2009) President's Report*

The Best and Fairest count was an interesting one for Luke Pitcher, who as captain read out the votes for the reserves. Predictions of a win looked good when Pitch led the count with only one round to go. But the stalwart played the final game of the season in the firsts when coach Shanahan gave him the choice of playing in the twos, and Pitcher read out the vote that sealed his own demise and Jarrod McLauchlan's win.

The lack of depth could easily be seen in the positions of the reserves (tenth) and under-nineteens (eighth). They both endured difficult seasons, managing only three wins each despite the efforts of coaches Andrew Jago and Greg Anderson, who like Shanahan retired at the end of the season. But fellow retiree Bonwick reflected on how, when he got together with other club presidents, "many of them talk about the various in-fighting and politics at their club. I can honestly say we don't have any of those issues and everyone has our footy club's best interests at heart, which we should all be proud of".⁸³ He looked forward to 2010, the Old Haileyburians' fiftieth year.



David Lappage made a fine start to his senior coaching career in 2010 after a successful stint with the under-nineteens. But he was also an accomplished player with over 200 games and 400 goals to his credit. Here he chases his De La Salle opponent at Elsternwick Park in 1998.

DAVID GEORGE LAPPAGE

By the end of 2010 David Lappage looked one of the most important figures likely to shape the Old Haileyburians' culture and future. His distinguished playing career really kicked off in the famous win over Collegians in 1992, when he slotted five goals including the match-winner. A laidback attitude did nothing to disguise his freakish skills, not the least his ability to run with the flight of the ball at full pace, opponent hot on his tail, mark the ball one-handed and play on to bang it through for a goal from forty metres.

One for keeping it in the family, "Lappa" met his future wife Sara through her cousin, team mate Wes Byrns, with whom he had an uncanny on field bond. The two waxed almost as much as Connell and Armstrong, and their lightning speed and clever play created many goals. Only Peter Bowring and Chris Efstathiou kicked more goals for the Bloods than the straight-shooting Lappage, who kicked most of his after electric fast leads and marks.

Lappage entered the coaching arena with three successful years guiding the under-nineteens. After a break he won the senior job in 2010. In his first year he took his very young side to a Grand Final and back to A Grade; he had taught many of these players in his role as Boys Sport Coordinator and Head of Football Development at the Castlefield campus or when coaching the under nineteens. He also became only the second person after Matthew Armstrong to play in or coach over 300 games for the club.

*230 games (178 1sts, 41 Reserves, 11 U19s),
437 goals (330 1sts, 84 Reserves, 23 U19s),
1991-2008*

Member 1995 1sts Premiership team

Jumper number 35

*Leading goal-kicker 1sts 1999 (34 goals),
2000 (44), 2001 (55)*

Awarded Honorary Life Membership 2003

Coach 1sts 2010

Coach U19s 2005-07

Committee 2000-01, 2005-06

⁸³ OHAFC Inc 2009 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 19 November 2009) President's Report

2010 - A Leap Up with Lappa

The VAFA clearly had change in mind as 2010 approached. The most far-reaching of the VAFA Board's decisions was the compulsory fielding of a third eighteen team by all A Section clubs. Along similar lines the top under-19 section would also be aligned to the A Section fixture. There was also a re-branding as A Section became "Premier Division", B Section became "Premier B" and so on.⁸⁴ Given one of the benefits of this change was seen to be an alignment with Premier Cricket,⁸⁵ it had the fingerprints of VAFA CEO Michael Sholly all over it given his distinguished involvement in the summer competition.

The compulsory third eighteen for A Section was not a change that suited the Old Haileyburians as they realised more than ever that Haileybury College had shrunk markedly in size as a football school. New President Andrew Hicks would have to find ways for the club to be smarter with its resources.



*Ruckman Luke Davey puts in a huge leap against Hampton Rovers at David Boss Oval, 2010.
(photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)*

⁸⁴ Michael Sholly, *The new brand and the brand new, The Amateur Footballer 2010 (Vol 10, No 1) p3*

⁸⁵ *Report of VAFA Board decisions to member clubs, 2009*

The sub-committee appointed to find Jamie Shanahan's successor included Andrew Hicks, Andrew Bonwick, Wayne Shand, Brett Voss and, initially, David Lappage. Lappage had recently declined the position of school first eighteen coach, being more interested in the position of Director of Sport at Haileybury, but was increasingly attracted by the thought of coaching the Old Haileyburians. He resigned from the sub-committee, was replaced by Jeremy Bourke, and submitted his application.

A little nervous about presenting to panel members he already knew well, Lappage felt better after answering to Voss' question about what sort of style he would be encouraging. When Lappage said "I want everyone wanting to be part of a team", he seemed to receive a tick from the champ.⁸⁶



Hamish McLauchlan (3) tries to spoil, but in the end it is brother Jarrod (mainly obscured) who takes the mark against Hampton Rovers. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

HAMISH ALAN McLAUCLAN

Premiership defender Hamish McLauchlan took time to find his feet, but an eight-goal haul for the reserves (seven in one half) in the last round of 2003 gave notice of his talent. Like his great mate and contemporary Chris Ferguson, he soon developed into one of the best backmen for his club and in the VAFA.

McLauchlan's preparation was second to none. He never missed training, rarely missed games injured (putting together a string of 99 consecutive games), ate all the right foods and took all the right supplements; this was evident in his athletic physique. He was a very professional amateur player. An amazing reader of the ball in the air and a sensational mark, McLauchlan's 2006 season was superb. He was possibly the favourite of coach Nicholson, who often told the boys when they needed inspiration that, "Its Hammer Time"!

Hammer was rarely beaten, even when smaller than his opposing forward. Very versatile, coaches would throw him onto a wing to use his height and run to advantage. He has also played forward with success. McLauchlan and his wife Kate rarely missed a function, while his parents Mal and Debbie were fixtures in the McKinnon forward pocket in their white van.

*169 games (120 1sts, 24 Reserves, 25 U19s),
46 goals (23 1sts, 13 Reserves, 10 U19s), 2001-10*

Member 2006 1sts Premiership team

Jumper numbers 51 & 3

Best & Fairest U19s 2002

Deputy Vice-captain 1sts 2007-08

⁸⁶ Interview with David Lappage, 29 September 2010

To maybe mild surprise the favourite son and Castlefield staff member also received the tick of the committee to be the first Old Haileyburian appointed as coach since Shand himself in the mid-1980s. Lappage's old team mate and successor as under-nineteen coach, Greg Anderson became the right-hand man.

Veteran observer of OHAFC games, Shand also found himself in a new role as Lappage's Chairman of Selectors following a conversation with Andrew Bonwick. Shand, "Being a young coach, Lappa's going to need an experienced hand to mentor and help him". Bonwick, "Yes he will". Shand, "Do you have anyone in mind?" Bonwick, "Yes ... you!" So at that point Shand was Chairman.⁸⁷

At jumper presentation night there was a distinct feeling of the club embracing its Haileybury roots. Lappage's and Shand's appointments undoubtedly contributed to this vibe, and there may also have been a subtle reaction to the preponderance of imports over previous years. Tony Brown was still an obvious choice as the new captain, however, with the senior players keen for the team to be led by an experienced voice.⁸⁸

Lappage followed the plan of one of his mentors, Neville Taylor, by breaking the season up into four sections; three of six weeks and (hopefully) a fourth being the finals series. He set the team a target of winning four out of each six-match block. He also sought greater consistency - "I didn't want bad losses and I didn't want losses to teams lower on the ladder".⁸⁹

After a pre-season camp at the Langford-Jones residence in Sorrento, the Bloods opened their season against Uni Blacks, highly rated by many, possibly not least themselves. Lappage's unit was largely unfancied, Premier B Correspondent Fraser Cameron predicting that they would "tread water".⁹⁰ Although Cameron asserted Blacks should have put the Bloods away by three-quarter time, he was impressed with the work of the veterans Brown and Ford up forward, the persistence of the younger brigade and the tagging job of Matthew Douglas, who was to prove a revelation at full-back.⁹¹ In a high-tempo game, after an extraordinary ten minutes of time-on, Blacks just happened to have their nose five points ahead at the siren. But the signs looked good for the rest of the season. And Gilly (Toby Gill) found the perfect tonic for his sore hamstring by winning the \$1,000 raffle.⁹²

Conditions more characteristic of Cairns than Melbourne greeted the Bloods at Hampton Rovers' Boss Oval. Led by former Rover Michael Stowe they put on a real show. The Critter, Nick Criticos, led the goal scoring with four and Laz Siapantas slotted three, although according to The Oracle he could have had 13 had he kicked straight. Voss played another great game before succumbing to leather poisoning, as did 2006 premiership veterans Ford and Chisholm. In defence the big bodies of Hammer McLauchlan and Stef Erikson stood tall as the Bloods ran away to an impressive 48-point win having kicked 23 or 24 goals depending on whether you believed the Hampton Rovers scoreboard or The Oracle. The first quarter burst into the breeze had been pivotal.⁹³

Against the other highly-fancied team of Premier B, St Kevins Old Boys, with their vaunted midfield of ex-AFL players, the Bloods were again

⁸⁷ Personal email communication, Wayne Shand, 9 November 2010

⁸⁸ Interview with David Mason, 29 September 2010

⁸⁹ Interview with David Lappage, 29 September 2010

⁹⁰ Fraser Cameron, *The Amateur Footballer 2010* (Vol 10, No 1) p11

⁹¹ Fraser Cameron, *The Amateur Footballer 2010* (Vol 10, No 2) p5

⁹² Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 10 April 2010

⁹³ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 17 April 2010

quick out of the blocks and led all day ... almost. A disputed umpiring decision late in the four game followed by successive 25-metre penalties gave Skevvies a point-blank shot at goal and a five-point lead. Despite three entries into their forward fifty the Bloods were unable to wrest the lead back and had suffered two losses to possibly the top two teams by a combined total of a goal.⁹⁴

Successive wins by a few goals over St Bernards and bottom team Melbourne High, in a surprising struggle, had the Haileyburians back on track. Against the former, Spencer Roberts kicked the Bloods' only goal into the wind; coming at the 25-minute mark of the last quarter it was extremely welcome. As was the return of Michael Lambert, for his first game since 2000.



James Pitcher marks in front against St Kevins Old Boys in 2010. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

⁹⁴ Brad Beitzel, *The Sunday Age* (Sports section) 25 April 2010, p11

Younger names were figuring prominently in The Oracle's reports, including Combi (David Comben), Stowie (Michael Stowe), Steeny (Jack Steen), Dougie (Matthew Douglas), Stef (Erikson), Morro (Chris Morrison) and Jarrod (McLauchlan).⁹⁵ But it was a steadier from the skipper that sealed the MHSOB win; Vossy's half-dozen goals were handy too.⁹⁶ The reserves under Craig Brockley enjoyed their first win of the season by a solitary point.

A second-quarter surge led by Tony Brown and Tom Chisholm's "specky" in the third were about the only highlights of a disappointing loss to the emerging Old Carey. Said The Oracle, "Stephen Hawking believes there are aliens visiting Earth but not even he can solve the puzzle of the Bloods' third quarters".⁹⁷ This after Carey went "bang" with four goals in five minutes.

Kynan Ford (four goals) turned back the clock and Matthew Clark (three) bobbed out of nowhere⁹⁸ in the Bloods' best win of the season to date, over ladder leader Old Ivanhoe. Rugged centreman Chris Morrison, who captained the VAFA Under-21 team later that year, led the way. Corey Millard showed he was another valuable big body down back and despite "a period in the third quarter where the wobbly boots came out"⁹⁹ the Bloods ran away in the last to win by nearly ten goals.

David Mason's 200th game and a pre-match address from Sam Langford-Jones about the Mason family might just have been the added spur to push the Bloods over the line in a hard-fought win against the Oakleigh Krushers at McKinnon. Matthew Lillie's comeback helped too. Three points down at the last change, a barnstorming seven-goal finish featured all sorts of highlights, including inevitably another goal-of-the-day from the Virtuoso. Voss was everywhere again. Although The Oracle lamented that "all bar the umpire saw Vossy take a fine grab in the goal square. Even the kids at the Slurpee machine at the 7/11 saw it, nonetheless it was balled up".¹⁰⁰

After surviving a bitterly cold trip to "Bomber Grammar" (Old Essendon), the Bloods faced a shorter but more daunting venture to University Oval, which lived up to its reputation as one of their least favoured grounds. With his team down two goals to nine at half time, Brett Voss turned in perhaps the most remarkable of all his remarkable performances with an astonishing five goals in the third quarter, completely against the run of play. Voss's second goal, where he literally "bounced" off a Blacks defender, was a piece of brilliance that left his hosts bewildered.¹⁰¹ According to Chairman of Selectors Wayne Shand, "It was one of the best quarters of football by an individual I have ever seen at this level. Almost single-handedly Voss had us back in the game which at half-time appeared lost".¹⁰²

Criticos' goal early in the last quarter gave the Bloods the lead, but they faded with "Vossy being covered by 23 Blacks defenders"¹⁰³ and finished four goals adrift.

Voss garnered another five in the win over St Kevins at McKinnon, while Sam Casey bobbed up with four. In a rich vein of form, Hammer McLauchlan was "impenetrable across half-back"¹⁰⁴ in the last of a run of 99 consecutive senior games (and 127 overall).¹⁰⁵ Johnston, Roberts

⁹⁵ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 1 May 2010

⁹⁶ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 8 May 2010

⁹⁷ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 15 May 2010

⁹⁸ Fraser Cameron, *The Amateur Footballer* 2010 (Vol 10, No 8) p4

⁹⁹ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 22 May 2010

¹⁰⁰ Tony Doyle, *The Oracle*, Match report in OHAFC archives, 29 May 2010

¹⁰¹ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 19 June 2010

¹⁰² Personal email communication, Wayne Shand, 9 November 2010

¹⁰³ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 19 June 2010

¹⁰⁴ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 26 June 2010

¹⁰⁵ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 3 July 2010

and Chisholm were fine contributors. A glance at the Premier B ladder revealed the value of this victory. The Bloods were one of six teams in equal top position with seventh just a game behind with a better percentage than some of the teams above.¹⁰⁶

While the signs were positive for the Old Boys, the same was not the case for football at the school. Haileybury faced life as a small football institution, with only three open teams drawn from Years 11 and 12 across all three campuses. This was hardly a great return from over three thousand students. The school would also have to work smarter, and Corda Club President Alan Steen suggested to Director of Football Bruce Norton that Haileybury establish a Football Academy.¹⁰⁷ This appeared to be an important development for the future of football at the school and by extension the OHAFC.



Best and Fairest winner in 2010, Spencer Roberts watches team mate Al Johnston spoil against St Kevins (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

SPENCER STUART HAIMES ROBERTS

The old saying, "still waters run deep" is a pretty apt description of Spencer Roberts. Diehard Bloods supporters were hardly surprised when his stellar 2010 in the midfield won him their Best and Fairest, although incredibly he failed to win a single vote from the umpires in Premier B. That was, however, a pertinent reflection on how Spencer played; unassuming and quiet about his talents, yet possessed of a steely determination to always give his best.

Captain of Football at the school in 2004, Roberts played several seasons at Sandringham before returning to the Bloods full time. In no time he became one of the club's greatest assets. Tough and uncompromising, speed may not have been his greatest asset but he was rarely unable to use hand or foot to dispose of the ball. Spencer never minded kicking a goal either, and hardly ever lost his footing.

A great target for full-backs to kick off to, the "Hyphen" worked extremely hard to become a quality mid-fielder and ball magnet. The punters loved the tough, straight ahead approach from the curly-haired one. While umpires had trouble remembering Roberts' name and number, opposition players crunched in one of his tackles suffered no such memory lapse. As the Bloods returned to Premier A in 2011, Spencer Roberts was a key component.

*61 games (56 1sts, 4 Reserves, 1 U19s),
34 goals (31 1sts, 3 Reserves), 2005-10*

Jumper number 28

Best & Fairest 1sts 2010

¹⁰⁶ Paul Daffey, *The Age* (Sports section) 30 June 2010, p12

¹⁰⁷ Personal telephone communication, Alan Steen, 15 September 2010

David Lappage was appointed to run the Academy, for which boys in Years 7 to 9 could apply. Academy boys undertook extensive pre-season training over ten weeks from January, with patronage from the Corda Club, which provided equipment, training uniforms and other support such as sausage sizzles after the Monday evening sessions. Steen anticipated that the Academy would help encourage Haileybury boys to prefer school football over local club football, and avoid the loss of talented footballers “who played badminton for their Saturday school sport so they could play local footy on Sundays”.¹⁰⁸

The Academy fitted in with Ken Allison’s ideal of building from the ground up. Another former President in Tim Chegwin believed the Academy illustrated how important David Lappage had become, in that he was the key to reversing the trend of home-grown talent becoming disenchanted with football. From a distance Chegwin saw that Lappage was rebuilding the playing foundation of the club and would leave it in far better shape for a new assault on A Grade.¹⁰⁹

The reserves repeated their one-point victory over Melbourne High when the teams met again at McKinnon, helped by 1988 Best and Fairest winner Wayne Smith’s return and goal with his first kick back. Laz Siapantas played his hundredth game, but the real talking point was the six-goal debut of rookie Victorian cricketer Jackson Coleman, son of former Fitzroy, Sydney and Footscray ruckman Glenn. Unfortunately Cricket Victoria also noticed Coleman’s performance, and was soon reminding the young star that playing football was in breach of his contract.



Tom Chisholm’s spectacular mark against Old Carey at McKinnon in 2010, watched by Chris Morrison (19), Jarrod McLauchlan (44) and Al Johnston (7).

¹⁰⁸ Personal telephone communication, Alan Steen, 15 September 2010

¹⁰⁹ Personal email communication, Tim Chegwin, 2 November 2010

Another disappointing performance against Carey at Bulleen preceded a narrow loss at home to Old Ivanhoe, before an emphatic rebound at St Bernards, with Mark Seccull back in the side and the third quarter one of the team's best for the year.¹¹⁰ Highlights included goals from Criticos' lightning-fast evasion of half a dozen opponents and skipper Brown's alert intercept of an errant handball for the sealer.

The St Bernards victory was the first of four successive wins to finish off the home and away season and secure second place. Voss continued to add spekkys to his portfolio, including "26 attempts at mark of the year"¹¹¹ in his four-goal second quarter at Oakleigh.

Leading into the final round, the Bloods were second on the ladder, but ahead of fifth only on percentage. A win was essential if they were to appear in finals and a big one if they were to retain the double chance. They ran riot to deliver a 134-point hiding to the hapless Old Essendon, their largest winning margin since 1995. President Andrew Hicks was caught up singing songs as the reserves won only their third match for the season and the under-nineteens finally saluted for their first win in their last game. Hicks reckoned the juniors sang the loudest of all after their 56-point triumph over Hampton Rovers.¹¹²

In 2010 Victoria's five-year drought comprehensively broke and the second semi-final against Old Carey at Elsternwick Park was duly played in complete slop. So bad were the conditions that players became unrecognisable to the point of handballing to opponents as Old Carey ran over the Bloods to enter Premier Section for the first time ever. David Comben started his stellar finals series in fine style.



A typical post-match scene in the rooms at McKinnon in 2010, as the Bloods listen to coach David Lappage after disposing of Melbourne High School Old Boys.

¹¹⁰ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 31 July 2010

¹¹¹ Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 14 August 2010

¹¹² Andrew Hicks, *Bloods Bulletin*, OHAFC email newsletter, 21 August 2010

Comben also starred the following week as Old Haileyburians upset the much-fancied University Blacks for the first time in their five meetings. Blacks opened with four behinds and continued to squander opportunities all day. Teenage forward Al Johnston kicked straighter than the students and along with Brett Voss up forward and David Mason, reincarnated as a ruckman, helped the Bloods overcome their five-point half time deficit to lead narrowly at the last change.

B Grade Preliminary finals can be notoriously difficult to win, but the Bloods' barnstorming seven-goal last quarter, sparked by skipper Tony Brown's work at the centre clearances, saw them easily through to the Grand Final and a return to the top Amateur section. The work of veterans Ford (three goals) and the now super-fit Sam Langford-Jones, Spencer Roberts' grunt in the middle, and the defensive efforts of Stowe and McLauchlan sealed the deal.

Late in the game the perpetually uncomplaining Voss finally started to receive some reward from the umpires for playing in front and finished with six goals and yet another contender for mark of the year. Voss' lack of protection was recognised outside the Old Haileyburians, as evidenced by Tom Brain's response to a prediction by an umpire that he might pick up a few votes in the Premier B Best and Fairest - "you never give him frees, why would you give him votes?!"¹¹³



Froggy Mohammed (left) and Corey Millard put the pressure on an Old Carey opponent at Bulleen in 2010, watched by Al Johnston. (photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

¹¹³ Interview with Andrew Hicks and David Mackenzie, 29 September 2010

With minutes to go and the result obvious, veteran Dave Mason was able to say to his mate Laz, “we’re back in A Grade!”, but such had the team’s focus been on winning a premiership that until then the thought of promotion had been very secondary.¹¹⁴

For the Big Dance, Lillie and Sam Casey were unlucky omissions for Ferguson and Mohammed, who at training on the Thursday night asked Tony Brown whether he’d played in a Grand Final before. Brown’s answer about playing in the 1997 AFL Grand Final had Mohammed realising he was then still learning English!¹¹⁵ Brett Voss rocked up to the last night’s training with “broken arm” in a sling.



Chris Ferguson puts a big spoil in during the 2010 Grand Final against Old Carey.
(photograph by Cyan Sporting Images)

CHRISTOPHER JAMES FERGUSON

In his early years, the skinny, stick-like figure of Chris Ferguson always seemed to find a new way of being injured. The problem wasn't just his frame, but its coupling with White Line Fever; "Ferg" took no regard for his safety but continually crashed into packs like a Constable. Supporters would look away and wince at the collisions. Before his first official game for the Bloods, Ferg showed how he would go about his business by flying into a pack and breaking his collar bone in a low-key practice match. Countless knock-outs and rolled ankles followed.

Playing mostly at full back, Ferg's other main attribute was his hatred of losing a contest and propensity to subsequently spit the dummy. Such as the day at Old Carey's Bulleen ground when a cruel bounce resulted in a Carey goal. Ferg's temper kicked in and he punched the goal post. After the game it was revealed that he had broken his hand. For nearly a year Ferg vehemently denied this was due to the goal post incident and put it down to another cause before finally confessing.

Coaches loved Ferg's courage. He had a close bond with Jamie Shanahan, which stemmed back to their common Dingley roots. Shanahan was a special guest at the Dingley Primary School assembly and presented the young Ferg with his house captain's badge. No wonder Shannas gave Ferg the Coach's Award in 2008! Outside football, Ferg's work as a tax lawyer ensured the big fish got away with nothing when it came to tax evasion, just like those pesky forwards.

101 games (58 1sts, 43 Reserves),
25 goals (4 1sts, 21 Reserves), 2004-10

Jumper number 52

Runner-up Best & Fairest Reserves 2006

Leading goal kicker Reserves 2006 (10 goals)

Vice-captain Reserves 2005

¹¹⁴ Interview with David Mason, 29 September 2010

¹¹⁵ Interview with David Mackenzie, 29 September 2010

So the Bloods opponent for the final match of their fiftieth year would be the same as the for last game of their first. But without a pre-match warm-up at "The Harp" Hotel. They lined up as:

Backs: Michael Stowe, Corey Millard, James Pitcher
Half-backs: Matthew Douglas, David Comben, Hamish McLauchlan
Centres: Tom Chisholm, Chris Morrison, Laz Siapantas
Half-forwards: Peter Gleadhill, Kynan Ford, Matthew Ditchfield
Forwards: Brett Voss, Al Johnston, Liam Donnelly
Followers: Nick Harrison, Spencer Roberts
Rover: Tony Brown (captain)
Interchange: Chris Ferguson, Farooq Mohammed, Sam Langford-Jones, David Mason

Old Haileyburians kicked with the aid of a four-goal breeze, only to find themselves five goals down halfway through the first quarter, hardly having had their hand on the ball. With the game seemingly over before it had begun, the Bloods launched the bravest of comebacks, to the extent that they dominated play with a clearly superior work ethic and snatched back the lead by half-time.

But the comeback came at a cost as injuries mounted. Laz Siapantas broke his wrist in the first five minutes and Chris Morrison was also out of the game with a shoulder injury before half-time. Kynan Ford's torn hamstring saw him anchored in the goal square and when Brett Voss rolled an ankle in the second term it looked like his day might be over too, although somehow he saw out the game. Tony Brown looked like both shoulders had popped out.

Deprived of regular rotations, Sam Langford-Jones and Froggy Mohammed ran themselves ragged, along with "Lazy" Liam Donnelly at his zippy best and Matthew Ditchfield. But at full-back Corey Millard proved the real star, repelling countless attacks with hands as safe as a house.

Langford-Jones' goal early in the last term saw the Bloods within a kick, but as their injuries took toll Carey were able to draw away. Even their captain Tom Evans acknowledged that the final 38-point margin was not a true indication of the tightness of the contest.¹¹⁶ Voss's five goals made it 69 for the season, a total only ever bettered once in the firsts, by Peter Bowring way back in 1969.

At least in his Grand Final preview, Fraser Cameron predicted the Bloods were "now better positioned to cut it as a Premier Section force for many years to come, rather than go through the roller-coaster "smash and grab" of their last sojourn".¹¹⁷ He may not have predicted the curly-haired Roberts' narrow win in the Best and Fairest ahead of Brown and Voss, but named all three in his Premier B "Team of the Year". The latter two finished second and fourth respectively in the competition Best and Fairest.

Cameron's optimism may have stemmed from the youth in the Bloods' line-up. The only six in their team who were not former Haileybury students were Morrison, Pitcher, veteran premierships players Ford and Siapantas, and the former St Kilda duo. Only Mason and perhaps Langford-Jones could be considered "old" boys in the literal sense.

LUKE ROBERT PITCHER

The nuggetty Luke Pitcher was a fixture as captain of the reserves and around the club through the noughties. On the back line or the ball, he became well known for putting his head over the ball, dislocating opposition shoulders and breaking his own collarbone and jaw. In year 10 at school he ruptured his spleen, but he always remained the first to fly the flag, especially against opponents like Ormond.

A commercial real estate agent, "Pitch" became even better known off the field. Five time winner of the players' trip away award, he never missed a Club Clymax, even leaving weddings early to keep his record intact. Pitch loved a dance-off, even when described as an epileptic fit, and he encouraged others to have fun by biting walls.

Luke was also known as "Panda" for his work up a bamboo tree, but more impressive was the former rower's 600 kilo leg press as one of the Musashi Club in 2010.

*169 Games (7 1sts, 127 Reserves, 35 U19s),
17 Goals (1 1sts, 12 Reserves, 4 U19s), 1999-2010*

Jumper number 49

Best & Fairest Reserves 2010

Runner-up Best and Fairest Reserves 2009

Captain Reserves 2007-10

Vice-captain Reserves 2006

Deputy Vice-captain Reserves 2005

Vice-captain U19s 2001

¹¹⁶ Paul Daffey, *The Sunday Age* (Sports section) 19 September 2010, p9

¹¹⁷ Fraser Cameron, *The Amateur Footballer* 2010 (Vol 10, No 23) p4

Lappage noticed that the majority of the squad were aged under 23 and eight were still eligible to play under-nineteens.¹¹⁸

Lappage estimated that six to eight had played in the firsts at school; Spencer Roberts captained the 2004 school premiership team that also included Harrison and Chisholm. Stowe (soccer) and Donnelly (cross-country) played other sports at school, but many observers were pleased with the way Lappage seemed to be developing the young talent. Lappage also felt that the relationship with the school was continually improving under new Principal Derek Scott.¹¹⁹

The day after the Grand Final the boys reassembled for Vote Count, and a joyous highlight was Luke Pitcher finally winning the reserves Best and Fairest, or at least sharing it with Will Rule. This time Pitch didn't have to read the votes out himself.



OLD HAILEYBURIANS' AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

To celebrate this magnificent occasion, an Old Haileyburian Amateur Football Club 50-Year History book is being produced. This hard cover book will feature over 400 pages containing full colour images and a complete historical look back on the first 50 years of the OHAFC. This limited edition book is available to order and can be purchased as part of the celebration dinner packages. RRP \$69



You're invited to celebrate and look back on 50 incredible years

OLD HAILEYBURIANS' AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

DATE	Saturday 26th March 2011	
TIME	7pm to midnight	
VENUE	MCG Members Dining Room	
MC	Stephen Phillips	
DRESS	Lounge Suit	
DINNER PACKAGES		
	OHAFC 50 Year History (per book)	\$ 69
	One person dinner & drinks	\$140
	Two people dinner & drinks	\$280
	One person dinner & drinks + OHAFC 50 Year History (1 book) package	\$199
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TO BOOK Please complete the booking form enclosed



1961 - First game in E Grade

1962 - Premiers D Grade

1964 -

1965 -

1966 -

1967 -

1968 - Premiers C Reserve Grade

1969 - Premiers D Grade

1970 -

1971 -

1972 -

1973 - Premiers C Reserve Grade

1974 -

1975 -

1976 -

1977 -

1978 - Premiers Junior 2 Section

1979 -

1980 - Premiers Junior 1 Section

1981 -

1982 -

1983 -

1984 -

1985 -

1986 -

1987 -

1988 -

1989 - Premiers C & C Reserve Grade

1990 - Premiers B Grade

1991 -

1992 -

1993 -

1994 -

1995 - Premiers B Grade

1996 -

1997 -

1998 -

1999 -

2000 -

2001 - Premiers B Reserve Grade

2002 -

2003 -

2004 -

2005 -

2006 - Premiers A Grade

2007 -

2008 -

2009 -

2010 -

2011 -



The invitation to the OHAFC 50th birthday celebrations at the MCG, March 2011 featured its first and last playing legends, Andy Home and Brett Voss. Vossy has followed Andy's lead of having his jumper number flapping on his back.

¹¹⁸ OHAFC Inc 2010 Annual Report & Financial Accounts (submitted 15 November 2010) Coach's Report

¹¹⁹ Interview with David Lappage, 29 September 2010

Andrew Hicks' first year as President had been a highly successful one. His philosophies and views on the club were clear.

"Passion is a great attribute and this football club has always displayed it in spades. Success can be measured in many ways - not always positions on the ladder. It was pleasing to witness the camaraderie exhibited by this group of players, and the supporters responded accordingly. There was a sense that players genuinely wanted to play and enjoy each others' company together - change room banter, card games and even table tennis championships. We have to continue promoting that sense of wanting to be around the place".¹²⁰

Hicks had played a large part himself in attracting people back to the club, especially through his weekly email communication known as the "Bloods Bulletin". After the Grand Final, Hicks would continue work on perhaps the club's biggest ever function, its Fiftieth Birthday Bash to be held at in the MCC Members' Dining Room in March 2011.

Evidence of Hicks' effectiveness could be seen in the mix of figures that watched the Grand Final from one of Elsternwick Park's green banks. They included former great Presidents like Dennis Smith and Ken Allison; journeymen players from long ago who had risen to prominent roles in public life like Lex Lasry and Gary March; those who had tasted the top level of football in Victoria such as Michael Porter; the ex-St Kilda crew of Stewart Loewe, Mick Dwyer and Jamie Shanahan; families like the Secculls and Bonwicks; and club stalwarts and elders like Don Lord and Peter Mason.

And of course there was Andy Home who, having played in the club's very first match way back in 1961, was still making himself well heard at its last nearly fifty years later.

CHAPTER 15

LOOKING BACK AND LESSONS OF HISTORY



So where has fifty years left the Old Haileyburians' Amateur Football Club, other than in Premier A Section in 2011? What have been the secrets to its successes and what have been its distinguishing characteristics? These traits are not necessarily unique and are probably shared by a number of other amateur football clubs, especially the other "Old Boy" clubs.

The Bloods' life in the VAFA can be divided into two main parts. After a rapid ascension into C Grade only three years into their existence, for the next quarter of a century they remained largely trapped in "shitty old C". In that time they played only four years in B Grade, and in two of those years were relegated. No wonder Michael Lovett wrote about fitting their history and highlights on the back of a postage stamp.

After winning their only C Grade premiership in 1989 the Bloods never returned to the section. Since then they have mostly played in A Grade; in the other years when they played in B they missed the finals only twice. Another way of looking at this is to say the Old Haileyburians have been among the top 14 amateur teams for 19 of the past 21 years.

In their second twenty-five years especially, the Bloods achieved an enviable level of success of which they can be justifiably proud. It might be argued that the club consistently punched above its weight during this time. It generally lacked the depth and resources of outfits such as Old Xaverians and De La Salle. However, the club performed admirably with the talent it attracted both on and off the field, and their champions and match winners from Andrew Home through to the likes of Houghton, Paul, Meehan, Morey, O'Farrell, Corrigan and Voss were as good as any to grace the amateur fields.

Talent combined with commitment, passion, persistence and self-belief culminated in the Old Haileyburians' greatest achievement – winning the 2006 A Section Premiership. That flag fulfilled the dreams of many who had long associations with the club and brought great joy to the wider Haileyburian community.

What brought about the change in the C Grade struggler? Was it just the luck of the draw and part of the general trend in amateur football for the old school sides to grow stronger and the district clubs to weaken through the 1990s and 2000s? Was it a natural consequence of the golden days of sport at Haileybury College in the 1980s? Or of the Bloods' decision to widen its recruiting net beyond the school?

Was it just that it took 25 years for the Old Haileyburians to fire up their ambitions and their self-confidence, grasp what was necessary for sustained success, and build their resources to the point where they could compete with the old established order of amateur football? In truth it was probably a little of all of these ingredients.

Ambition

When did the Old Haileyburians firmly set their sights on A Grade and when did they become more "serious" about their football? Andrew Home's memory is that from the beginning they always did their best

within the context of their time to win every game,¹ although the beacon of A Grade was rarely if ever mentioned. It may have been that bit far away to contemplate, although less so after the Bloods had rocketed into C Grade after only three years. By the mid-1960s, however, they had their hands full surviving in C, let alone worrying about A.

Ken Allison arrived at the club in 1966, and most of his contemporaries joined and stayed because of the personalities such as Home, Peter Bowring, Alan Ross, Rev Boag, Zeke Davies, David Young and Rob Gyngell. They were not concerned that their Halifax Street ground was too small or that the facilities were limited, but they had fun, were happy in each other's company and in essence that was enough.²

Allison felt that momentum gathered in the late-1960s, at least partly because Haileybury won its first APS football premiership in 1965. Many of those recruited around this time had either been a part of or seen at close quarters that triumph. It is reasonable to think that they were motivated by the experience and their confidence was boosted in competing at open age levels against other APS old boy teams. If they could beat Melbourne Grammar at school, why shouldn't they do the same to Old Melburnians in the amateurs?

The club's first promotion to B Grade after the 1974 season had them staring squarely in the face of the top division, if only for a season. The appointment of Michael Porter as coach in 1976 would also have raised the stakes given his ultra-competitive and bullish outlook. Then again it's hard to imagine Don McQueen being anything less than deadly serious when he captained the club in 1972 and 1973.

The first mention of A Grade in the OHAFC archives is in Don Lord's President's Report to the 1977 Annual General Meeting, where he wrote of consolidating in B Grade and preparing "for a rise to A Grade in the future".³ His successor Ken Allison the following year referred to "our quest for A Grade".⁴ This surely would only be a small step having played B Grade finals for the first time, but the club was about to slide and enter a decade of struggle. The ambition of A Grade was by now firmly embedded, however.

Frustration Before the Rise

Roger Paul was President of OHAFC in 1985 and the senior team was coached by Andrew Langford-Jones, winning seven and losing eleven games in C Grade. ALJ provided a reality check in his Coach's Report.⁵ While acknowledging that the club was in no real danger of relegation he felt there was still a "near enough is good enough" attitude, exemplified in losses to bottom sides Hampton Rovers and Coburg. The unavailability of certain players during the course of the season also impacted on results. The truth, harsh though it may have been, was that the OHAFC was languishing in C Grade and had been for many years.

Stink also noted the many talented Old Haileyburians playing at other clubs. The absence of these and other players from McKinnon was a recurring theme with him and a situation he found hard to come to terms with. He felt their presence would most likely make the club a force to be

¹ Interview with Andrew Home, 22 December 2010

² Personal communication, Ken Allison, December 2010

³ OHAFC 1977 Annual Report and Accounts (submitted 28 November 1977), Annual Report of the Committee of Management Season 1977

⁴ OHAFC 1978 Annual Report and Accounts (submitted 28 November 1978), President's Report, Season 1978

⁵ OHAFC 1985 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the Senior Coach

reckoned with. Langford-Jones stepped down as coach at the end of the 1985 season. He hinted that some building blocks had been put in place for the club to build upon when he stated:

After three years as coach I feel disappointed in the teams' results, but from a club point of view I feel we have grown immeasurably. Our depth of players is better, our administration is stronger and our financial position is more secure, but most importantly the club is a lot closer. A feeling of camaraderie now exists.⁶

Coaches

From 1985 through to 2010, the OHAFC had twelve Senior Coaches, eight of whom had played at VFL/AFL or VFA level, so the club was blessed with a wealth of experience to draw on to shape sides and develop players. This era is book-ended with coaches who attended the school, namely Andrew Langford-Jones and David Lappage. Neither played at the elite level but both are club legends.

Phil Stevens immediately went about setting a high standard when he arrived at McKinnon and created a launch pad for the club. Simon Meehan oversaw the fuse being lit as the Bloods burst out of C Section in 1989, never to return. These were heady times but the club had a talented squad instilled with a strong sense of self-belief. As President, Ken Allison led the club skilfully and with a great sense of purpose. His mantra was always to nurture and cherish the new and improved version of the club that was emerging – perhaps knowing full well how easily it can all slip away. Such are the vagaries of amateur football.

A Stable Home

Many factors have contributed to the relative stability of the OHAFC over the past 25 years, especially its long-term home base at McKinnon that has served it well. Relations with the Councils it has had to deal with (Moorabbin and Glen Eira) have been cordial for the most part. The only time the Old Haileyburians' occupancy was seriously threatened was in 1994 when the City of Moorabbin considered relocating the club to Bailey Reserve in East Bentleigh. The club made a submission to the Moorabbin Council which made the following case:

The OHAFC has contributed over \$30,000 towards the installation, improvement and maintenance of the physical facilities at the McKinnon Reserve and has firm commitments to continue these ongoing efforts in the future.

Those who play for the OHAFC are drawn from both the Haileybury College community and local residents. As many as 3,000 City of Moorabbin constituents either have or once had a son who attended the College. Apart from providing local residents with the sole opportunity of playing amateur football within their municipality, the OHAFC has participated in a number of community activities within the City of Moorabbin.

⁶OHAFC 1985 Annual Report & Financial Accounts Report of the Senior Coach

Having completed its twelfth season at McKinnon, the OHAFC has enjoyed an extremely harmonious relationship with its summer co-tenants, the McKinnon Cricket Club, and has also contributed constructively to the McKinnon Reserve Advisory Committee.

The OHAFC is professionally managed by professional people and has a proven record of responsible property management in its tenancy to date at the McKinnon Reserve. It also has the resources and will to further improve facilities at the Reserve.⁷

Tellingly, no reference was made to the nature of the relationship with the Haileyburians' winter co-tenant, St Pauls East Bentleigh, which has been difficult at times due to the two clubs' significantly different cultures. One cannot help but think the sharing arrangement would work far better between two old boy amateur clubs or two district clubs rather than one of each.

Volunteers and Involvement

Another vitally important factor essential to the running of the club is the countless hours put in by volunteers who do everything from running the canteen, to timekeeping and goal umpiring. There are those who have run the bar and sold raffle tickets. Others have run the scoreboard, taken stats, run water or run messages for coaches. Some have thrived on organising social functions. There are those who have stepped up to join the Committee of Management or oversee the club's finances. Every job, no matter how big or small, is important to the running of OHAFC (and any other sporting organisation for that matter).

Volunteers come and go. Some enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere so much they never leave! Keith Schilling together with Felicity and Geoff Wigg readily spring to mind when it comes to this category. Former players are often motivated to put something back into the club they derived so much enjoyment from. Darren Seccull epitomises this approach as does Andrew Bonwick and Andrew Hicks; there have been many others.

Mention of names like Seccull and Bonwick is a reminder of how whole families have become involved in the club over the years, some almost literally from the cradle. Throw in a few McQueens, Langford-Jones, Masons and Phillips, and you have people who are the lifeblood of the club.

Not all supporters are necessarily well behaved or constructive in their comments, and the Bloods have had their fair share of vocalists who have offended opponents and umpires. Nor have they always taken the rub of the green with equanimity when dealing with officialdom. But on only a few occasions, such as the "racial abuse" case of 1997, have they dwelled over perceived injustices and not moved on.

Widely acknowledged as the OHAFC's most successful President, Ken Allison believed that the "involvement" of many, especially parents, was a key to success. For him, drawing people into the fun side of the club was imperative. He also saw that the appointment of a paid General Manager

⁷OHAFC Submission to the City of Moorabbin (12 August 1994) p3

would help players see that the club was professionally run, provided the Manager devoted time to them as people and took an interest in their studies and work outside football.

Allison believes that the club may have been lucky in that it had many “quality” individuals around both on and off the field. He also saw the benefits of his own communication and direct involvement with the players. An outstanding example was in the recruitment of champion centreman Chris McKenzie, which only came about when President and players worked together to have him play for the OHAFC. KA’s strategy of “involvement” is the best antidote to a club at risk of suffering from lack of depth.

Presidents

Perhaps the toughest gig of all to take on is that of President. The club has had General Managers in the past (Max Lyon and Tony Gilchrist are two who readily spring to mind) and hard-working Secretaries, but the President has to oversee the smooth functioning of the entire club. The President provides the glue that holds it all together and the demands on the time of anyone in the role are undoubtedly enormous. There have been nine Presidents at Old Haileyburians from 1985 to 2010. All would have had a hand in recruitment, sourcing sponsors, arranging volunteers and making sure the ground is properly marked. Liaising with the VAFA, the local council and the school fall into the President’s brief. These and many other duties besides.

Finances

Dennis Smith took on the role of President for eight years (from 1997 to 2004). During this time Old Haileyburians was relegated from A Section and promoted again after three years in B Section. Two Annual Reports from this era demonstrate the precarious and perpetually fluctuating nature of the club’s finances.

In 1999 then Treasurer Cameron Lasscock praised a number of people for their efforts in posting a trading profit of \$2,557. One of these was Dennis who provided a “virtually unlimited source of finance for the club”.⁸ The implication is that, at times, Dennis dipped into his own funds to make sure bills were paid. It was not the first time a club stalwart stepped up to avert a mini financial crisis. In 2001 a loss of over \$15,000 prompted Cameron to comment, “Going forward – if the club continues in the same way it has for the current year – it will struggle to survive in the next few years. A large sponsor is desperately needed to fill the gap that Robert Lane has left.”⁹ The 2001 season was not, by any means, the first in which OHAFC recorded an operating loss.

Each and every year the club has to budget for recurring (and inevitably increasing) expenses. These include VAFA affiliation fees, medical expenses, ground rental, insurance, footballs, trophies and so on. Figure 1 shows that the club’s expenses have risen steadily since 1985 but that somehow it has managed to raise income in line with these expenses. The OHAFC’s operating profits have never been anything but modest.

⁸ OHAFC Inc 1999 Annual Report & Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

⁹ OHAFC Inc 2001 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 14 November 2001) Report of the Treasurer

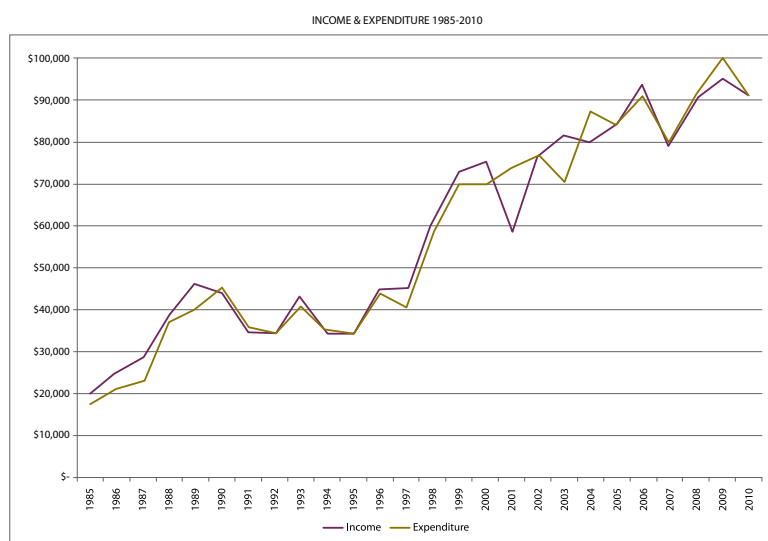


Figure 1

Contributing to the development and upkeep of McKinnon Reserve is another item that has to be allowed for. Unexpected expenses can include fines imposed by the VAFA. Payment of GST was a new consideration in 1999.

Non-payment of player subscriptions seems to have been a bone of contention forever. Fielding Club XVIII sides in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1999 brought additional costs that had to be covered. The inability of the OHAFC to field under-nineteen sides in 1995, 2003 and 2004 meant there was less imposition in the club's finances but the obvious downside was a smaller playing pool. There is no doubt that two consecutive years without the opportunity to recruit and develop young players could only be detrimental to club's prospects.

Figure 2 shows that VAFA affiliation fees have made up an increasing percentage of the OHAFC's total expenses, especially since they fell to a low point in 2004.

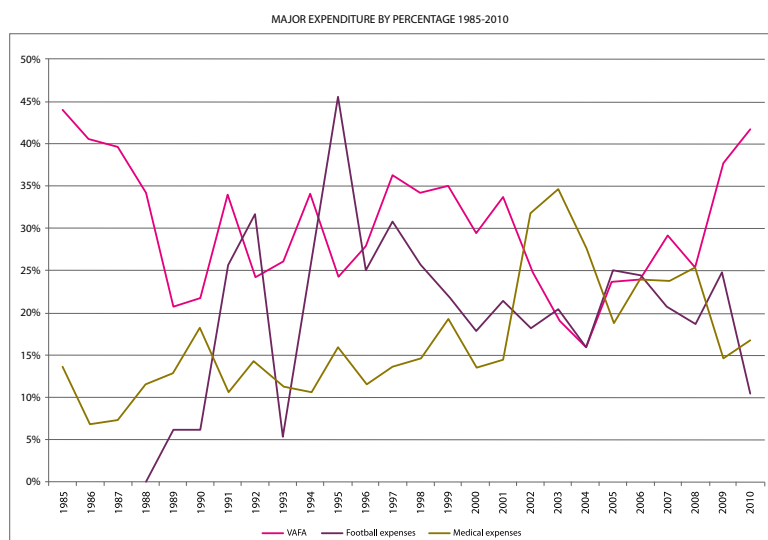


Figure 2

Mention of all these expenses highlights the vital importance of securing sponsorship but also the significant roles played by the canteen (in combination with the bar) and the Grand Final Breakfast in generating revenue for the club. The latter are two constants that can be relied upon year after year.

Another, often timely, contributor to the club's coffers through the years has been the Old Haileyburians' Association (OHA). The OHA may have a relatively low profile but the extent of the financial support it has given with loans should not be underestimated. An example of this turns up in Wayne Phillips' Treasurer's Report from 1998. Wayne noted, "Cash balances are significantly higher due to the proceeds of a loan for \$10,000 made available by the OHA. This loan will be used to improve training facilities, largely through the planned installation of additional lighting at the Tucker Road oval."¹⁰

The alarming \$15,000 dollar loss recorded by the club in 2001 was largely due to the absence of a major sponsor. The capacity of companies to offer sponsorship often reflects the economic climate which can mean there are more benefactors in some years than others. In 1985 the club had seven major sponsors (one of whom was none other than Frank Northcott). This resulted in \$2,820 being added to the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

By 2009 the OHAFC had a major sponsor; a major jumper sponsor; 26 associate sponsors and memberships available at Gold, Club and Social level. In addition there were seven sponsored players. Despite this the club recorded a loss of \$4,414. The pressure to find sponsors and innovative ways of generating income never ceases, and the importance of sponsorship income is clearly evident in Figure 3.

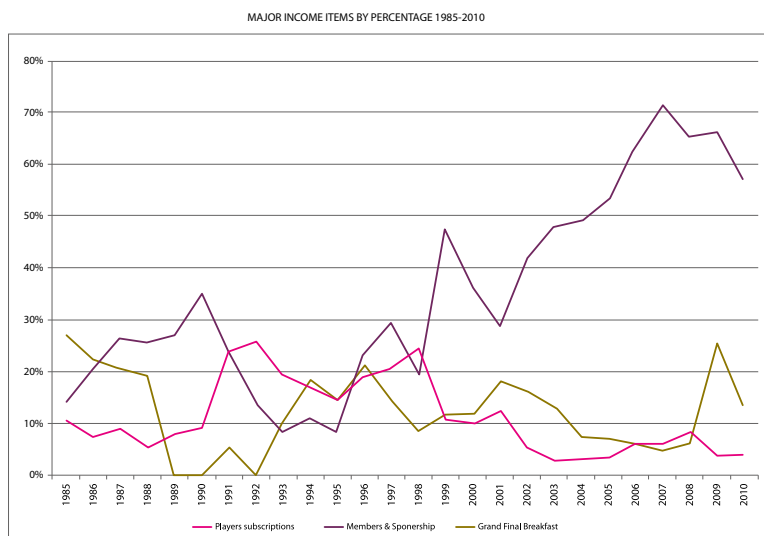


Figure 3

¹⁰ OHAFC Inc 1998 Annual Report of Financial Accounts, Report of the Treasurer

Relationship with the School

The relationship the club has had with the school during the past twenty-five years has been smooth and relatively free of tension, no doubt helped by the move away from Keysborough and the Fisher Oval. Having the school force the club's hand to move in the early-1980s was in hindsight a blessing, as the Keysborough dream nearly killed the OHAFC.

The Bloods played a number of matches on the Main Oval at Keysborough in the mid-1990s, particularly when the McKinnon Reserve Oval underwent resurfacing in 1998. The club has also taken advantage of the school's facilities for pre-season training at different times.

This harmonious state of affairs has been assisted by people such as Ken Phillips and Peter Carlson who both taught at the school. Dennis Smith was employed by the school during his Presidency, which made him ideally placed to ensure the link was solid and mutually beneficial. David Lappage is uniquely positioned to foster and enhance this relationship.

Relationship with the VAFA

Generally the Old Haileyburians' relationship with the VAFA has been an excellent one and the club, its players and its members have contributed substantially to representative teams and the administration of the Association. Occasionally, particularly in the late-1990s, it became prickly and created awkward and uncomfortable moments for both Phil Stevens and Andrew Langford-Jones when they occupied positions on the VAFA Executive. Understandably neither could afford to be perceived as playing favourites or having a conflict of interest.

Perhaps there was a whiff of arrogance hanging around the Bloods in the 1990s that stemmed from the success they enjoyed. Some would argue that a measure of arrogance is needed to achieve success. Others would suggest arrogance sets a club apart and attracts attention from other quarters that it could otherwise do without. There is clearly a fine line between the two.

Everyone on the Same Side

If all the diverse relationships the OHAFC has had with third parties over the years are set aside there is a very commendable aspect to the way the club has been run over the years. This relates to the relative absence of toxic divisions and factionalism that have the potential to distract a club and even to tear it apart.

Andrew Bonwick's insightful comment in the 2009 Annual Report was that "When the various club presidents get together, many of them talk about the various in-fighting and politics at their club however I can honestly say that we do not have any of those issues and everyone has our footy club's best interests at heart which we should all be proud of".¹¹ Any disagreements relating to the running of the club appear to have

¹¹ OHAFC Inc 2009 Annual Report & Financial Accounts
(submitted 19 November 2009) President's Report

been contained within the committees of management formed from season to season.

Communications

With the passing of time there have been other forces at play that have subtly influenced the growth and evolution of the club as well as society in general. Back in 1985 very few people had mobile phones. We were not as connected as we are today. Now it is very rare for people to not have at least a mobile phone. Who in 1985, let alone 1961, would have imagined the existence of an OHAFC website let alone understood what one was? Nowadays the VAFA probably relies more on its website as a communication tool than it does on *The Amateur Footballer*. In the late 1980s and early 1990s at Old Haileyburians, coaches messages, gossip, statistics and club events were conveyed via newsletter handed out at training. Nowadays supporters and followers of the Bloods receive at least one information-rich email a week from President Andrew Hicks. Emails provide an avenue to promote sponsors and give them due recognition.

Playing Conditions

Over the past 10 years or so Melbourne has had to cope with a prolonged drought. Yet there was a time when there was significant rainfall over winter. Knowing how to play 'wet weather football' was a distinct advantage for any side. Every club had at least a couple of players who would come to the fore on a boggy track. Excerpts of the match report of an away game played against Kew in 1990 give a humorous and accurate account of weather conditions that are now rare in Melbourne.

OH journeyed to Kew for the last home and away round of the season and went down by 4 points. Played in worse than atrocious conditions, the game was notable only for its rare scoring opportunities. Faced with a sea of mud extending the length of the ground, the match committee was frantic before the game in their endeavours to work out which members of the team were non-swimmers! Luckily all the players were in fact strong swimmers and they paddled out to take up their positions without mishap ...

The first quarter (and the remaining three) was characterised by the continual scrum from one end of the ground to the other. Forward Darren Maradona Williams soccered through a goal from an impossible angle and the Bloods led 1.3 to 1.1 at the break. After a minor delay caused by both coaches not being able to recognise their charges and therefore almost proceeding to address the wrong huddles, the row boats were moored and the event continued ...

OH and Kew now have a week's rest to dry off before meeting again at Elsternwick Park in the second semi-final.¹²

¹² David Southgate, Match report in OHAFC Archives, 25 August 1990

OHAFC in the Media

For a relatively small club it is fair to say the Bloods have had a decent share of the media spotlight over the years. Garry Phillips featured as VAFA Player of the Week in the long defunct *Sunday Press* on 5 June 1988.¹³ The accompanying piece was written by Jon Anderson. Anderson's name is also attached to a similar article published in 1990 which announced Chris McKenzie as the Trophy Town *Sunday Herald* Amateur player of the week. Anderson indicated Macca was referred to as the "poor man's Greg Williams"¹⁴ down McKinnon way. Diesel was playing for the Sydney Swans at the time.

In May 2002 the late Geoff McClure wrote an entertaining story published in *The Age* entitled "Umps sack the Umps".¹⁵ The piece referred to an away match played by Old Haileyburians against Ormond and detailed a series of events that resulted in two boundary umpires and a goal umpire having been banished to the sidelines by the time the final siren sounded. One of the boundary umpires was none other than the shy and retiring Dave Connell. It is hard to imagine the powers that be at VAFA headquarters were best pleased with the depiction of events. Despite this, those supporters present at the game will recall fondly the storming nine goal last quarter produced by the Bloods. It led to a 13 point victory. The Bloods had been down by 44 points at the end of the third quarter. Ormond could manage only two behinds in the last term.

Moving forward to 2004 and Jonathan Horn wrote a feature article published in *The Age* which detailed the story of the club's first international recruit, Dave Thurmond who hailed from Texas via California. Thurmond was quoted extensively in Horn's story. He placed particular emphasis on the importance of mateship to him and commented that "You just don't get that in the States. You've got 22 guys on the same page, playing together, partying together, making connections. Hell, even if you need a ride somewhere there's always someone at the club to help you out. We just don't get that back home".¹⁶ Arguably this ethos lays at the heart of every amateur football club but it reflects particularly well on OHAFC.

Mixed press coverage emerged in 2007. The club was mentioned in a *Herald-Sun* article about the rise to prominence of Stefan Martin. In the accompanying action photo, Stef wears an Old Haileyburians guernsey and socks despite having joined Sandringham. He had just been selected by Melbourne in the pre-season draft. Unfortunately Stewart Loewe received some unwelcome media attention after being reported for striking in the Round 5 match against Collegians. He was a member of the AFL Tribunal at the time.¹⁷

Adversity

While the success that has come to the OHAFC over the years has been the cause for much celebration there have also been moments that have brought heartache and anguish. These moments can and do impact any small, close-knit community. Communities form around sporting clubs just as they are formed around towns and schools. The OHAFC was severely shaken by the unfortunate injury to Cameron Lasscock in 1989. Equally upsetting were the untimely deaths of Ken Phillips in 1995 and

¹³ *Sunday Press*, 5 June 1988

¹⁴ *Sunday Herald*, 19 August 1990

¹⁵ Geoff McClure, *The Age (Sporting Life)* 21 May 2002

¹⁶ Jonathan Horn, *The Age (Sport section)* 28 June 2004, p2

¹⁷ *The Sunday Age*, 27 May 2007

Dicky Metherall in 2002. In 1998 there was shock at the news that player Simon Davey had developed cancer.

The strength of any community is how it responds in times of adversity. In most seasons since 1995, the OHAFC and the School's First Eighteen has played for the Ken Phillips Memorial Trophy. This match is a unique opportunity for the club to promote itself and recruit those young footballers willing to wear the Magenta and Black after they have left school. The annual match has since evolved into the Ken Phillips Community Day and involves a number of sports. It is a fitting tribute to Ken.

In 1998 when it emerged that Simon Davey had developed cancer a well-supported fund-raiser was held at the Mackie Road Bowls Club. The aim was to cover some of Simon's medical expenses. John Connell acted as auctioneer on the night and a number of donated items were sold. Many thousands of dollars were raised and Simon went on to make a full recovery. The response of the OHAFC was acknowledged by Dennis Smith who commented fittingly in the 1998 Annual Report that it "was a great example of what we can achieve as a group of people."¹⁸ This remark is an apt one when applied to the overall history of the club.

An Enigma? Or Punching Above Its Weight?

From the time of the Old Haileyburians' ascent into A Grade in 1991, various coaches, scribes and supporters have at times branded them an enigma and bemoaned a lack of consistency. Every man who coached the club through the 1990s, from Meehan through to Papotto, put this characteristic down to a lack of depth. While the Blood's best players could match it with any in the competition, they seemed to be less easily replaced than their counterparts at other clubs.

Some have suggested that a year of greater than usual injuries would result in not only more players playing in the firsts but also less wins and a lower position on the ladder. This has not always been the case and it is difficult to see a relationship, as illustrated by Figure 4.

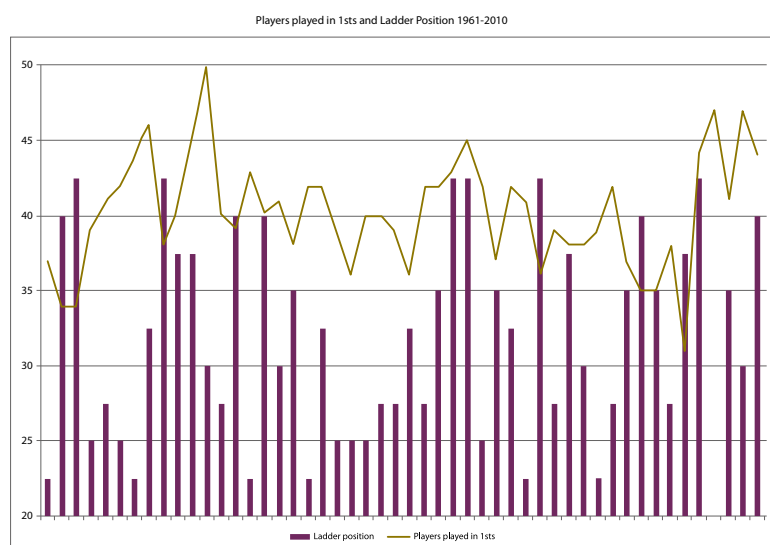


Figure 4

The Bloods won senior premierships playing 34 (1963), 38 (1969), 43 (1989), 45 (1990), 36 (1995) and 44 (2006) players in the firsts during the year. They were relegated playing 44 (1967), 43 (1975), 42 (1979), 41 (1994), 39 (1999) and 47 (2007) players.

Spare a thought for 1972 coach Rodger Head, who had 50 players appear in the firsts. The Chairman of Selectors is not known but he must have been busy. The lowest number was 2005, when only 31 played in the firsts. Having finished a game and a half clear on top, the Bloods exited the A Grade finals in straight sets after their stars Paul Corrigan, Brett O'Farrell and Carl Steinfort were all injured in the last round before the finals.

The record of the Old Haileyburians' senior team is in stark contrast to that of their reserves and under-nineteens. The firsts have won over 51% of their games, the reserves 44% and the under-nineteens only 41%. The teams' percentages over fifty years are 104%, 86% and 92% respectively. It has generally been a constant battle to field an under-nineteen team and for a number of seasons the club was not able to do so, despite promising beginnings for the juniors in 1978. So maybe the seniors at least have "punched above their weight" given the apparently weak support they have received from the other teams.

Since 1983, players from OHAFC sides have been selected to represent the VAFA every year except 1996, 1998, 2001 and 2002. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects some of the elite talent that has pulled on the Magenta and Black jumper. It also goes some way to demonstrating that the club has persisted and pushed on despite lean times and weak teams. Old adversaries such as Parkside, Hampton Rovers, Banyule, Mazenod, Therry and Ormond have fallen by the wayside or been left behind. All have been fierce rivals in seasons gone by.

One thing that Old Haileyburians teams have generally not lacked has been size; they always seemed to have their fair share of big, physical men. The abilities and in many cases lengthy careers of the likes of Zeke Davies, Alan Ross, Dave Eagle, Peter Gadsden, Don McQueen, John Warnock, John Houghton, Roger Paul, David Code, Michael Porter, Terry Bouris, Neville Schmidt, the Seccull brothers, John Bingham, Mark Orton, Ian Kidgell, Darren Williams, Andrew Walden, the Hilton brothers, Paul Hucker, Paddy O'Donnell, Brett O'Farrell, Stewie Loewe, Andrew Jenke and Hammer McLauchlan have seen to that.

Despite all the tall timber, the Bloods have only had one super goal-kicker who played regularly in the firsts in their first fifty years. Even players of the calibre of Brett Voss, Andrew Walden, Brett O'Farrell and Nik Morey could not exceed seventy goals in a season, whereas Bowring's best was 83. He won the goal-kicking countless times.

Of those who kicked over one hundred goals in the firsts, O'Farrell kicked most goals per game (2.75), followed by Bowring (2.57), Voss (2.28), Morey (2.22), Jeff Robertson (2.11), Walden (2.10) and David Lappage (1.85). Wayne Shand's 83 goals came at a rate of 2.02 per game.

Ultimate Success

In their early days the Old Haileyburians lived up to the promise of their club song to "Play Hard and Play for The Game". But halfway through their first fifty years they found a way to Play Harder.

There is an old adage that success breeds success. By the end of the 1990 season the OHAFC had won back-to-back premierships and the long-held dream of competing at the highest level of Amateur football had been realised. Talk of a third consecutive flag was not that far-fetched, but Old Haileyburians had arrived on the big stage while barely stopping for breath. The club had serious momentum and many people were taking notice. Nevertheless, the Holy Grail of an A Section flag proved elusive and did not come quickly or easily.

In reaching their ultimate goal, Old Haileyburians were also well-served by that significant but intangible element called luck. Good luck is often a consideration when success in any area of life is analysed. Bad luck comes to the fore when plans fail to work as anticipated. Outsiders may argue the Bloods had a lucky year in 2006. Those in the know would suggest a visionary approach and an extended build-up led to Old Haileyburians securing the highest prize available in VAFA football. There was much hard work done on and off the field over a number of years before an A Section flag was raised at McKinnon.

There has always been optimism, passion and foresight at Old Haileyburians. The intensity of these factors ebbs and flows with each season. If they are harnessed and used well then the club will always have a solid platform for success. The smell and taste of success has been sweet when it has come along over the past fifty years, and especially the last twenty-five. It has been a privilege to have been on part of the journey.

As Frank Northcott said in his foreword to "Play Hard and Play for The Game" back in 1984,

Vivat Haileyburia
Sursum Corda
Come on the Bloods!

Allen White
David Southgate
January 2011

EPILOGUE

*"We'll keep pushing til it's understood
And these Badlands start treating us good"*

- "Badlands", Bruce Springsteen

President Tim Cegwin introduced the players as they ran down a race of supporters one by one that A Grade premiership night at McKinnon. The "Badlands" weren't just "treating us good", they were rockin'. This was a special moment for all the players, and "something I'll never forget" was the common response.

As Mark Seccull put it, "For all the people I had played with over the years, the friendships I'd made, and the people who'd poured their heart and soul into the club - people like Ken Allison and many, many others - this was Our Moment. We had made it".

The "Badlands" moniker still bemused some of the club's older hands. Many wondered just how intimidating the McKinnon Oval would have been compared to say, the once-feared Reservoir Old Boys or Parkside. Surely the legendary "Parkside Hamstring" hadn't been turned on its head? But the tears flowed, as did the drinks on this historic night.

After the final siren, Stewie Loewe took off his size 15 boots and dumped them in the bin. "Won't be needing these again!" he said. They were immediately retrieved by David Mackenzie who said, "I'll have these, they might be worth something!" As disappointing as his game turned out, Loewe said, "I felt I'd contributed during the year, and my one handball at the thirty second mark was probably the game's turning point!"

Peter Nicholson saw the significance of the victory. "There's three generations involved now, which made it emotional. There were a couple of examples of dads who'd played in premierships whose sons played in this one. The old timers who formed the club were walking around in their moth eaten jumpers from forty years ago celebrating and drinking out of the cup".

That Premiership Cup made its presence felt on the dance floor and when finally propped up on the bar at Khyat's Hotel on the Monday morning, it contained a sizeable dent.

Later that Sunday night, a bus transferred the group to the Seccull family compound in Bangholme where the party continued until the early hours. A few players somehow mustered the energy to chase the Secculls' chooks as if they were Old Xavs midfielders. As dawn approached and the temperature dropped, several Seccull outdoor chairs were added to the bonfire.

Mark Seccull's final words said it all. "No-one can ever take away that day and the memories that the 21 players have in creating history for this great club".

STATISTICS



OHAFC Year-By-Year Team Summaries

Year	1st XVIII						Reserves					U19						3rd
	SEC	P	W	L	D	POS	P	W	L	D	POS	SEC	P	W	L	D	POS	POS
1961	E	18	3	15	0	9th												
1962	E	20	16	4	0	2nd												
1963	D	20	17	3	0	Prem	16	7	9	0	5th							
1964	C	19	7	12	0	8th	20	14	4	2	3rd							
1965	C	18	7	11	0	7th	18	5	13	0	7th							
1966	C	18	7	11	0	8th	18	8	10	0	5th							
1967	C	18	2	16	0	9th	18	3	15	0	9th							
1968	D	18	10	8	0	5th	20	17	3	0	Prem							
1969	D	20	17	2	1	Prem	20	15	5	0	3rd							
1970	C	20	13	7	0	3rd	18	7	11	0	7th							
1971	C	20	10	8	2	3rd	18	7	11	0	6th							
1972	C	18	7	11	0	6th	18	8	10	0	7th							Prem
1973	C	18	5	12	1	7th	22	15	6	1	Prem							Prem
1974	C	20	14	6	0	2nd	19	11	7	1	4th							
1975	B	18	3	15	0	9th	18	9	9	0	6th							
1976	C	21	15	6	0	2nd	19	12	7	0	4th							
1977	B	18	8	10	0	6th	18	5	13	0	8th							Prem
1978	B	18	8	8	2	4th	16	5	11	0	8th	J2	20	17	2	1	Prem	
1979	B	18	7	11	0	9th	18	6	12	0	8th	J1	18	8	9	1	6th	
1980	C	18	9	9	0	5th	20	12	8	0	3rd	J1	20	15	5	0	Prem	
1981	C	18	5	13	0	8th	18	10	8	0	5th	J1	18	6	12	0	7th	
1982	C	18	5	13	0	8th	18	3	15	0	9th	J1	18	1	17	0	9th	
1983	C	18	7	11	0	8th	18	8	10	0	6th	J2	18	11	7	0	5th	
1984	C	18	8	10	0	7th	20	14	6	0	3rd							
1985	C	18	7	11	0	7th	18	8	10	0	6th	Z2	18	2	15	0	10th	Prem

Year	1st XVIII						Reserves					U19						3rd POS
	SEC	P	W	L	D	POS	P	W	L	D	POS	SEC	P	W	L	D	POS	
1986	C	18	9	9	0	5th	18	8	10	0	6th	Z2	20	14	6	0	3rd	
1987	C	18	6	12	0	7th	18	9	9	0	7th	J2	21	14	7	0	2nd	
1988	C	19	13	6	0	4th	20	16	4	0	2nd	J1	18	7	11	0	6th	
1989	C	21	19	2	0	Prem	21	18	3	0	Prem	J1	18	12	6	0	5th	
1990	B	20	16	4	0	Prem	19	14	5	0	4th	J1	18	7	11	0	7th	
1991	A	18	9	9	0	8th	18	8	10	0	6th	J1	18	11	7	0	6th	
1992	A	19	10	9	0	4th	18	3	15	0	10th	J1	18	2	16	0	10th	
1993	A	18	9	9	0	5th	18	3	15	0	10th	J1	18	6	12	0	7th	
1994	A	18	5	13	0	9th	18	2	16	0	9th	J1	18	1	16	1	9th	
1995	B	20	17	3	0	Prem	18	7	11	0	5th							
1996	A	18	9	9	0	7th	18	3	15	0	10th	2 BL	16	11	5	0	4th	
1997	A	20	12	7	1	3rd	18	3	15	0	8th	J2	18	9	8	1	6th	
1998	A	18	9	9	0	6th	18	2	16	0	10th	J2	18	7	11	0	7th	
1999	A	18	5	13	0	9th	18	5	13	0	9th	J2	20	16	4	0	2nd	
2000	B	18	7	11	0	7th	18	7	11	0	7th	J1	18	1	17	0	11th	
2001	B	19	11	8	0	4th	20	17	3	0	Prem	J2	17	7	10	0	7th	
2002	B	21	14	7	0	2nd	20	13	7	0	3rd	J2	16	0	16	0	9th	
2003	A	19	11	8	0	4th	18	10	8	0	5th							
2004	A	18	6	12	0	7th	18	10	8	0	5th							
2005	A	20	14	5	1	3rd	18	8	10	0	7th	2 BL	18	6	12	0	6th	
2006	A	20	15	5	0	Prem	18	1	17	0	10th	2 BL	18	16	2	0	3rd	
2007	A	18	2	16	0	10th	18	1	17	0	10th	STH	20	10	7	1	3rd	
2008	B	19	12	7	0	4th	18	7	11	0	6th	STH	18	2	16	0	9th	
2009	B	18	10	8	0	6th	18	3	15	0	10th	STH	17	3	14	0	8th	
2010	B	21	13	8	0	2nd	18	3	15	0	9th	STH	18	1	17	0	10th	
Totals		940	480	452	8		886	390	492	4			529	223	298	5		
All Teams								2355	1093	1242	17							

Club Records Team

Match records

Match Records	1sts	Reserves	U19s
Highest score for	43.13 (271) 1989 v Ivanhoe	20.20 (176) 1990 v Banyule	41.31 (277) 1978 v Old Caulfield
Highest score against	34.23 (227) 1985 by Fawkner	37.10 (232) 2009 by St Kevins OB	41.31 (277) 1994 by Old Xaverians
Lowest score for	2.8 (20) 1998 v Old Xaverians	0.1 (1) 2007 v University Blues	0.4 (4) 1988 v De La Salle OC
Lowest score against	0.4 (4) 1995 by Banyule	0.1 (1) 1965 by West Brunswick	0.0 (0) 1988 by Bulleen-Templestowe
Greatest winning margin	212 points 1989 v Ivanhoe	168 points 1990 v Banyule	274 points 1978 v Old Caulfield
Greatest losing margin	187 points 1985 v Fawkner	208 points 2009 v St Kevins OB	221 points 1982 v Ormond 2000 v St Kevins OB

Season records

Match Records	1sts	Reserves	U19s
Highest total for	442.340 (2992) 1989	275.215 (1865) 1990	334.331 (2335) 1978
Highest total against	310.297 (2157) 1982	400.278 (2678) 1994	397.312 (2694) 1982
Lowest total for	130.185 (965) 1961	72.66 (498) 2007	95.99 (669) 1985
Lowest total against	146.126 (1002) 1962	107.158 (800) 1968	135.150 (960) 2006
Highest percentage	206.1% 1989	232.3% 1990	232.6% 1978
Lowest percentage	52.7% 2007	21.8% 2007	30.2% 2000

Club Records Individual

Most Games

1sts	Reserves	U19s	All Games
281 MR Armstrong	219 JA Bonwick	51 DC Korlos	302 MR Armstrong
258 MW Seccull	167 RW Metherall	49 JK Parton	293 MW Seccull
227 NW Schmidt	161 BP Ladds	49 RN Parton	280 NW Schmidt
214 PGA Bowring	158 RA Forbes	49 MM Simons	249 WR Smith
205 AS Home	148 SA Saunders	46 BJ Dolman	247 RD Gerny
198 RI Paul	135 BP Main	41 TJ Doran	246 BA Carson
193 DA Connell	130 WR Smith		245 AS Home
188 BA Carson	128 B Langford-Jones		240 JA Bonwick
186 RD Gerny	127 RB Lavender		235 RW Metherall
181 AJ Walden	127 LR Pitcher		230 DG Lappage

Most Career Goals

1sts	Reserves	U19s	All Games
551 PGA Bowring	341 C Efstathiou	117 C Efstathiou	555 PGA Bowring
381 AJ Walden	222 RJ Wise	94 GB Lasscock	502 C Efstathiou
330 DG Lappage	142 JD Robertson	89 AD Brudar	437 DG Lappage
286 NW Schmidt	132 PG Atkinson	72 JD Robertson	396 AJ Walden
203 MW Seccull	109 CR Quick	71 RM Johnson	349 JD Robertson
184 AS Home	107 AJL Williams		332 NW Schmidt
176 BG O'Farrell	99 RW Metherall		272 RJ Wise
174 WD Byrns	84 DG Lappage		241 AJL Williams
170 GL Phillips	84 PJ Noske		240 PJ Noske
166 TA Bouris	81 DW Young		232 MW Seccull
166 CAJ Kraus			
166 PL Mason			

Most Goals in a Game

1sts	Reserves	U19s
13 PB Gadsden 1974 v National Bank	10 PG Atkinson 1969 v St Patricks OC	14 C Efstathiou 1996 v Monash Blues
12 PGA Bowring 1971 v National Bank	10 NW Schmidt 1990 v Banyule	14 C Efstathiou 1998 v University Blacks
11 PGA Bowring 1969 v St Patricks OC	10 C Efstathiou 2001 v Whitefriars	13 GD Tanner 1988 v Old Paradians
11 NW Schmidt 1981 v Alphington	9 DJC Hodge 1984 v Old Camberwell	12 RJ Stewart 1986 v University Blacks
11 AJ Walden 1989 v Old Caulfield	9 GB Lasscock 1989 v Ivanhoe	12 AD Brudar 1999 v St Bedes Mentone
		12 AD Brudar 1999 v Yarra Valley

Most Goals in a Season

1sts	Reserves	U19s
83 PGA Bowring (1969)	83 C Efstathiou (2001)	78* AD Brudar (1999)
69 PGA Bowring (1971)	68 C Efstathiou (2002)	56 PJ Noske (1979)
69 BC Voss (2010)	61 C Efstathiou (2005)	56 A Johnston (2008)
67 PGA Bowring (1962)	53 C Efstathiou (2003)	55 GB Lasscock (1987)
66 AJ Walden (1989)	45 PG Atkinson (1969)	54 JD Robertson (1980)
66 NS Morey (1995)	44 JD Robertson (1990)	53 C Efstathiou (1998)
64 BG O'Farrell (2005)	43 RJ Wise (1987)	

* In 1999 Brudar also kicked 13 goals in the 1sts, so kicked 91 for the season in all matches

Honorary Life Members

Year	Life Member	Year	Life Member
1971	TEK Fisher	1994	TM Lyon
1972	AW Kellock		GT Meadows
1974	FN Northcott		DW Young
1975	WA Butterss	1997	DE Carty
1976	PGA Bowring		SM Connell
	AS Home		BP Ladds
	DE Lord		JF Warnock
1977	RW Metherall		FA Wigg
1978	RJ Pollock	1998	DW Carty
	DM Ponsford		JW Connell
1979	AL Langford-Jones		AM Orton
	DG McQueen		JKD Schilling
1980	JA Bonwick		WR Smith
	AJL Williams	2000	MR Armstrong
1982	PM Davies		DH Lord
1983	PE Collins	2001	DA Connell
1984	KK Allison	2002	GS Lappage
	RI Paul		DP Seccull
1985	JL Houghton		DE Smith
	PL Mason	2003	DG Lappage
	HW Metherall		PM Lappage
	IC Nichols	2004	AM Baxter
1986	ME Bonwick		AJ Bonwick
	JMcM Corrigan	2005	MW Seccull
	NW Schmidt	2006	BA Carson
1987	JR Cracknell		BH Lay
	DC Southgate	2008	EJ Caspers
1989	RD Gerny	2009	PR O'Donnell
1991	PJ Noske	2010	D Mason

Appointments & Awards

Year	Administrative				Service Awards	
	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Barrie Berggy	M&Bs
1961	GL Dethridge	RW Home	MB Brown	GRG Harwood		
1962	GL Dethridge	RW Home	JR Davies	GRG Harwood	GRG Harwood	
1963	GL Dethridge	RW Home	JR MacFarlane	GRG Harwood	JR MacFarlane	
1964	TEK Fisher	RW Home	PW MacFarlane	GRG Harwood	PW MacFarlane	
1965	TEK Fisher	BT Berggy	AW Kellock	DM Ponsford	AW Kellock	
1966	TEK Fisher	BT Berggy	AW Kellock	DM Ponsford	D Cox	
1967	BT Berggy	GRG Harwood	AW Kellock	DM Ponsford	AW Kellock	
1968	BT Berggy TEK Fisher	GRG Harwood	AW Kellock	DM Ponsford	AW Kellock	
1969	RB Venn	GRG Harwood	AW Kellock	DM Ponsford	TEK Fisher	
1970	RB Venn	GRG Harwood	DF Regan	DM Ponsford	DF Regan	
1971	RB Venn	AW Kellock	DF Regan	KD MacFarlane	GRG Harwood	DF Regan
1972	RB Venn	AW Kellock	DF Regan	PB Marshall	DM Ponsford	JA Bonwick
1973	DM Child	JD Augustine DG McQueen	WH Neville	PB Marshall	TP Parkes	PL Parkes
1974	DM Child	DG McQueen	WH Neville	JF Rigby	DG McQueen	TP Parkes
1975	DG McQueen	PGA Bowring	RJ Pollock	JF Rigby	JR Gyngell	RW Metherall
1976	DG McQueen	PGA Bowring	RJ Pollock	JF Rigby	AL Langford-Jones	JW Stahmer
1977	DE Lord	RJ Pollock	GR Tuck	JF Warnock	RW Metherall	NF Edwards
1978	KK Allison	DG McQueen	RJ Pollock	RJ Sincok	MJ Pritchard	DJ Browne
1979	KK Allison	DG McQueen	RJ Pollock	RJ Sincok	RJ Pollock	DH Lovig
1980	KK Allison	RJ Sincok	RJ Horne	DE Lord	JL Houghton	M Watkins
1981	PM Davies	JA Bonwick	RA Forbes	DE Lord	JA Bonwick	DH Lovig
1982	PM Davies	JA Bonwick	RA Forbes	PJ Chambers	JA Bonwick	RW Metherall
1983	DG McQueen	JA Bonwick	GT Meadows	PG Derham	MA Newton	JA Taylor
1984	DG McQueen	JA Bonwick DE Lord	JA Taylor	GA Billings	AL Langford-Jones	JA Bonwick
1985	RI Paul	GT Meadows CR Bowman	DC Southgate	GA Billings	DC Southgate	JA Taylor
1986	RI Paul	AL Langford-Jones GT Meadows	DC Southgate	JA Taylor	DC Southgate	TA Sinclair
1987	RI Paul	AL Langford-Jones BN Tonkin	DC Southgate	MR Dale	RD Gerny	AM Doyle
1988	KK Allison	RJ Boag	CR Bowman	MR Dale	G March	GJ Taylor
1989	KK Allison	RJ Boag	TM Lyon	WH Smith	RD Wilson	AJ Mitchem
1990	KK Allison	RJ Boag PGA Bowring	AN Gilchrist	GR Sincok	BN Tonkin	CJ Ladds
1991	PGA Bowring	GR Sincok	AN Gilchrist	PJ Noske	PN Seccull	AM Baxter
1992	PGA Bowring	RI Paul	JKD Schilling	PG Derham	AN Gilchrist	RD Gerny
1993	KF Phillips	JW Connell	JKD Schilling	PG Derham	MS Constable	
1994	KF Phillips	JW Connell	RB Lavender	AR Mytton	DP Seccull	
1995	KF Phillips JF Warnock	JW Connell JF Warnock	F Interrigi	AR Mytton	JKD Schilling	
1996	JF Warnock	PL Mason	TJ Brain	PN Bennett	G March	
1997	DE Smith	JF Warnock	CG Lasscock TW Dunphy	WA Phillips	RW Metherall	
1998	DE Smith	JF Warnock	DE Smith	WA Phillips	JW Connell	
1999	DE Smith	GL Phillips	DE Smith	CG Lasscock	GS Lappage	
2000	DE Smith	GL Phillips	DE Smith	CG Lasscock	GW Wigg	
2001	DE Smith	GL Phillips	DE Smith	CG Lasscock	BH Lay	
2002	DE Smith	GL Phillips	DE Smith	AD Forsyth	JKD Schilling	

Year	Administrative				Service Awards	
	President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Barrie Berggy	M&Bs
2003	DE Smith	GL Phillips	DE Smith	AD Forsyth	BR Carson	
2004	DE Smith	AM Baxter DP Seccull	DE Smith	AD Forsyth	BN Mitchell	
2005	TP Chegwin	DP Seccull	JKD Schilling	AL Kirkwood-Scott	RD & M McCarthy	
2006	TP Chegwin	DP Seccull	RR Chegwin	RR Chegwin	RR Chegwin	
2007	AJ Bonwick	AJH Hicks DP Seccull	AJH Hicks	BA Carson	BR Carson	
2008	AJ Bonwick	MR Armstrong AJH Hicks	AJH Hicks	BA Carson	J Wright	
2009	AJ Bonwick	AJH Hicks	AJH Hicks	N Millar	AP Shepherd	
2010	AJH Hicks	MW Seccull AM Doyle	AM Doyle	J Siapantis	MJ Kelly	

Year	1st XVIII Appointments				1st XVIII Awards		
	Coach	Captain	Vice-Captain	Deputy Vice-Captain	B&F	Runner-Up	Goal Kicking
1961	RB Venn RW Home	AS Home			DA McLean	RW Home	DF Sutherland (23)
1962	PM Davies	PM Davies	AS Home		DW Young	AS Home DE Smith	PGA Bowring (67)
1963	PM Davies	PM Davies	AS Home		AS Home	AB Ross	PGA Bowring (49)
1964	R Catherall	AS Home	AB Ross		DW Young	AB Ross	PGA Bowring (47)
1965	BAR Clarke	AS Home	PW MacFarlane		AB Ross	AS Home	PGA Bowring (39)
1966	TM Lyon	TM Lyon	AS Home	PD Burke	PGA Bowring	AS Home TM Lyon	PGA Bowring (31)
1967	PM Davies	PM Davies	AS Home	PD Burke	IR Bannon	TM Lyon	AJ Elsom (26)
1968	DOH Cranch	TM Lyon	PM Davies	AS Home	EJ Mulvey	DA Eagle	PGA Bowring (51)
1969	DOH Cranch	AS Home	DA Eagle	PGA Bowring	AJL Williams	PB Gadsden	PGA Bowring (83)
1970	DOH Cranch	AS Home	GB Marshall	PB Gadsden	PB Gadsden	AS Home	D Young (41)
1971	RA Head	AS Home	GB Marshall	PL Mason	PL Mason	DF Regan	PGA Bowring (69)
1972	RA Head	DG McQueen	GB Marshall	PGA Bowring	JL Houghton	PL Mason	PGA Bowring (45)
1973	DW Young	DG McQueen	GB Marshall	PGA Bowring	NG Cocks	GB Marshall	M Storrer (56)
1974	JHN Masters	PB Gadsden	PL Mason	JL Houghton	RI Paul	JL Houghton	PB Gadsden (52)
1975	JHN Masters	PL Mason	JR Cracknell	RI Paul	RI Paul	AL Langford-Jones	PGA Bowring (33)
1976	MB Porter	PL Mason	RI Paul	AL Langford-Jones	DM Code	NG Cocks	TA Bouris (48)
1977	MB Porter	RI Paul	JL Houghton	NG Cocks	JL Houghton	DM Code	DM Code (31)
1978	MB Porter	RI Paul	JL Houghton	NG Cocks	JL Houghton RI Paul	NW Schmidt	TA Bouris (27)
1979	RB MacDonald	RI Paul	JL Houghton	GS Lucas	RD Gerny	JL Houghton	GD Fletcher (28)
1980	NC Crompton	JL Houghton	NW Schmidt	TA Bouris	NW Schmidt	JL Houghton	MN Houston (27)
1981	BN Tonkin	RI Paul	NW Schmidt	TA Bouris	JMcM Corrigan	JV Wickenton	DJC Hodge (35)
1982	RI Paul	RI Paul	NW Schmidt	JMcM Corrigan	JMcM Corrigan	RD Gerny	NW Schmidt (45)
1983	AL Langford-Jones	RI Paul	NW Schmidt	JMcM Corrigan	RI Paul	JD Constable	NW Schmidt (49)
1984	AL Langford-Jones	NW Schmidt	JD Constable	RD Gerny	RD Gerny	AJ Wilson	RD Gerny (32)
1985	AL Langford-Jones	RD Gerny	AJ Wilson	RG Houston	RI Paul	AH Holohan	AJ Wilson (27)
1986	WJ Shand	WJ Shand	RD Gerny		RI Paul	PA Brewer	JP Bingham (38)
1987	WJ Shand	WJ Shand	RD Gerny		GL Phillips	NW Schmidt	WJ Shand (25)
1988	PB Stevens	DP Seccull	GL Phillips	AJ Walden	WR Smith	DP Seccull	WJ Shand (32)

1st XVIII Appointments					1st XVIII Awards		
Year	Coach	Captain	Vice-Captain	Deputy Vice-Captain	B&F	Runner-Up	Goal Kicking
1989	PB Stevens SH Meehan	DP Seccull	AJ Walden	MS Constable	CG McKenzie	JP Bingham	AJ Walden (66)
1990	SH Meehan	DP Seccull	AJ Walden	MS Constable	GD Tanner	CG McKenzie	AJ Walden (52)
1991	SH Meehan	SH Meehan	DP Seccull		AM Orton	BC Carty	AJ Walden (41)
1992	SH Meehan	DP Seccull	AM Baxter	MR Armstrong	WA Phillips	PA Thiessen	MJ DeMattia (37)
1993	DR McGrory	CG McKenzie	DA Connell	AJ Walden	GD Tanner	GD Borg	CAJ Kraus (43)
1994	PH Carlson	CG McKenzie	DA Connell		DA Connell	WD Byrns	GL Phillips (40)
1995	NC Taylor	CG McKenzie	MR Armstrong		WD Byrns	GL Phillips	NS Morey (66)
1996	NC Taylor	CG McKenzie	MR Armstrong	DA Connell	NS Morey	DA Connell	NS Morey (43)
1997	SH Meehan	DA Connell	MR Armstrong GL Phillips MW Seccull		GL Phillips	MW Seccull	AJ Walden (43)
1998	SH Meehan	DA Connell	MR Armstrong GL Phillips		NS Morey	SB Walden	NS Morey (27)
1999	AD Papotto	DA Connell MW Seccull	MR Armstrong		DA Connell	DA Hassett	DG Lappage (34)
2000	MA Dwyer	AL Hilton	MR Armstrong	RL Kejna	AJ Hilton	DA Hassett	DG Lappage (44)
2001	MA Dwyer	AL Hilton	SB Walden	RL Kejna	MR Armstrong	MJ Graves	DG Lappage (55)
2002	MA Dwyer	MR Armstrong	BA Carson	AV White	S Langford-Jones	JJB Bourke	BG O'Farrell (36)
2003	MA Dwyer	MR Armstrong	BA Carson	AV White	PD Corrigan BG O'Farrell	MR Barker JJB Bourke	BG O'Farrell (41)
2004	MA Dwyer	MR Armstrong	BA Carson	S Langford-Jones	MW Corrigan	PD Corrigan	JJB Bourke (22) D Mason (22)
2005	PJ Nicholson	PD Corrigan	KJ Ford BA Trollope	MR Barker S Langford-Jones	PD Corrigan	BA Trollope	BG O'Farrell (64)
2006	PJ Nicholson	PD Corrigan	KJ Ford	S Langford-Jones	HJ Hopwood AK Jenke		MW Seccull (31)
2007	PJ Nicholson	S Langford-Jones	D Mason LJ Siapantas	DJ Mackenzie HA McLauchlan	F Mohammed	MJ Brewer	BA Carson (17) KJ Ford (17)
2008	JK Shanahan	S Langford-Jones	D Mason LJ Siapantas	DJ Mackenzie HA McLauchlan	AJ Brown	BC Voss	JA Magee (34)
2009	JK Shanahan	S Langford-Jones	LJ Siapantas		BC Voss	F Mohammed	BC Voss (38)
2010	DG Lappage	AJ Brown	DJ Mackenzie	TJ Chisholm CS Morrison	SSH Roberts	AJ Brown	BC Voss (69)

2nd XVIII Appointments					2nd XVIII Awards		
Year	Coach	Captain	Vice-Captain	Deputy Vice-Captain	B&F	Runner-Up	Goal Kicking
1963	GRG Harwood	BAR Clarke			IJM Cole	DA Thomson	BK Sprague (12)
1964	BAR Clarke	BAR Clarke			IC Greenaway	RW Metherall	DE Norton (21)
1965	K Oaten	KD Grant			KD Grant	AM Bode EJ Mulvey	AN Hunter (11) PI McCready (11)
1966	BAR Clarke	BAR Clarke			GJ Herbert	JD Augustine DL Roberts	AW Kellock (18)
1967	D Smith	BK Sprague	PI McCready		SB Thistlethwaite	CP Davies	D Smith (13)
1968	DW Young	DW Young	RW Home		DW Young	RW Metherall	DW Young (30)
1969	DW Young	DW Young	RW Home		DW Young	GJ Neville	PG Atkinson (45)
1970	RJ Mackay	RJ Mackay	JA Bonwick				TG Lyons (26)
1971	M Nolan	JA Bonwick	BE Gartner			JA Bonwick	PG Atkinson (38)
1972	DW Young	JA Bonwick	BE Gartner		GO Urquhart	PG Atkinson	PG Atkinson (26)

2nd XVIII Appointments					2nd XVIII Awards		
Year	Coach	Captain	Vice-Captain	Deputy Vice-Captain	B&F	Runner-Up	Goal Kicking
1973	JD Augustine	BE Gartner	JF Rigby		RH Lingard	GO Urquhart	GO Urquhart (19)
1974	JD Augustine	RW Metherall	BE Gartner		GL Abbott	LB Irving	MJ Sutcliffe (29)
1975	JD Augustine	RW Metherall	GL Abbott		GL Abbott	RW Metherall	MJ Troup (11) GM Whiteman (11)
1976	RW Metherall	RW Metherall			PC Jessep	DH Lovig	RA Forbes (30)
1977	RW Metherall	RW Metherall			DG McQueen	PJ Poole	MJ Troup (12)
1978	DE Lord				AS Home	RA Forbes	DG McQueen (13) GM Whiteman (13)
1979	JA Bonwick	JA Bonwick			DH Lovig	RJ Wise	AJL Williams (33)
1980	DG McQueen	DG McQueen	IR Bannon		DG McQueen	JR Cracknell	AJL Williams (37)
1981	DG McQueen	DG McQueen	JA Bonwick		JA Bonwick JR Cracknell R Coldebella		MN Houston (29)
1982	RW Metherall	RW Metherall	JA Bonwick		NG Cocks	DH Lovig	IB Bastian (12)
1983	JR Cracknell	JR Cracknell	RA Forbes	GL Abbott	DH Allison	DC Southgate	RJ Wise (27)
1984	GT Meadows	DC Southgate	RJ Wise		RJ Wise	KL Sawtell	DJC Hodge (28) RJ Wise (28)
1985	JL Houghton				JA Bonwick BP Ladds		RJ Wise (30)
1986	GR Sincok	JMcM Corrigan	BP Ladds	RJ Wise	BP Ladds	JMcM Corrigan	RJ Wise (31)
1987	IR Bannon	AJH Hicks			GF Ball	JN Wood	RJ Wise (43)
1988	KL Sawtell	BP Ladds	JN Wood		JA Rae	AJH Hicks	CJ Lane (35)
1989	GT Meadows	GT Meadows	PG Merrett		PN Bennett PJ Noske	AR Mytton	GB Lasscock (32)
1990	GT Meadows	JD Robertson	PJ Noske		AR Mytton DA Ray	NW Schmidt	JD Robertson (44)
1991	RD Gerny				BP Main	DA Ray	JA Rae (26)
1992	DR McGrory	DA Ray	RB Lavender	BP Main	DJ Hoare	BP Main	E Bingham (23)
1993	MA Carty	AL Kirkwood-Scott	BP Main		WR Smith	BP Main	BE Arnhold (29)
1994	MA Carty	AL Kirkwood-Scott	BP Main		RB Lavender	BJ Herbert	CJ Lane (19)
1995	G March	AL Kirkwood-Scott	BP Main		PR O'Donnell	WR Smith	AM Baxter (14)
1996	G March	BP Main	CJ Ladds		AM Orton	MD Harrison	CS Hucker (13)
1997	AM Baxter				NS Hill	WR Smith	RJ Stewart (14)
1998	P Fatouros				AM Orton	AD Forsyth	SA Saunders (30)
1999	WL Moss				AD Pound	SA Saunders	AG Floyd (17)
2000	WL Moss	GP Rowlands	P Langford-Jones		PR O'Donnell	AD Brudar	C Efstathiou (28)
2001	AJ Bonwick	MR Wray	P Langford-Jones		C Efstathiou LW Floyd		C Efstathiou (83)
2002	AJ Bonwick	JW Bell	PR O'Donnell		C Jayasekera	PR O'Donnell	C Efstathiou (68)
2003	AJ Bonwick	JW Bell	C Efstathiou	CS Moyle	PR O'Donnell	RW George	C Efstathiou (53)
2004	AJ McMahon	PR O'Donnell	SC Rowlands	LW Floyd	SA Saunders	SC Rowlands	C Efstathiou (33)
2005	AJ Bonwick	JW Bell	CJ Ferguson	LR Pitcher	DR Warnes		C Efstathiou (61)
2006	B McGee	JW Bell	LR Pitcher		JM Bell	CJ Ferguson	CJ Ferguson (10) DW Salter (10)
2007	A Jago	LR Pitcher	GR Chipperfield		JW Mueller	MP Dowling	DR Warnes (11)
2008	A Jago	LR Pitcher	PB Dimond BJ Hampton JW Mueller		SH Ellis	RD Mosbey	BA Carson (23)
2009	A Jago	LR Pitcher	JD McLaughlin		JD McLaughlin	LR Pitcher	J Muir (13)
2010	C Brockley	LR Pitcher			LR Pitcher WM Rule	MW Seccull	JX Bayard (13)

Under-Nineteen XVIII Appointments					Under-Nineteen XVIII Awards		
Year	Coach	Captain	Vice-Captain	Deputy Vice-Captain	B&F	Runner-Up	Goal Kicking
1978	KJ Rowse	DJC Hodge	ID Chambers	JR Kingston	RD Gerny	BJ Mattingley	AW Lynch (49)
1979	KJ Rowse	CB McDonell	DC Southgate	DL Thomas	JV Wickenton	SWT Deller	PJ Noske (56)
1980	BN Tonkin	PA Kingston	JD Constable		PA Kingston	JV Wickenton	JD Robertson (54)
1981	AL Langford-Jones	PA Burns	AN Gilchrist		AJH Hicks AJStM Wright		DG Cox (33)
1982	PJ Chambers	IS Granter	MR Donne	BP Ladds	CA Brown	GJ Taylor	SN Collins (31)
1983	BR McDonell	BC McDonell	DM Scammell	RT Murdoch	G Crump RT Murdoch		GP Mills (49)
1984							
1985	DOH Cranch	AR Mytton	EF Mudge	DC Brooker	RD Kind		PR Atkinson (19)
1986	TM Lyon	RJ Stewart	WD Cox	PN Bennett	CD Farr	WD Cox	WD Cox (42)
1987	TM Lyon	DN Merrett	PN Bennett		DN Merrett	PN Bennett TR Jones	GB Lasscock (55)
1988	EJ Caspers	WA Phillips	SP Dangerfield	RN Parton	TP Chegwin	BC Carty	GB Lasscock (39)
1989	G March	RN Parton	TP Chegwin	BJ Herbert	CG MacKenzie	MR Armstrong	SR Devenish (28)
1990	BN Tonkin	BJ Herbert			MR Hickson	PE Robinson	DS Kelly (31)
1991	AN Gilchrist				DR Andersen	GR Anderson	DS Kelly (29)
1992	AN Gilchrist	BM Canobie	SK O'Brien	PM Dow	SP Richardson	AD Pound	TS Evans (22) MJ Kelly (22)
1993	CJ Lane	AD Pound	JA Raby	MS Anastasios	RS Buchanan	RD Bartholomeusz	MS Anastasios (49)
1994	CA D'Angelo	AR Dowsing	CJ Stevens	RD McTaggart	RS Buchanan	RD McTaggart	SR Payne (29)
1995							
1996	AM Baxter	BS Lay	SB Walden	DR Fossey RW George	SB Walden	RW George	DJ Ladd (39)
1997	GB Lasscock				CS Jayasekera	BA Carson	SA Saunders (41)
1998	GB Lasscock	JM Bell			DP Lay	JM Bell CS Jayasekera	C Efstathiou (53)
1999	HA Broadbent	LW Floyd	PG Wright		GC Smith	PG Wright	AD Brudar (78)
2000	HA Broadbent	S Langford-Jones	GS Fletcher	AP Waxman	GC Smith	GS Fletcher	BD Salvas (11)
2001	AW Lynch	JJ Wright	SA Durkin DJ Mackenzie LR Pitcher		HT Brooks	JE Hanlon	AR Jones (19)
2002	AW Lynch	CJ Waxman	JE Hanlon		HA McLauchlan	AJ Baker MW Jones	JE Hanlon (29)
2003							
2004							
2005	DG Lappage	NJ Harrison	DM Gilby	SH Ellis	NJ Harrison	NG Waite	RM Johnson (26)
2006	DG Lappage	NJ Harrison	MJ Doyle	BM Dolman TJ Gill RM Johnson	BJ Dolman	NG Criticos	RM Johnson (45)
2007	DG Lappage	BJ Hampton	BJ Dolman TJ Gill AJ Wright		LR Nash	SA Erikson	L Baptist (36)
2008	GR Anderson	L Donnelly			M Lillie	A Johnston	A Johnston (56)
2009	GR Anderson	WM Rule			JC Steen	R McMurray	JC Steen (13)
2010	MJ Kelly	JY Spanos			AR King	WC McTaggart	WC McTaggart (21)

VAFA

State Representatives	
1971	PB Gadsden
1972-80	JL Houghton
1977	DM Code
1978	RI Paul
1981	RD Gerny (CDEF)
1983	NW Schmidt (CDEF)
1984	RD Gerny (CDEF)
	NW Schmidt (CDEF)
	AJ Wilson (CDEF)
1985	RD Gerny (CDEF)
	RD Kind (U19)
1986	RI Paul (CDEF, c)
	RD Gerny (CDEF)
	WJ Shand (CDEF)
	JP Bingham (U19)
1987	RI Paul (CDEF, c)
	GL Phillips (CDEF)
1988	JP Bingham (CDEF)
	MS Constable (CDEF)
	GL Phillips (CDEF)
	GD Tanner (U19)
1989	GL Phillips
	DA Connell (CDEF)
	CG McKenzie (CDEF)
	AJ Walden (CDEF)
	MR Armstrong (U19)
	FAM Main (U19)
1990	DA Connell
	SH Meehan
	DA Bugalski (U19)
	GH Dewar (U19)
	FAM Main (U19)
	RK Plecher (U19)
1991	DA Connell
	CG McKenzie
	SH Meehan
	GD Tanner
1992	PA Thiessen
	DW Dean (U19)

State Representatives	
1993	DA Connell
	GL Phillips
	PA Thiessen
	CS Lovell (U19)
1994	GL Phillips
	PA Thiessen
	BA Mitchell (U18)
1995	SJ Ralphsmith (c)
	MR Armstrong
	WD Byrns
	DA Connell
	NS Morey
	GL Phillips
1997	MW Seccull
	WD Byrns
1999	MW Seccull (c)
	AJ Hilton
2000	MW Seccull
2003	JJB Bourke
	MW Corrigan
	PD Corrigan
	BG O'Farrell
	LJ Siapantas
2004	MR Barker
	MW Corrigan
2005	PD Corrigan (c)
	LJ Siapantas
	BA Trollope
	NJ Harrison (U19)
2006	DW Brown (U23)
	TJ Chisholm (U23)
	NJ Harrison (U19)
2007	NJ Harrison (U19)
2008	AJ Brown
	CS Morrison
2009	BC Voss (c)
	AJ Brown
	EJ Limon (U19)
2010	CS Morrison (U21, c)

Jock Nelson Medal Best on Ground A Grade Grand Final		
2006	A	CA Steinfort

All-Australian Amateurs	
1979	JL Houghton
2003	PD Corrigan
2003	LJ Siapantas
2004	MW Corrigan
2005	MR Barker (U23, c)
2005	BPA Waite (U23)
2006	TJ Chisholm (U23)

VAFA Competition Best & Fairest		
1968	DW Young	D Reserve
1969	DW Young	D Reserve
1970	PB Gadsden	C
1974	JL Houghton	C
1978	RD Gerny	Junior 2
1980	JL Houghton	C
1980	PA Kingston	Junior 1
1998	C Jayasekera	Junior 2
2006	AK Jenke	A
2006	SP Martin	U19 Blue
2008	AJ Brown	B

VAFA Competition Leading Goal Kickers (excludes finals)			
1968	PGA Bowring	D	51
1969	PGA Bowring	D	78
1987	RJ Wise	C Reserve	42
1999	AD Brudar	Junior 2	73
2001	C Efstathiou	B Reserve	78
2002	C Efstathiou	B Reserve	62
2003	C Efstathiou	A Reserve	53
2005	C Efstathiou	A Reserve	61
2008	A Johnston	U19 South	56

VAFA Umpire Of The Year	
2006	R Davidson

OHAFC Career Games & Goals

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Abbott	Geoffrey Lionel	1970	13	100	0	0	113	0	28	0	0	28
Abbott	James Andrew Grant	1982	10	19	0	0	29	0	1	0	0	1
Abram	Albert Zorko	1986	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Adamopoulos	Bill	1993	1	9	0	0	10	0	5	0	0	5
Adamson	David Martin Rowan	1979	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	3	0	3
Alcock	Adrian Jared	1993	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	3	0	3
Alexander	Mark Damon	1979	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	2	0	2
Algie	Matthew Dean	1989	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	9	0	9
Alkemade	Nathan Raoul	1992	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	Christopher Archer	1993	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	David I	1965	1	15	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	Mark Mitchell	1990	0	11	27	15	53	0	0	4	5	9
Alley	E Boyne	1963	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Allison	David Harold	1982	19	39	17	0	75	1	1	4	0	6
Allison	Kenneth Keith	1966	40	44	0	0	84	33	29	0	0	62
Allison	Russell Logie	1972	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Amitrano	Jamie John	1996	0	7	3	3	13	0	3	6	0	9
Anastasios	Matthew Stewart	1993	0	0	29	0	29	0	0	67	0	67
Andersen	Dale Rohan	1990	1	15	29	0	45	0	5	19	0	24
Anderson	Gregory Robert	1991	67	9	9	0	85	4	3	4	0	11
Anderson	Michael Charles	1998	0	8	22	1	31	0	1	25	0	26
Anderson	Paul James	1990	0	1	17	1	19	0	0	16	0	16
Anderson	Robert Roy	1978	15	1	8	0	24	0	0	0	0	0
Andre	Wayne Robert	1987	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Andrews	Gregory John	1984	0	30	0	0	30	0	1	0	0	1
Archer	Tom John	2001	0	0	27	0	27	0	0	10	0	10
Arezzolo	Damon Alex	2007	5	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	3
Arfi	Michael Robert	1994	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	24	0	24
Armitage	A John	1964	40	8	0	0	48	8	0	0	0	8
Armitage	Ben Adrian	1990	16	11	0	0	27	2	2	0	0	4
Armstrong	Daniel James	2004	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0
Armstrong	Matthew Ronald	1988	281	2	19	0	302	127	1	19	0	147
Arnhold	Brodie Ernst	1989	0	26	14	0	40	0	32	23	0	55
Arnott	Ashley Neil	1993	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Atkinson	Paul Raymond	1985	0	2	8	0	10	0	0	19	0	19
Atkinson	Peter G	1969	12	57	0	0	69	16	132	0	0	148
Aughterson	Dean James	1991	0	4	0	5	9	0	0	0	0	0
Aughterson	Robert Deed	1995	0	31	0	0	31	0	12	0	0	12
Augustine	Geoffrey R	1964	15	11	0	0	26	4	6	0	0	10
Augustine	John David	1961	14	17	0	0	31	5	12	0	0	17
Austin	Greg James	1983	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	5	0	5
Austin	John A	1966	0	20	0	0	20	0	1	0	0	1
Austin	Timothy Grant	1985	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2
Ayres	Warren Geoffrey	1984	15	1	0	0	16	21	1	0	0	22

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Baker	Andrew James	2002	2	74	15	0	91	0	20	5	0	25
Baker	David C	1982	6	0	3	0	9	0	0	2	0	2
Baker	Steven James	1990	0	0	0	14	14	0	0	0	0	0
Ball	Graham Flavel	1987	4	27	0	1	32	1	1	0	0	2
Bambrook	Neil Stewart	1972	3	11	0	0	14	0	4	0	0	4
Bannon	Ivor Ross	1964	38	36	0	0	74	46	36	0	0	82
Baptist	Lance Anthony	2007	20	5	21	0	46	16	6	38	0	60
Barba	Bill Joseph	2009	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	2	0	2
Barclely	Jamie Scott	1989	2	3	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	4
Barker	David John	1999	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Barker	Michael Rowan	1999	52	0	1	0	53	37	0	3	0	40
Barker	Timothy Alan	1999	0	11	19	0	30	0	0	0	0	0
Barnes	Michael Noel	2005	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Barr	Nicholas Keith	1989	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	1	0	1
Bartholomeusz	Randolph Donald	1992	0	19	26	0	45	0	3	14	0	17
Bastian	Ivan Bevan	1982	0	6	0	0	6	0	12	0	0	12
Bates	Ian John	1984	0	2	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	5
Batt	Douglas Roy	1973	8	13	0	0	21	13	4	0	0	17
Batt	Gordon George C	1972	0	25	0	0	25	0	6	0	0	6
Batts	Finlay Stephen	2007	0	0	7	0	7	2	0	4	0	6
Baxter	Andrew Murray	1986	176	18	1	0	195	65	27	2	0	94
Baxter	Cameron Edward	1992	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	5	0	5
Baxter	Matthew James	1992	0	30	0	7	37	0	0	0	2	2
Bayard	Julian Xavier	2008	2	26	16	0	44	2	18	19	0	39
Bayne	Fraser Allen	1993	25	8	0	0	33	5	3	0	0	8
Bayre	Christopher Paul	2008	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Bean	Robert A	1961	8	45	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0
Beaton	Wayne Bruce	1977	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Beattie	Paul Kevin	1979	0	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Bedwell	David William	1979	8	7	14	0	29	4	5	11	0	20
Beilby	Graeme Scott	1985	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	1
Bell	James Michael	1997	18	119	35	0	172	2	39	25	0	66
Bell	Stephen Hugh	1981	38	49	17	4	108	3	8	5	0	16
Benjamin	Bruce V	1968	1	8	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	1
Bennett	Andrew Grant	1987	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bennett	Derek Clive	1992	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	7	7
Bennett	Grant Douglas L	1990	3	1	0	0	4	5	6	0	0	11
Bennett	Paul Nicholas	1986	43	54	34	6	137	11	13	31	1	56
Bennett	Stephen Frank	1983	0	1	10	0	11	0	0	3	0	3
Bennett	Tim P E	1994	0	1	14	0	15	0	0	1	0	1
Benton	Phillip Alexander	2007	0	18	0	0	18	0	1	0	0	1
Berry	Peter John	1978	0	3	6	0	9	0	0	2	0	2
Biggs	Nicholas Edward	1997	0	7	9	0	16	0	1	14	0	15
Billings	Graeme Ambery	1974	14	41	0	0	55	0	9	0	0	9

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Bingham	Edward	1989	42	36	24	1	103	58	49	14	0	121
Bingham	John Priestley	1986	51	0	1	0	52	67	0	5	0	72
Bingham	Laurence Guy	1986	4	4	7	0	15	5	10	3	0	18
Blackley	Dean	1993	0	15	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwell	Richard Leslie	1983	20	23	0	0	43	3	7	0	0	10
Blair	Andrew Robert	1981	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Blashki	Leigh Adrian	2009	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Blencowe	Steven Paul	2009	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	3
Boag	Robin J	1961	62	7	0	0	69	47	4	0	0	51
Boan	Quentin Alan	2000	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	1	0	1
Bode	Adrian Maxwell	1965	78	49	0	0	127	36	43	0	0	79
Bonwick	Andrew James	1996	0	20	0	5	25	4	9	0	2	15
Bonwick	James Alexander	1968	21	219	0	0	240	2	67	0	0	69
Bonwick	Richard John	1982	0	27	0	0	27	0	9	0	0	9
Boothey	Scott William	1993	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	2	0	2
Boothman	Travis Patrick	1993	19	0	15	0	34	1	0	8	0	9
Borg	Glenn David	1992	36	1	0	0	37	8	0	0	0	8
Bottomley	Craig Stephen	1979	0	7	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Boughton	Leigh Ian	2002	0	3	3	0	6	0	0	1	0	1
Bouris	Terrence Andrew	1975	109	8	0	0	117	166	7	0	0	173
Bourke	Guy Patrick	1990	0	4	0	2	6	0	0	0	1	1
Bourke	Jeremy John Brian	2001	81	0	0	0	81	109	0	0	0	109
Bourke	Nicholas Lawrence	2006	2	21	15	0	38	0	8	19	0	27
Bouyer	Jason Dean	1995	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3
Bowden	Michael J	1968	9	47	0	0	56	2	10	0	0	12
Bowman	Colin Richmond	1977	0	71	0	0	71	0	9	0	0	9
Bowman	David Harvey	1979	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bowman	Peter John	1986	2	0	12	0	14	0	0	12	0	12
Bowman	Richard Myles	1987	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	1	0	1
Bowman	Robert Lloyd	1976	57	23	0	0	80	6	5	0	0	11
Bowring	Peter Geoffrey Arthur	1961	214	4	0	0	218	551	4	0	0	555
Bradford	Tim	2009	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	14	0	14
Bradley	Damien Michael	1987	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bradley	Scott Jarrod	1990	7	6	0	0	13	5	4	0	0	9
Braithwaite	Alister James	2010	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	1	0	1
Bramich	Paul Gerard	1985	2	18	0	0	20	1	1	0	0	2
Brandham	Robert Peter	1998	3	27	28	0	58	0	17	24	0	41
Brearley	Grant	1970	3	9	0	0	12	1	1	0	0	2
Breen	Jason Michael	1999	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1
Breen	Keiren Anthony	1979	18	0	0	0	18	16	0	0	0	16
Brennan	John William	1974	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Brewer	Colin Wayne	1977	1	11	0	0	12	0	9	0	0	9
Brewer	Mark Ronald	1986	0	14	0	0	14	0	1	0	0	1
Brewer	Matthew James	2006	44	4	0	0	48	43	7	0	0	50
Brewer	Paul Alexander	1983	78	3	0	0	81	52	3	0	0	55
Brewster	Samuel David	2003	2	5	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	2
Bricker	Dower Cameron	1985	0	1	16	0	17	0	0	9	0	9

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Brickhill-Smiley	Christopher J	1965	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Bride	Martin Craig	1991	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	1
Briscoe	P A	1982	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Broadbent	Heath Andrew	1988	4	17	32	8	61	4	19	32	5	60
Broadhead	Nicholas Lawrence	2007	0	1	28	0	29	0	0	10	0	10
Brockley	Scott	2010	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Brooker	David Clive	1985	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Brookman	Geoffrey F	1978	8	9	17	0	34	8	13	15	0	36
Brooks	Colin	1985	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	1	0	1
Brooks	Hamish Thomas	2000	33	0	33	0	66	26	0	17	0	43
Brooks	Matthew John	1990	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Broome	Nicholas Charles	1979	0	0	34	0	34	0	0	29	0	29
Brown	Alister Morris	1984	16	16	0	0	32	12	13	0	0	25
Brown	Andrew Craig	2000	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	Andrew John	1984	4	3	0	0	7	5	5	0	0	10
Brown	Andrew P	1983	2	56	17	0	75	0	4	1	0	5
Brown	Anthony James	2008	49	0	0	0	49	68	0	0	0	68
Brown	Ashley Philip	2009	0	13	0	0	13	0	3	0	0	3
Brown	Cameron Stewart Douglas	1994	0	2	6	0	8	0	0	1	0	1
Brown	Craig Andrew	1982	24	1	14	0	39	10	1	9	0	20
Brown	David A	1982	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	Daniel William	2005	82	2	0	0	84	57	1	0	0	58
Brown	Hamish Lewis	2010	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	Morris B	1961	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Browne	Anthony A	1963	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Browne	David John	1972	0	11	0	0	11	0	2	0	0	2
Brudar	Allan David	1998	15	9	34	0	58	20	10	89	0	119
Bryce	John Stewart	1991	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Bubunaras	Constantine Dean	2005	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	2	0	2
Buchanan	Richard Scott	1993	19	5	26	0	50	7	1	26	0	34
Budge	Geoffrey A	1967	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Budge	Timothy James Peter	2007	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2
Bugalski	David Andrew	1990	5	1	14	0	20	5	0	26	0	31
Burgess	Simon David	1992	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Burke	Peter Dan	1961	133	16	0	0	149	1	7	0	0	8
Burn	David Sampson	1992	0	14	17	5	36	0	6	19	1	26
Burn	Richard Francis	1998	0	0	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
Burnell	Andrew C	1982	7	25	0	0	32	2	18	0	0	20
Burns	Neil Jeffrey	1983	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	21	0	21
Burns	Peter Alan	1980	18	0	32	0	50	5	0	58	0	63
Byass	Adam Anderson	2005	0	20	30	0	50	0	1	9	0	10
Byass	Jared Daniel	1997	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	6	0	6
Byrns	Ashley Donald	1985	0	2	11	10	23	0	0	8	1	9
Byrns	Cameron Travis	1992	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Byrns	Lukas Adam	1994	24	24	17	0	65	24	23	26	0	73
Byrns	Wesley Douglas	1985	120	2	1	0	123	174	7	0	0	181
Caddy	Dennis E	1967	37	13	0	0	50	3	0	0	0	3

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Cadwallader	Alan Harold	1976	0	8	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	3
Cameron	Nicholas Donald	1988	20	3	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell	Alex	2005	0	36	21	0	57	0	1	5	0	6
Campbell	Alistair John	1977	9	53	0	0	62	3	6	0	0	9
Campbell	Graeme John	1972	49	72	0	0	121	10	19	0	0	29
Campbell	Ian David	1978	142	3	2	0	147	65	1	0	0	66
Campelj	Stephen Karl	2005	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Canning	Tony John	1979	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Canobie	Brett Matthew	1991	7	17	19	1	44	2	8	13	0	23
Capomulla	Fabian	1995	0	40	0	0	40	0	3	0	0	3
Capron	Daniel	2007	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	4	0	4
Capron	Shane Dale	2000	0	0	30	0	30	0	0	1	0	1
Carlstrom	Fredrick Stefan	2008	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Carmichael	Rupert	1999	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	1
Carroll	Colin King	2005	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Carruthers	Geoffrey John	1978	10	8	18	0	36	3	2	18	0	23
Carson	Brett Ashley	1996	188	29	29	0	246	76	34	34	0	144
Carson	Michael Robert D	1979	0	5	28	0	33	0	0	7	0	7
Carson	Ricky Dale	1998	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	1	0	1
Carter	Geoffrey B	1963	5	30	0	0	35	0	13	0	0	13
Carty	Brett Christopher	1988	128	3	19	3	153	30	1	2	5	38
Carty	Michael Andrew	1993	6	27	0	0	33	0	21	0	0	21
Casey	Christopher John	2005	10	4	20	0	34	1	0	4	0	5
Casey	Joshua James	2006	0	16	0	0	16	0	3	0	0	3
Casey	Samuel Marcus	2007	25	0	21	0	46	20	0	16	0	36
Cashmore	Jay Benjamin	2000	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	8	0	8
Caspers	Edward John	1987	0	15	31	25	71	0	6	2	0	8
Castles	Stephen Stanley	1978	5	6	20	0	31	0	5	41	0	46
Chamberlain	Jon Douglas	1988	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	4	0	4
Chamberlain	Luke James	1990	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Chamberlain	Paul Milne	1992	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	1	0	1
Chambers	Ian Douglas	1978	27	21	9	0	57	19	12	18	0	49
Chambers	Peter J	1982	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Chapman	Adrian Paul	1985	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Chapman	Dale Geoffrey	1993	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	3
Chatfield	Timothy Samuel	1995	0	1	0	8	9	0	0	0	8	8
Chegwin	Timothy Paul	1988	30	59	32	2	123	3	28	13	0	44
Child	Andrew David	1988	0	14	0	0	14	0	16	0	0	16
Child	David Michael	1961	29	7	0	0	36	7	2	0	0	9
Chin	Andrew Fungeng	1993	1	4	4	0	9	0	2	6	0	8
Chipperfield	Guy Richard	2002	4	60	8	0	72	0	18	3	0	21
Chisholm	Marcus Alexander	1998	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	2	0	2
Chisholm	Thomas James	2005	82	3	4	0	89	53	2	2	0	57
Cholerton	Christopher H C	1963	11	11	0	0	22	0	4	0	0	4
Christie	Ashley Raymond	2009	0	2	7	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Christie	Mark Alexander	1979	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Churchill	David Charles	2008	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	3	0	3

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Clark	Matthew Thomas	2010	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	3
Clark	Tony Malcolm	1982	0	17	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Clarke	Adam Robert	2001	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	5	0	5
Clarke	Ben William	1996	0	1	22	0	23	0	0	7	0	7
Clarke	Bernard Anthony Russell	1961	22	48	0	0	70	9	25	0	0	34
Clarke	Travis John	1994	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	2	0	2
Clarkson	Jeremy Campbell	1987	0	6	0	0	6	0	5	0	0	5
Clydesdale	Ian William	1978	16	55	14	0	85	7	18	8	0	33
Cochrane	Paul Robert	1983	0	1	8	0	9	0	0	10	0	10
Cocks	Neil Geoffrey	1970	102	34	0	0	136	23	6	0	0	29
Code	David Maxwell	1974	48	5	0	0	53	54	0	0	0	54
Cohen	Adam David	1999	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coldebella	Ronald	1981	3	12	0	0	15	1	14	0	0	15
Cole	Ian J M	1961	17	32	0	0	49	2	1	0	0	3
Coleman	Jackson	2010	1	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	6
Coles	Tristan	2007	0	33	17	0	50	1	3	2	0	6
Collins	A	1982	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Collins	Brett C	1981	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	1	0	1
Collins	Gregory J	1982	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	3
Collins	Michael Peter	1978	8	16	29	0	53	7	12	46	0	65
Collins	Peter Edward	1971	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Collins	Steven N	1982	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	31	0	31
Colston	Matthew Ronald	1988	22	10	17	0	49	23	11	14	0	48
Comben	David Andrew	2010	21	0	0	0	21	2	0	0	0	2
Conacher	Andrew Hilton	1986	0	1	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Connell	David Alexander	1988	193	2	1	0	196	79	0	1	0	80
Connelly	Christopher Robert	1989	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2
Connolly	Barry Douglas	1965	6	46	0	0	52	0	5	0	0	5
Constable	John David	1979	123	2	24	0	149	12	0	9	0	21
Constable	Michael Scott	1985	118	24	20	5	167	7	1	10	1	19
Cook	Justin Aaron	1999	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Cook	Patrick M G	1963	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Cooper	Bradley Alan	1991	0	0	2	4	6	0	0	0	2	2
Coote	Anthony Thomas	1970	2	6	0	0	8	0	3	0	0	3
Corcoran	Nicholas Matthew	2006	16	3	0	0	19	12	2	0	0	14
Corderoy	Matthew Henry	2001	0	7	0	0	7	0	4	0	0	4
Corrigan	John McMahan	1975	134	66	0	0	200	4	15	0	0	19
Corrigan	Mark William	2003	37	0	0	0	37	46	0	0	0	46
Corrigan	Paul David	1996	64	0	1	0	65	38	0	0	0	38
Cotton	Darren Andrew	1987	22	53	32	14	121	3	9	44	10	66
Cotton	Neale Llewellyn	1999	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Cox	David Greg	1981	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	33	0	33
Cox	David J	1967	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Cox	William David	1986	36	29	26	0	91	35	21	48	0	104
Cracknell	John Roland	1972	81	82	0	0	163	7	49	0	0	56
Craig	Dean Ashley	1990	0	10	0	14	24	0	6	0	3	9
Craig	Shawn Andrew	1994	0	9	0	0	9	0	2	0	0	2

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Crawford	Blake Scott	2000	0	14	32	0	46	0	0	0	0	0
Creek	Andrew N	1963	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Crist	Adam Kurt	1988	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2
Criticos	Nicolas G	2006	45	9	26	0	80	36	5	36	0	77
Cross	Peter Donald Brodie	1969	0	17	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	1
Crowl	Donald David	2000	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2
Crowley	Brenton Allen	2007	7	2	0	0	9	5	1	0	0	6
Crump	Gary	1983	0	5	17	0	22	0	3	12	0	15
Cunningham	Craig John	1979	5	1	0	0	6	7	2	0	0	9
Cunningham	Peter James	1973	61	22	0	0	83	4	9	0	0	13
Currie	Darrell J	1965	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Currie	Graham L	1961	77	12	0	0	89	2	0	0	0	2
Curry	Robert Jeffrey	1976	35	8	0	0	43	21	10	0	0	31
Curtain	Luke Anthony	2001	0	35	0	0	35	0	6	0	0	6
Curtis	John McDonald	1970	43	5	0	0	48	46	6	0	0	52
Cute	Travis Graeden	2002	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Dahl	Ashley Gardner	1992	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2
Dale	Mark Robert	1975	0	24	0	0	24	0	9	0	0	9
Dalley	Malcolm Cameron	1980	0	3	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	2
Dalling	Rodger Francis	1971	11	0	0	0	11	3	0	0	0	3
Dalton	Tom	2010	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	5	0	5
D'Angelo	Carmelo Anthony	1994	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Dangerfield	Stephen Peter	1986	0	18	21	14	53	0	5	23	21	49
Dann	Bruce Peter M	1979	0	3	25	0	28	0	0	10	0	10
Dann	Jason Richard	1995	61	9	0	0	70	17	6	0	0	23
Darana Palliyage	Lamith	2006	0	3	28	0	31	0	0	2	0	2
Darley	James David	1999	0	0	34	0	34	0	0	20	0	20
Daubeney	Scott Clayton	1987	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Davey	Luke Daniel	2008	2	0	17	0	19	0	0	14	0	14
Davey	Peter Wayne	1967	0	21	0	0	21	0	1	0	0	1
Davey	Simon Peter	1997	19	70	19	1	109	1	21	36	0	58
Davey	Timothy Robert	1976	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Davidson	Lachlan Francis	2006	0	28	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0
Davies	Colin Phillip	1967	3	22	0	0	25	0	5	0	0	5
Davies	John R	1961	26	22	0	0	48	4	1	0	0	5
Davies	Peter Morton	1962	90	23	0	0	113	14	11	0	0	25
Davis	Rick Jonathon	2005	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Dawson	Brett Andrew	1985	6	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	5
Dawson	Peter James	1969	0	9	0	0	9	0	2	0	0	2
Dean	David William	1992	6	5	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Deitz	David Allan	1996	0	5	6	0	11	0	1	1	0	2
Deitz	Stuart Kingsley	1998	0	0	10	1	11	0	0	1	1	2
Delalande	John Guy	1990	0	7	16	2	25	0	2	2	0	4
Dell	Benjamin Russell	1992	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	1	0	1
DellaBosca	Peter Michael	1990	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	1	1
Deller	Scott Windsor Thomas	1979	66	0	16	0	82	9	0	5	0	14
Deller	Simon Raymond Thomas	1981	0	0	11	0	11	0	0	10	0	10

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
DeMattia	Matthew James	1992	47	2	0	0	49	64	5	0	0	69
Demostheni	Steven Andrew	1992	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Dempster	Ashley John	1987	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dennison	John Philip Russell	1982	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	6	0	6
DeRaad (later Gerrard)	Ned S	1990	0	21	0	17	38	0	8	0	15	23
Derham	Phillip George	1976	6	80	0	0	86	1	36	0	0	37
Derks	Jason Richard	2010	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	5	0	5
Devenish	Scott Russell	1989	3	11	31	2	47	0	3	53	1	57
Devey	Kris Bean	2009	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	2	0	2
Dickinson	Matthew Brian	1987	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	2	0	2
Dikstaal	Mark Lindsey	1994	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	16	0	16
Dimond	Paul B	1997	22	51	14	0	87	8	55	17	0	80
Ditchfield	Matthew Thomas	2008	14	5	21	0	40	0	2	17	0	19
Ditterich	Caile	2003	3	1	0	0	4	4	1	0	0	5
Dobson	Ross Andrew	1988	0	24	0	31	55	0	0	0	0	0
Dolman	Bradley James	2005	7	8	46	0	61	0	2	38	0	40
Dolman	Ryan Wayne	2006	0	31	0	0	31	0	9	0	0	9
Donne	Michael Richard	1982	6	5	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	1
Donnelly	Liam	2007	14	3	22	0	39	10	2	9	0	21
Donohue	Martin James	1994	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Doran	Timothy James	1985	7	28	41	8	84	2	20	50	3	75
Douglas	Matthew Benjamin	2009	19	1	15	0	35	2	0	0	0	2
Doukas	Theo Christopher	2005	1	7	29	0	37	0	1	25	0	26
Dow	Alan C	1964	13	31	0	0	44	2	17	0	0	19
Dow	Paul Michael	1991	0	10	27	5	42	0	0	8	0	8
Dowling	Brett Campbell	1988	0	4	8	7	19	0	0	0	0	0
Dowling	Craig Campbell	1996	0	22	8	13	43	0	4	3	1	8
Dowling	Don John Douglas	1968	29	12	0	0	41	21	10	0	0	31
Dowling	Matthew Paul	2005	6	51	0	0	57	0	16	0	0	16
Downey	Bruce R	1968	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	4
Dowsing	Andrew Robert	1994	40	9	8	0	57	20	9	7	0	36
Doyle	Mark James	2005	0	18	33	0	51	0	1	7	0	8
Drakeford	Matthew Francis	1994	16	7	12	0	35	10	4	10	0	24
Drane	Jonathan Bruce	1990	0	0	10	11	21	0	0	0	1	1
Dring	Bradley Scott	1999	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	1	2
Drummond	James Ashley	1994	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
D'Silva	Haig Rohan Christopher	2001	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	5	0	5
Dunn	Andrew James	1991	0	3	0	5	8	0	1	0	2	3
Dunn	Cameron Robert	1991	13	26	0	0	39	17	20	0	0	37
Dunphy	Edward Benjamin	1996	0	2	19	0	21	0	0	8	0	8
Duns	Gary Andrew	1981	0	1	17	0	18	0	0	11	0	11
Dunstan	Anthony William	1985	0	13	0	0	13	0	5	0	0	5
Dunstan	Antony John	1990	0	1	9	0	10	0	0	3	0	3
Duperouzel	Ben	2002	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	1	0	1
Durkin	Sean Ashley	2001	5	1	8	0	14	1	0	2	0	3
Dusting	Matthew R	1997	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Duxbury	Scott Colin George	1995	0	33	0	0	33	0	2	0	0	2

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Eagle	David Allan	1965	48	7	0	0	55	35	3	0	0	38
Eagle	Will	2009	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	9	0	9
Earney	Travis Leigh	2000	0	9	0	0	9	0	11	0	0	11
Easter	P J	1969	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Edwards	Antony David	1984	0	14	0	0	14	0	6	0	0	6
Edwards	Greg Lloyd	1985	0	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0
Edwards	Norman F	1963	42	8	0	0	50	21	2	0	0	23
Edwards	Paul Alan	1985	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	2	0	2
Efstathiou	Christopher	1996	22	105	22	0	149	44	341	117	0	502
Egerton	Norman E	1961	13	0	0	0	13	7	0	0	0	7
Ek	Edmund T	1998	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ellenport	Jason Scott	1991	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	2	2
Elliot	Jordan James	2005	0	34	19	0	53	0	15	17	0	32
Elliot	Luke Simon	1987	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	1	0	1
Elliott	Alexander Maitland	1970	4	48	0	0	52	0	7	0	0	7
Elliott	Donald Shane	2000	2	11	0	0	13	3	16	0	0	19
Ellis		1987	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ellis	Scott Harrison	2005	14	43	16	0	73	0	0	11	0	11
Elsom	Anthony J	1966	17	7	0	0	24	26	3	0	0	29
Emerson	David James	2001	8	4	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
England	Paul Leslie	1976	1	13	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
English	Alexander James	2010	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Epstein	Peter N	1961	11	6	0	0	17	7	2	0	0	9
Erikson	Markus Johan Warner	2002	0	26	11	0	37	0	1	6	0	7
Erikson	Stefan Andrew	2006	39	4	19	0	62	5	5	14	0	24
Evans	Gary Bernard	1976	0	9	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	1
Evans	Nigel Scott	1992	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	2	2
Evans	Trenton Scott	1992	5	13	35	1	54	4	11	59	0	74
Everton	Michael	1980	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2
Ewin	Neil L	1963	5	8	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Eyers	Peter Charles	1991	0	11	0	14	25	0	1	0	4	5
Fankhauser	Matthew William	2005	25	1	9	0	35	6	1	10	0	17
Farnbach	Simon Geoffrey	1978	0	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
Farr	Craig Douglas	1985	1	55	28	0	84	0	16	14	0	30
Farr	Jeffrey Allen	1987	0	1	4	0	5	0	0	2	0	2
Farrow	Glen Betts	1982	2	6	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	2
Faul	Malcolm P	1967	0	18	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0
Faulds	Ronald Craig	1980	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Faulkner	Mark Peter	1994	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	0	0	0
Feint	Jeffrey A	1961	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ferguson	Bernard Wesley	1999	0	2	30	0	32	0	0	5	0	5
Ferguson	Christopher James	2004	58	43	0	0	101	4	21	0	0	25
Ferguson	John Gavin Maxwell	1987	14	1	7	0	22	5	0	4	0	9
Fernihaugh	Shaun	2009	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Field	David Michael	1987	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Fildes	Cameron Richard	1988	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	10
Finlayson	Graeme R	1997	0	29	34	0	63	0	2	5	0	7

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Finlayson	Travis James	1995	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Fisher	Daniel Richard	2006	2	9	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	1
Fisher	Mark Norman	1988	1	16	9	2	28	0	5	1	1	7
Fitzgerald	Scott Edward	2010	3	4	0	0	7	6	8	0	0	14
Fitzpatrick	Jay	2009	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	1	0	1
Fleming	Andrew	2009	3	1	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	5
Fletcher	Alistair James	2000	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0
Fletcher	David Francis	1988	13	4	0	0	17	12	9	0	0	21
Fletcher	Glenn David	1979	8	0	0	0	8	28	0	0	0	28
Fletcher	Gregory Stuart	1999	20	29	33	0	82	1	8	2	0	11
Flockart	Peter Graeme	1986	0	26	26	29	81	0	0	3	0	3
Floyd	Adam Geoffrey	1996	60	50	12	0	122	65	68	8	0	141
Floyd	Luke William	1997	23	107	39	0	169	4	26	9	0	39
Folino	Adam	2005	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	1	0	1
Forbes	Robert Andrew	1972	10	158	0	0	168	2	71	0	0	73
Ford	Kynan Joel	2003	84	2	0	0	86	90	7	0	0	97
Forsyth	Adam David	1995	118	38	0	0	156	26	15	0	0	41
Forsyth	Glenn Andrew	1970	0	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1
Fossey	Dean Ray	1995	1	19	14	14	48	2	2	3	8	15
Fothergill	Ashley John	1991	0	1	31	0	32	0	0	26	0	26
Fox	Michael Bruce	1981	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	10	0	10
Fox	Timothy Boyd	1982	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	2	0	2
Francis	Hayden John	1998	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Francis	Scott Anthony	1993	0	15	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	1
Fraser	Ian	1968	3	29	0	0	32	0	13	0	0	13
French	Roger William	1978	0	0	20	0	20	0	0	9	0	9
Frowd	Alan K	1962	11	0	0	0	11	10	0	0	0	10
Fujihara	Musashi	2010	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	1	0	1
Fuller	Stephen John	1985	0	38	0	0	38	0	5	0	0	5
Fulton	James Victor	2010	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	4	0	4
Gadsden	Peter Bruce	1969	71	0	0	0	71	92	0	0	0	92
Galt	Gregory John	1973	38	34	0	0	72	13	12	0	0	25
Gamon	Vincent Herbert John	1970	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield	David Maxwell	1987	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Garland	Michael Shane	1985	40	3	0	0	43	29	0	0	0	29
Garofalo	Nicholas Charles	1982	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gartner	Barry Edward	1968	16	106	0	0	122	4	6	0	0	10
Gebka	Peter Robert	2001	0	11	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	1
Geister	Paul Benjamin	2004	10	3	0	0	13	0	2	0	0	2
George	Mitchell Cameron	2008	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	5	0	5
George	Richard William	1994	15	23	14	1	53	0	0	1	0	1
Gerny	Roger Douglas	1978	186	29	20	12	247	156	17	5	8	186
Gibson	Nigel Maxwell	2005	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Gibson	Scott John	2009	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Gilby	Drew Michael	2004	0	50	11	0	61	0	23	10	0	33
Gilchrist	Anthony Norman	1980	27	50	24	15	116	16	30	29	7	82
Gill	Toby James	2005	20	18	37	0	75	1	3	8	0	12

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Glanville	Joshua J	2001	0	26	28	0	54	0	7	8	0	15
Gleadhill	Peter Thomas	2007	16	0	8	0	24	4	1	0	0	5
Glew	Paul Brian	1995	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Godbehere	Toby Vilmos	2006	2	2	11	0	15	0	0	1	0	1
Godfree	Paul Alexander	1967	7	18	0	0	25	1	13	0	0	14
Godfrey	Andrew Paul	1983	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	9	0	9
Godkin	Ben Paul	1994	0	0	18	1	19	0	0	0	0	0
Golding	David Charles	1990	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	1	0	1
Golding	David R	1992	1	16	0	0	17	0	9	0	0	9
Goldstraw	David Ashley	1980	3	6	18	0	27	0	4	20	0	24
Goldsworthy	Scott Jarrod	2003	40	0	0	0	40	10	0	0	0	10
Good	Daniel John	2009	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2
Goodbody	Richard Jonathan	2001	0	0	30	0	30	0	0	24	0	24
Goodier	Matthew Edward	2002	7	0	0	0	7	9	0	0	0	9
Gopu	Hari	1997	2	46	7	0	55	0	5	2	0	7
Gordon	Jamie Stuart	1988	0	0	18	1	19	0	0	0	0	0
Gordon	Nicholas Edward	1988	3	7	19	0	29	0	0	3	0	3
Gorr	David L	1968	2	8	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	1
Gosewinckel	Jon Maxwell	1983	1	2	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	10
Gould	Samuel Davey	1990	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	1	0	1
Goulden	Richard John	1997	0	52	18	1	71	0	5	1	0	6
Gowans	Mark Damien	1999	3	13	0	0	16	0	1	0	0	1
Graham	Mark Howard	1983	6	11	16	0	33	0	0	1	0	1
Grahame	Anthony	1994	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	Andrew Edward	1982	0	1	13	0	14	0	1	0	0	1
Grant	Arthur Phillip	1983	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	Cameron Charles	1987	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Grant	Kenneth D	1964	14	24	0	0	38	7	14	0	0	21
Granter	Ian Spence	1982	0	6	17	0	23	0	7	9	0	16
Granter	Mark Donald	1982	0	6	4	0	10	0	1	1	0	2
Graves	Michael Joseph	2001	36	13	0	0	49	40	10	0	0	50
Gray	Samuel	2007	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Greenaway	Ian C	1963	8	31	0	0	39	4	21	0	0	25
Gregson	Cameron Thomas	1986	33	8	11	12	64	15	12	29	6	62
Grenda	Maxwell Ross	1987	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1
Grenda	Scott Andrew	1986	7	4	4	0	15	6	4	9	0	19
Grey	Shane Terence	1981	14	1	5	0	20	4	0	0	0	4
Groot	Aaron Robert	2002	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	1	0	1
Grover	Cameron Harley	2006	0	6	0	0	6	0	4	0	0	4
Gunston	Jack Raymond	2007	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	21	0	21
Gust	Dean Craig	1981	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	1	0	1
Gutch	Ryan Clinton	2008	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	1	0	1
Gyngell	John Raymond	1974	20	10	0	0	30	16	0	0	0	16
Gyngell	Robert B	1961	38	5	0	0	43	6	5	0	0	11
Haar	Brendan Eric	2003	6	6	0	0	12	1	4	0	0	5
Habteslassie	Samuel	2008	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	1	0	1
Hales	David JD	1964	1	28	0	0	29	0	3	0	0	3

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Hall	Adrian John	1998	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Hall	Geoffrey Beven	1982	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	4	0	4
Hallowell	Cameron John	1985	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	Anthony Paul	1989	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	7	0	7
Hamilton	Peter Robert	1983	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	41	0	41
Hampton	Ben James	2006	23	13	22	0	58	25	15	42	0	82
Hanlon	James Edward	2001	9	1	26	0	36	4	2	40	0	46
Hanlon	Joel Andrew	2009	6	9	0	0	15	6	6	0	0	12
Hanson	Nicolas Tom	1999	25	0	0	0	25	29	0	0	0	29
Hardeman	Gregory	1990	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	3	0	3
Hardeman	Luke Alexander	1997	0	8	0	0	8	0	13	0	0	13
Hare	Russell Maurice	1961	72	78	0	0	150	26	35	0	0	61
Harle	Sam Griffiths	2009	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	0	1
Harper	James	1985	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Harper	Philip Roy	1975	0	10	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	3
Harrigan	Dean Anthony	1998	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	Eric C	1985	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Harrison	Daniel James	2009	0	2	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	1
Harrison	Mark Damien	1992	1	19	17	0	37	0	6	15	0	21
Harrison	Nicholas John	2005	46	17	28	0	91	17	5	14	0	36
Harrison	Richard James	1996	0	13	0	0	13	0	1	0	0	1
Harrop	Brett David	1998	20	13	30	0	63	5	4	60	0	69
Harrop	Dean M	1997	0	0	30	2	32	0	0	9	1	10
Harrop	Scott Irvine	1991	0	0	14	1	15	0	0	1	0	1
Harry	Rodney James	1975	0	7	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	7
Harry	Rowan Howard	1985	0	3	21	0	24	0	1	17	0	18
Hart	Glenn Russell	1980	18	1	6	0	25	7	0	9	0	16
Hart	Rodney John	1970	4	30	0	0	34	0	6	0	0	6
Hart	Rohan Trevor	1987	6	0	0	0	6	9	0	0	0	9
Harvey	Robert Jeffrey	2009	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5
Hassett	David Anthony	1999	48	5	0	0	53	27	3	0	0	30
Hastings	David Lindsay	1981	0	5	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	2
Hattam	Grant Laurence	1970	87	34	0	0	121	57	12	0	0	69
Haydon	Ashley James	1990	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Haydon	Christopher John	1978	8	2	12	0	22	7	1	7	0	15
Hayes	Callan Ross	2002	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	6	0	6
Hayes	Peter Stewart	1967	0	52	0	0	52	0	3	0	0	3
Hayes-Dewar	Gary	1990	14	11	11	0	36	18	8	34	0	60
Hayter	Danny John	1993	4	9	1	0	14	0	1	1	0	2
Hayter	Joshua Raphael	1992	33	5	0	0	38	0	1	0	0	1
Head	Graeme	1985	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Healey	Bruce William	1969	0	11	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	1
Healey	Simon Bruce	1990	0	7	29	2	38	0	2	13	0	15
Hee	Michael Robert	2005	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
Henderson	Andrew James	1991	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	1
Henderson	Brian Neville	1961	100	5	0	0	105	0	2	0	0	2
Henderson	Ian Leonard	1971	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Hendricks	Paul Geoffrey	1985	0	1	24	0	25	0	0	14	0	14
Hennig	Brett Stephen	1991	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Hepburn	Scott William	1990	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Hepenstall	Peter C	1980	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Herbert	Andrew Royston	1992	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
Herbert	Brendan James	1989	0	36	33	2	71	0	3	5	3	11
Herbert	G John	1966	7	10	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Herrmann	Adrian Michael Robert	2002	0	2	15	0	17	0	0	1	0	1
Hewitt	Dean Robert	1988	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	5	0	5
Hicks	Andrew John Hooper	1981	82	48	17	0	147	17	15	13	0	45
Hicks	John Richard	1986	0	33	8	0	41	0	1	0	0	1
Hickson	Mark Richard	1990	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	1	0	1
Hilditch	Matthew	2008	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Hill	David B	1962	3	8	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Hill	Ken G	1961	5	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
Hill	Nevada S	1995	7	55	12	3	77	1	9	6	1	17
Hillyer	Cameron Anthony	1992	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	4	4
Hilton	Adam Lindsay	1996	95	8	0	0	103	128	2	0	0	130
Hilton	Ashley John	1992	101	10	31	0	142	3	1	11	0	15
Hilton	Travis Andrew	1998	0	21	16	0	37	0	11	6	0	17
Hoang	Binh Long	2008	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Hoare	Daniel John	1991	1	33	10	1	45	0	15	6	0	21
Hobart	Scott Robert	1998	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Hobbs	Darryl John	1993	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	6	0	6
Hodge	David John Cleveland	1978	76	15	17	0	108	72	31	15	0	118
Hodge	Mark Logan	1983	6	0	0	0	6	11	0	0	0	11
Hoey	Simon Michael	1988	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	0
Hoffman	Matthew Steven	2001	4	30	12	0	46	3	13	17	0	33
Hogan	Lynton Christopher	1999	0	0	14	8	22	0	0	0	1	1
Holland	James Patrick	1987	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Holloway	Nathan Leigh	2009	11	1	0	0	12	15	1	0	0	16
Holohan	Anthony Hilton	1984	72	4	0	0	76	15	2	0	0	17
Holt	Leigh Aaron	2000	2	0	3	0	5	2	0	3	0	5
Home	Andrew Stewart	1961	205	40	0	0	245	184	29	0	0	213
Home	Cameron Weir	1996	82	15	8	0	105	77	20	13	0	110
Home	Richard Lambert	1989	17	9	15	0	41	22	7	16	0	45
Home	Roderick Weir	1961	61	41	0	0	102	22	5	0	0	27
Hood	Anthony StJohn	1986	0	21	18	0	39	0	1	1	0	2
Hopkins	Roger D	1965	0	8	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	1
Hopping	Jared William	2008	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	8	0	8
Hopwood	Heath Jarrod	2006	23	0	0	0	23	32	0	0	0	32
Horne	Peter G	1966	1	47	0	0	48	0	6	0	0	6
Horne	Richard J	1967	1	38	0	0	39	0	9	0	0	9
Horstmann	Christopher Joseph	1993	0	8	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	1
Hoskin	Matthew Frederick	1979	5	0	17	0	22	1	0	0	0	1
Houghton	John Linton	1971	177	0	0	0	177	62	0	0	0	62
Houston	Michael Nairn	1974	93	65	0	0	158	131	61	0	0	192

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Houston	Richard Gordon	1980	55	18	13	0	86	13	3	1	0	17
Howard	Robert John	1973	15	1	0	0	16	3	0	0	0	3
Howells	Richard J	1967	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Howker	Paul David	1987	0	4	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	1
Hucker	Craig S	1996	35	6	0	0	41	36	14	0	0	50
Humphrey	Peter Francis	1985	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter	Anthony N	1963	0	26	0	0	26	0	27	0	0	27
Hunter	Ben Alexander	2000	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	5	0	5
Hunter	Dean Robert	1990	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	1	1
Hunter	Joshua Simon	1996	0	1	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter	Thomas Anthony	1991	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	2	0	2
Hunter	Timothy Leon Ross	2008	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Hutchinson	Nick William	2006	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	1	0	1
Hutchinson	Robert McKenzie	1981	1	20	0	0	21	0	3	0	0	3
Hutchison	Ian McK	1968	2	8	0	0	10	2	11	0	0	13
Hynes	David Harold	1981	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	2	0	2
Ion	Travis Robert	1992	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Irvine	Denis James	1993	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Irvine	Nicholas Richard	1988	0	13	3	9	25	0	14	2	2	18
Irving	Louis Beau	1969	30	99	0	0	129	4	8	0	0	12
Irving	Mark	1977	0	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0
Isaacs	Geoffrey Ewen	1972	0	13	0	0	13	0	2	0	0	2
Jackson	Robert Edwin	1969	7	83	0	0	90	5	30	0	0	35
Jackson	Travis Alan	2008	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	5	0	5
Jame	Christopher Daniel	2006	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
James	Gavin Andrew Richard	1992	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	2	2
Jamieson	David Campbell	1988	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0
Jansen	Shane Francis	2006	0	25	0	0	25	0	1	0	0	1
Jayasekera	Chatura	1997	41	41	29	0	111	22	18	19	0	59
Jayasuriya	Vidura Aroshana	2001	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Jeffares	Christopher Edward	1994	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jeffries	Warren R	2002	0	4	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	2
Jenke	Andrew Krystin	1999	96	2	12	0	110	60	5	6	0	71
Jenke	Sam James	2009	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	2	0	2
Jenkins	Brad Thomas	1987	0	7	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	2
Jenner	Paul David	1992	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	1	0	1
Jessep	Phillip Charles	1973	27	18	0	0	45	23	18	0	0	41
Jewell	Russell Charles	1973	11	7	0	0	18	1	1	0	0	2
Jimmieson	Cory Dean	1996	0	20	10	0	30	0	0	2	0	2
Johns	Paul Dawson	2007	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	1
Johnson	Ian M	1963	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	Jack Ramon	2007	0	0	27	0	27	0	0	1	0	1
Johnson	John Robert	1979	0	0	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	Philip R	1965	0	9	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	1
Johnson	Rhys Michael	2005	47	9	28	0	84	16	0	71	0	87
Johnson	Roger W	1964	0	44	0	0	44	0	2	0	0	2
Johnson	Russell Andrew	1995	0	6	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	1

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Johnston	Alexander	2008	34	1	25	0	60	41	0	68	0	109
Johnston	Andrew Roger	1991	0	0	0	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
Johnston	Brent Andrew	1999	21	43	19	0	83	10	35	6	0	51
Johnston	Terry Ross	1981	0	1	25	0	26	0	0	25	0	25
Johnston	Timothy Campbell	1990	0	27	15	7	49	0	0	2	1	3
Jones	Andrew Robert	2001	0	0	27	0	27	0	0	39	0	39
Jones	Brian G	1962	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	Brin	2010	0	8	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	1
Jones	Matthew Robert	1993	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	4	0	4
Jones	Matthew Worland	2010	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	Michael William	2002	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	1	0	1
Jones	Rodney Stuart	1970	2	54	0	0	56	0	8	0	0	8
Jones	Scott Taylor	1995	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	Stephen Anthony	2005	21	0	1	0	22	19	0	1	0	20
Jones	Tim Russell	1987	10	23	25	0	58	13	18	20	0	51
Joyce	Cameron B	1997	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	0	1
Jury	Darren John	1982	0	2	6	0	8	0	1	0	0	1
Jury	Mark Maxwell	1980	9	40	19	0	68	0	7	22	0	29
Jury	Paul Andrew	1988	15	0	0	0	15	13	0	0	0	13
Kane	Peter David	1970	108	11	0	0	119	8	6	0	0	14
Kaneen	Peter Edward	1991	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	1
Keady	Adam	2007	0	1	18	0	19	0	1	9	0	10
Keast	Sam	2007	0	0	23	0	23	0	0	3	0	3
Keating	Jerome Leigh	2008	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Kejna	Ryan Levi	1999	88	4	0	0	92	29	2	0	0	31
Kellock	Anthony William	1963	52	20	0	0	72	81	30	0	0	111
Kelly	David Stuart	1990	0	0	34	1	35	0	0	60	2	62
Kelly	Matthew James	1990	0	0	24	0	24	0	0	31	0	31
Kelsey	Andrew R	1966	7	8	0	0	15	10	7	0	0	17
Kendall	Myles Geoffrey	1999	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kenny	P M	1967	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	Michael Rhys	2009	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	1	0	1
Kerr	David Peter	1982	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	5	0	5
Kerr	Jamie Marryat	1985	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	6	0	6
Kerr	Paul James	1992	0	0	28	0	28	0	0	4	0	4
Keyter	Paul Andrew	1982	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	4	0	4
Khongbut	Saknarin Ben	2008	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	3	0	3
Kidgell	Ian Morley	1990	21	3	0	0	24	5	0	0	0	5
Kight	Andrew James	2002	46	43	16	0	105	11	16	9	0	36
Kilburn	Andrew John	1990	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Kimpton	Richard Jonathan	2002	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Kind	Rodney Donald	1985	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	3	0	3
King	Ashley Robert	2010	0	2	14	0	16	0	0	8	0	8
King	Gregory Vincent	1989	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	7	0	7
King	Stewart William	1988	0	17	14	5	36	0	27	9	6	42
Kingsley	John David	1982	60	41	0	0	101	35	52	0	0	87
Kingston	John Richard	1978	19	101	17	10	147	0	4	0	0	4

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Kingston	Phillip Andrew	1978	1	0	38	0	39	0	0	8	0	8
Kirkwood-Scott	Adam Leigh	1988	12	91	33	11	147	6	28	33	8	75
Kitch	Damien P	1999	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Kitts	Shane George	1994	0	4	13	0	17	0	1	1	0	2
Klindworth	Brian Matthew	1999	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Knight	Ben John	1999	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2
Knight	Mark Gregory	1980	5	15	19	0	39	0	1	0	0	1
Koetsier	Ben Geert	2000	0	0	32	0	32	0	0	3	0	3
Korlos	Dean Constantine	2005	0	15	51	0	66	0	2	68	0	70
Kozik	Andrew	2001	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	2	0	2
Kraus	Christopher Aaron John	1990	121	11	5	0	137	166	21	5	0	192
Krause	Michael Chris	1989	0	35	15	29	79	0	5	15	39	59
Kretschmer	David Grant	1991	0	25	0	11	36	0	3	0	3	6
Kruytbosch	Andrew J	1963	5	19	0	0	24	2	24	0	0	26
Kurta	Jason	1995	0	32	0	0	32	0	1	0	0	1
Kyle	Paul Andrew	1996	0	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Labady	Andrew Grant	1988	0	3	18	0	21	0	0	7	0	7
Ladd	David James	1996	1	2	16	0	19	1	2	39	0	42
Ladd	Peter John	1997	0	0	21	0	21	0	0	1	0	1
Ladd	Robert McGregor	1998	13	56	38	0	107	3	15	11	0	29
Ladds	Bernard Peter	1982	2	161	17	21	201	0	25	9	0	34
Ladds	Christopher John	1982	0	37	20	27	84	0	0	2	0	2
Ladner	Ian F	1963	19	27	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0
LaGreca	Michael	1993	0	7	0	0	7	0	16	0	0	16
Laird	Euan C	1985	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Lake	Daniel John	2007	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	2	0	2
Lake	Jason Donald	2007	0	1	10	0	11	0	0	3	0	3
Lake	Michael John	1991	3	3	0	0	6	5	3	0	0	8
Lambert	John McKerral	1967	71	7	0	0	78	27	4	0	0	31
Lambert	Michael Gregory	1999	23	6	0	0	29	16	2	0	0	18
Lane	Christopher James	1986	0	76	31	17	124	0	64	33	23	120
Langford	John Richard	1972	32	23	0	0	55	37	20	0	0	57
Langford-Jones	Andrew Leigh	1966	151	53	0	0	204	161	59	0	0	220
Langford-Jones	Ben	1994	0	128	34	0	162	0	9	12	0	21
Langford-Jones	Bruce Mervyn	1965	56	19	0	0	75	27	13	0	0	40
Langford-Jones	Paul	1994	2	109	19	0	130	0	53	17	0	70
Langford-Jones	Sam	1999	179	9	5	0	193	124	13	3	0	140
Lappage	David George	1991	178	41	11	0	230	330	84	23	0	437
Larkworthy	Matthew James	1986	0	13	30	3	46	0	0	2	0	2
Lasry	I Lex	1967	0	22	0	0	22	0	3	0	0	3
Lasscock	Cameron Glenn	1987	0	0	21	0	21	0	0	3	0	3
Lasscock	Gregory Bruce	1987	12	25	30	6	73	26	65	94	8	193
Latrielle	John R	1965	11	41	0	0	52	1	0	0	0	1
Lavender	Ross Bradley	1989	4	127	0	4	135	3	61	0	1	65
Lay	Brendan Scott	1996	68	20	10	0	98	22	12	8	0	42
Lay	Darren Phillip	1997	97	12	21	0	130	14	4	15	0	33
Lear	Dean Ronald	1986	0	5	28	11	44	0	1	2	2	5

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Lear	Shane Anthony	1992	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	Andrew Graeme	2002	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	Chris M	1982	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	6	0	6
Leeming	William Allen	1970	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Leetham	John William	1977	1	33	0	0	34	0	2	0	0	2
Leetham	Peter James	1978	0	14	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Legge	David Sidney	1977	27	0	0	0	27	16	0	0	0	16
Legge	John Rutherford	1972	55	50	0	0	105	14	33	0	0	47
Leggett	Harold C	1966	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Leggo	Geoffrey Victor	1985	0	1	4	0	5	0	0	2	0	2
LeGrand	Michael	1994	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Levy	Michael	2004	0	16	0	0	16	0	9	0	0	9
Lewis	Blake Kenneth	2010	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	Christopher John Stuart	1984	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2
Lewis	Freddie	2009	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lilley	Michael Clifton	1992	0	1	0	11	12	0	1	0	0	1
Lillie	Matthew David	2007	28	3	21	0	52	5	0	19	0	24
Limon	Edward John	2008	10	0	7	0	17	0	0	3	0	3
Linforth	Dean Phillip	1990	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lingard	Richard Henry	1973	49	19	0	0	68	44	26	0	0	70
Lippe	Wayne Scott	1990	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Livingstone	David William	1981	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Lockwood	Scott Thomas	2005	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	4
Loewe	Stewart Craig	2003	31	0	0	0	31	55	0	0	0	55
Loh	Peter A	1962	21	2	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0
Loney	Douglas John	1973	34	1	0	0	35	5	0	0	0	5
Loosemore	Roger John	1985	12	15	0	0	27	8	7	0	0	15
Lord	Donald Edward	1962	170	35	0	0	205	24	8	0	0	32
Lovell	Christopher Stuart	1993	5	8	1	0	14	0	5	8	0	13
Lovig	Dean Harold	1972	62	89	0	0	151	1	14	0	0	15
Low	Gavin W	1963	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Lucas	Gregory Scott	1973	49	6	0	0	55	13	0	0	0	13
Lucas	Stephen John	1971	3	42	0	0	45	2	38	0	0	40
Luxmore	Alan M	1973	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Luxton	Michael John	1978	7	4	0	0	11	1	2	0	0	3
Lyell	Terrence Paul	1989	19	1	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	20
Lynch	Andrew William	1978	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	49	0	49
Lyon	Thomas Maxwell	1966	61	0	0	0	61	11	0	0	0	11
Lyons	Benjamin Stuart	1994	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Lyons	Richard Edward	1978	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	14	0	14
Lyons	Shannon Thomas	1991	0	17	31	0	48	0	0	23	0	23
Lyons	Terry G	1970	22	12	0	0	34	43	26	0	0	69
MacDonald	Robert Bruce	1979	7	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	7
MacFarlane	John R	1961	6	7	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
MacFarlane	Keith Douglas	1961	72	29	0	0	101	1	6	0	0	7
MacFarlane	Peter William	1961	142	21	0	0	163	63	20	0	0	83
Mackay	Jason Robert	1994	0	33	16	2	51	0	0	3	0	3

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Mackay	Robert J	1967	7	43	0	0	50	0	8	0	0	8
Mackay	Robert James	1999	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Mackay	Shannon John	1996	0	0	13	1	14	0	0	4	0	4
Mackenzie	David John	2000	122	29	22	0	173	20	9	4	0	33
MacLean	David John Milroy	1992	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Magee	James Alexander	2008	11	2	0	0	13	34	2	0	0	36
Maguire	Cameron Scott	1987	0	6	0	0	6	0	4	0	0	4
Main	Blair Paterson	1988	5	135	30	7	177	3	17	23	1	44
Main	Cameron Allen	1999	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1
Main	Fraser Alexander McLeod	1988	43	11	19	0	73	10	2	1	0	13
Makinson	Robert Gerard John	1992	11	6	0	0	17	10	4	0	0	14
Mandic	Milan	2010	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
March	Gary	1984	40	41	0	10	91	19	28	0	7	54
Margerison	John	1994	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Marks	William Michael	1970	0	22	0	0	22	0	10	0	0	10
Marsh	Euan Boyd	2001	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	Garry Bruce	1968	110	4	0	0	114	2	0	0	0	2
Marshall	Jason Robert	1985	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2
Marshall	Peter B	1966	4	44	0	0	48	0	7	0	0	7
Marshall	Stephen John	1977	108	41	0	4	153	48	21	0	3	72
Martin	Stefan Paul	2006	4	1	9	0	14	3	1	5	0	9
Mason	David	1996	154	37	20	0	211	123	63	43	0	229
Mason	David Russell	2006	12	24	12	0	48	0	2	0	0	2
Mason	James H	1968	29	5	0	0	34	17	0	0	0	17
Mason	Peter Leslie	1968	156	8	0	0	164	166	12	0	0	178
Mason	Phillip James	1985	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	3	0	3
Masters	Gordon John	1979	0	13	24	0	37	0	0	0	0	0
Mathers	Richard Julian	2008	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Matthews	Brendan Francis	1978	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Mattingley	Brett John	1978	10	36	20	0	66	2	10	12	0	24
Mayes	Don Thomas	2005	0	41	28	0	69	0	5	7	0	12
Mayes	Sam Jonathon	2007	0	16	25	0	41	0	0	0	0	0
McCarthy	Russell David	2003	0	14	0	0	14	0	2	0	0	2
McConchie	Grant B	1965	0	30	0	0	30	0	3	0	0	3
McConnell	Michael C	1967	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
McCormick	David	2010	1	13	0	0	14	0	9	0	0	9
McCready	Jonathan David	1966	3	35	0	0	38	0	6	0	0	6
McCready	Peter Ian	1962	52	50	0	0	102	22	42	0	0	64
McCrimmon	David James	1990	0	0	0	32	32	0	0	0	11	11
McDonald	Cameron	1980	4	11	0	0	15	0	3	0	0	3
McDonald	Cameron John	1982	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	19	0	19
McDonald	Dean A J	1981	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
McDonell	Bradley Curtis	1982	0	4	31	0	35	0	2	13	0	15
McDonell	Clint Barrie	1978	10	8	34	0	52	5	2	50	0	57
McGauran	Martin John	2001	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	5	0	5
McGaw	Paul David	1979	13	3	0	0	16	6	2	0	0	8
McGorlick	Andrew David	1988	1	29	0	32	62	0	18	0	14	32

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
McIntyre	Adam Douglas	2005	32	3	1	0	36	3	0	1	0	4
McIntyre	Cameron William	1994	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	14	0	14
McKenzie	Christopher Gerrard	1989	107	0	0	0	107	52	0	0	0	52
McKenzie	Christopher Gordon	1989	3	1	25	0	29	2	1	20	0	23
McKillop	Aaron James	2006	8	6	2	0	16	2	0	1	0	3
McKimm	Garry Robert	1983	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	Neil John	1976	3	4	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	1
McLauchlan	Hamish Alan	2001	120	24	25	0	169	23	13	10	0	46
McLauchlan	Jarrold Douglas	2004	26	64	0	0	90	2	33	0	0	35
McLaughlin	Andrew Fraser	1991	0	11	3	2	16	0	3	0	0	3
McLean	David Allister	1961	57	2	0	0	59	0	0	0	0	0
McLean	Justin	1991	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	2	0	2
McLennan	Grainger James	1976	4	58	0	0	62	1	19	0	0	20
McLennan	Timothy Charles	2002	0	2	12	0	14	0	0	1	0	1
McMahon	Adam Joseph	2001	33	0	0	0	33	5	0	0	0	5
McManus	Stephen James	1983	6	5	0	0	11	2	0	0	0	2
McMaster	Rohan Campbell	1998	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
McMillan	Campbell John	1990	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
McMurray	Rhys James	2008	0	10	30	0	40	0	2	11	0	13
McNidder	Stuart Ian	1989	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	4	0	4
McQuarrie	Adrian John	1971	14	9	0	0	23	1	2	0	0	3
McQueen	Donald Gerrard	1971	79	81	0	0	160	51	74	0	0	125
McTaggart	Raymond David	1994	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	1	0	1
McTaggart	William Charles	2010	0	1	16	0	17	0	0	21	0	21
McVilly	Cameron Travers	1985	0	1	25	0	26	0	0	32	0	32
McVilly	Scott Ashton	1981	0	18	30	0	48	0	5	12	0	17
McWaters	Richard Geoffrey	1972	0	30	0	0	30	0	15	0	0	15
Meades	Justin Robert	1998	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	4	0	4
Meadows	Gregory Thomas	1977	62	42	0	0	104	31	19	0	0	50
Meadows	Neil Robert	1978	11	22	19	0	52	5	9	9	0	23
Mears	John B	1964	3	51	0	0	54	0	6	0	0	6
Meckiff	John William	1980	50	0	4	5	59	12	0	0	1	13
Medcalf	Warren Ralph	1990	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Meehan	Kevin F	1983	5	4	10	0	19	2	2	5	0	9
Meehan	Simon Henry	1989	54	1	0	0	55	90	1	0	0	91
Mehegan	Robert John	1970	23	42	0	0	65	14	41	0	0	55
Melican	Simon Francis	1991	2	2	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	1
Melin	Benjamin Andrew	1996	0	34	15	1	50	0	18	10	1	29
Menti	Paul Anthony	1982	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	7	0	7
Merrett	David Norman	1986	32	14	33	0	79	3	4	5	0	12
Merrett	Peter George	1986	0	103	30	3	136	0	3	1	0	4
Metherall	Brett Richard	1992	0	0	23	0	23	0	0	8	0	8
Metherall	Richard William	1964	68	167	0	0	235	21	99	0	0	120
Millar	Antony S	1985	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Millard	Corey	2010	15	1	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	1
Milledge	Richard A	1962	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Miller	David John	1980	81	12	19	1	113	94	18	27	1	140

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Miller	Garry R	1968	23	8	0	0	31	2	1	0	0	3
Miller	Jonathan Adam	1998	0	9	30	0	39	0	0	1	0	1
Milliken	Ewen Robert	1982	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Mills	David C	1961	14	1	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Mills	Gary P	1983	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	49	0	49
Mills	Jarod Leigh	2005	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Mills	Trenton Hugh	2007	0	6	12	0	18	0	0	0	0	0
Milne-Pott	Ross F	1967	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mingos	Nicholas John	2007	0	20	2	0	22	0	4	5	0	9
Mistry	Naushad	1991	0	3	12	7	22	0	1	5	2	8
Mitchell	Andrew Charles	1978	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mitchell	Antony Howard	1978	0	42	20	0	62	0	1	1	0	2
Mitchell	Brendan Andrew	1994	78	42	1	0	121	8	15	1	0	24
Mitchell	Craig William	1994	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	2	0	2
Mitchell	Ryan Alexander	1999	0	88	0	1	89	0	16	0	0	16
Mitchellhill	James Neil	1981	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1
Mitchem	Anthony John	1985	3	15	0	0	18	0	10	0	0	10
Mohammad	Farooq	2005	92	9	2	0	103	21	5	2	0	28
Moline	Robert Douglas	1978	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Moorby	Brian Trevor	1990	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Moore	Rodger L	1964	4	28	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0
Moresi	Jared Robert	2006	0	13	0	0	13	0	1	0	0	1
Morey	Nik Simon	1987	72	0	1	0	73	160	0	0	0	160
Morgan	J P	1965	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
Morisi	Anthony Robert	2002	0	11	0	0	11	0	2	0	0	2
Morris	Allan S	1962	10	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	1
Morris	Ashley Kaine	2008	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Morris	Donald M	1963	26	23	0	0	49	0	1	0	0	1
Morrison	Christopher Scott	2007	49	1	15	0	65	15	0	22	0	37
Morrison	Simon Bradley	1985	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Morton	John R	1968	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Mosbey	Rilyn David	2001	13	33	26	0	72	5	8	14	0	27
Moss	Daniel Wayne	2000	0	10	2	0	12	0	4	0	0	4
Moss	Wayne Lewis	1977	4	14	0	0	18	3	12	0	0	15
Mountford	Andrew John	1983	13	44	17	0	74	2	31	24	0	57
Moyle	Brett R	1999	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	Christopher Stuart	1998	8	48	36	0	92	3	9	10	0	22
Mudge	Eric Francis	1985	1	10	28	2	41	0	0	8	1	9
Mueller	Jay William	2005	2	55	0	0	57	0	1	0	0	1
Muir	Brad	1991	0	0	9	2	11	0	0	3	3	6
Muir	Jake	2009	10	6	0	0	16	13	13	0	0	26
Mulholland	Shannon Robert	2008	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Mulquiney	Luke John	2000	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mulvey	Eric James	1965	62	10	0	0	72	35	2	0	0	37
Munday	Jake Michael	2005	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Murch	S Nigel C	1966	7	3	0	0	10	6	2	0	0	8
Murdoch	Andrew James	1990	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	2	0	2

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Murdoch	Ross Thomas	1983	15	0	10	0	25	9	0	4	0	13
Murdock	C	1990	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Murphy	Brett Aaron	1999	0	0	9	1	10	0	0	4	0	4
Murray	Simon Arthur	1987	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Muscovich	Damian Gavin	1999	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Mytton	Alistair Robert	1985	15	54	14	8	91	8	17	13	4	42
Nagarajan	Divesh	2008	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	1	0	1
Naisbitt	Darren Scott	1990	0	0	24	1	25	0	0	17	0	17
Nance	Keith H	1965	20	0	0	0	20	6	0	0	0	6
Nash	Lachlan Ryan	2007	0	1	17	0	18	0	0	15	0	15
Neville	Graham John	1965	24	58	0	0	82	0	10	0	0	10
Newby	Daniel Alan	2010	0	1	16	0	17	0	0	8	0	8
Newham	Gregory John	1979	24	8	12	0	44	21	4	13	0	38
Newman	Andrew Minto	1990	0	0	17	3	20	0	0	23	2	25
Newman	Mark Sydney	1981	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	3	0	3
Newton	Bradley Robert	1992	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	Mark Andrew	1976	26	85	0	5	116	15	27	0	2	44
Newton	Paul Howard	1995	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Nguyen	Giordan Rhys	2010	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Nicholls	Bradley Robert	1992	0	0	22	0	22	0	0	3	0	3
Nicholls	Cameron Scott	1997	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Nicholson	Richard Charles	1983	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	5	0	5
Nicol	Alastair Michael	2010	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	19	0	19
Nicol	Duncan McIntosh	2009	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Nicolette	Edward James	2009	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Nippers	Colin Michael	1987	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nixon	Kevin J	1967	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nolan	Sean Patrick	1985	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	1
Nord-White	Madd	2010	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Norton	David Ernest	1964	28	30	0	0	58	14	33	0	0	47
Norton	Thomas George	2002	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	1	0	1
Noske	Peter James	1979	88	101	16	0	205	100	84	56	0	240
Nowlon	Sam Maxwell	2010	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2
Oakes	Andrew Kenneth	1985	0	1	10	0	11	0	0	1	0	1
Oaten	Kenneth	1961	13	49	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	0
O'Brien	Andrew James	1989	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	3	0	3
O'Brien	David Timothy	1986	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
O'Brien	Mark James	1983	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
O'Brien	Scott Kevin	1991	0	1	33	1	35	0	1	10	0	11
O'Connor	David J	1968	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
O'Donnell	Peter Richard	1994	106	91	0	7	204	2	11	0	0	13
O'Farrell	Brett Granger	2002	64	5	0	0	69	176	15	0	0	191
O'Grady	Sean Daniel	1995	0	42	3	0	45	0	2	0	0	2
O'Leary	Sean Nicholas	1989	0	0	11	6	17	0	0	0	0	0
Orr	James Robert	2009	0	2	5	0	7	0	0	3	0	3
Orton	Anthony Mark	1986	148	56	0	0	204	12	14	0	0	26
Oscar	Tim David	1996	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Owen	Nicholas Alexander	2008	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Owen	Robert John	1982	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
Page	David Peter	1981	1	11	17	0	29	0	0	16	0	16
Paisley	Louis Robert	1998	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Palmer	Ian James	1975	18	20	0	0	38	3	13	0	0	16
Panetta	John Edward	1991	0	15	31	0	46	0	7	9	0	16
Papotto	Anthony David	1998	5	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
Parker	Douglas N	1974	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Parker	Richard	1994	2	8	18	2	30	1	2	3	0	6
Parkes	Timothy Phillip	1971	2	89	0	0	91	0	6	0	0	6
Parton	James Kinross	1989	0	10	49	6	65	0	1	9	0	10
Parton	Robert Norman	1987	9	40	49	6	104	1	23	63	5	92
Pasco	Darren John	1991	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	2	0	2
Pascoe	Damon Alexander	1994	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Passalaqua	Ross William	1971	4	47	0	0	51	1	31	0	0	32
Paterson	Robert William	1982	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	6	0	6
Patterson	Garry William	1976	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Paul	James Kingsford	2010	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	7	0	7
Paul	Roger Ian	1974	198	2	0	0	200	94	0	0	0	94
Payne	Lyndon Russell	1972	2	39	0	0	41	0	12	0	0	12
Payne	Sean Robert	1994	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	29	0	29
Peasley	Nicholas Robert	1986	0	12	3	0	15	0	21	0	0	21
Pedder	Scott M	1997	0	6	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	1
Pegoli	Leo	1993	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Percoco	Tony	1992	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	3	0	3
Perri	Jason Andrew	2008	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	21	0	21
Peterson	Marc Albert	2003	14	1	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	6
Petrovich	Lucas Mylivoy	2005	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Petterson	David Lawrence	1992	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pettett	Robert Alan	1994	0	18	0	0	18	0	4	0	0	4
Pfeiffer	Lachlan Alistair	1999	0	6	33	0	39	0	1	35	0	36
Phillips	Anthony Ward	1991	8	3	0	0	11	12	6	0	0	18
Phillips	Garry Leigh	1986	142	0	18	0	160	170	0	8	0	178
Phillips	Matthew Peter	1991	1	0	14	0	15	1	0	22	0	23
Phillips	Rohan Blyth	1994	15	0	0	0	15	4	0	0	0	4
Phillips	Russell Gary	1987	5	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	7
Phillips	Stephen John	1970	15	10	0	0	25	12	20	0	0	32
Phillips	Tim Charles	2000	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	2	0	2
Phillips	Wayne Ashley	1987	51	8	13	0	72	37	9	14	0	60
Philp	Nicholas Andrew	1987	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Pichler	Thomas	1984	1	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Pickering	Samuel James	2006	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Pike	Andrew James	1994	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	3	0	3
Pinot	Luke Joseph	2008	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	9	0	9
Pipkorn	Lynton James	1999	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	1	1
Pitcher	James Edgar	2009	34	6	0	0	40	3	1	0	0	4
Pitcher	Luke Robert	1999	7	127	35	0	169	1	12	4	0	17

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Pitt	Michael Robert	2002	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Plecher	Robert Karl	1988	56	16	13	0	85	1	1	1	0	3
Plummer	Ryan Charles	2000	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	2	0	2
Plumridge	David James	1993	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Plunkett	Rodney Andrew	1973	0	3	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	2
Plymin	Jarrold Leigh	2008	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1
Podaridis	Spiro	2005	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Pollock	Daniel William	1994	0	6	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	3
Pollock	Robert James	1967	109	51	0	0	160	39	15	0	0	54
Pollock	Tom Cameron	2000	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	10	0	10
Poole	Phillip John	1973	72	31	0	0	103	18	8	0	0	26
Poole	Steven Walter	1976	6	69	0	0	75	0	0	0	0	0
Poon	Jason	1989	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Porter	David James	1998	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	2	0	2
Porter	Michael Brek	1963	31	0	0	0	31	34	0	0	0	34
Pound	Alistair David	1992	9	37	24	2	72	3	7	5	1	16
Pountney	Christopher Brian	1996	7	84	34	0	125	0	3	2	0	5
Pountney	Darren William	1998	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Powell	Glenn Alexander	1991	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	4	4
Pratt	Rodney Michael	1970	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Prins	Darren John	1993	0	2	13	0	15	0	0	7	0	7
Pritchard	Michael John	1971	3	74	0	0	77	0	1	0	0	1
Quensell	G L	1965	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Quick	Colin Reginald	1967	31	47	0	0	78	73	109	0	0	182
Quick	Geoffrey John	1972	14	2	0	0	16	10	1	0	0	11
Quiney	Garnet Harry	1972	1	18	0	0	19	0	5	0	0	5
Raby	James Alexander	1992	0	0	21	0	21	0	0	14	0	14
Rae	Jeremy Alan	1986	71	46	36	2	155	35	59	28	0	122
Rae	Wayne Aurther James	1982	0	17	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	1
Ralls	Bryce Michael	2005	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ralphsmith	Richard John	1986	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ralphsmith	Sean James	1995	17	0	0	0	17	12	0	0	0	12
Ramage	Matthew	2010	0	9	0	0	9	0	3	0	0	3
Rankine	Ian M	1963	13	40	0	0	53	3	16	0	0	19
Rann	Christopher Warren	1983	0	1	14	0	15	0	0	1	0	1
Rasmussen	Finn Simon	1987	0	0	11	0	11	0	0	1	0	1
Raso	Paul James	2008	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	4	0	4
Ravindram	Thanu	2010	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rawsthorne	Jason Byass	1990	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	2	0	2
Ray	Darryn Alfred	1990	3	48	0	1	52	0	4	0	0	4
Rechter	Grant Michael	1994	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	5	0	5
Redd	George Crombie Dickson	1968	14	7	0	0	21	4	3	0	0	7
Reed	Ashley James	1991	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2
Reed	Brett Michael	1982	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	1	0	1
Reed	Peter Watson	1962	58	54	0	0	112	27	37	0	0	64
Regan	Daryl Frederick	1966	99	5	0	0	104	15	6	0	0	21
Reid	Daniel Travis	1996	0	30	32	0	62	0	3	1	0	4

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Reid	Graham Leslie	1979	0	65	0	0	65	0	1	0	0	1
Reid	Robert Malcolm	1975	0	16	0	0	16	0	1	0	0	1
Reidy	Christopher Shane	1994	22	20	0	0	42	7	9	0	0	16
Reilly	Enda Patrick	1999	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	5	0	5
Rendall	Timothy John	1979	13	5	0	0	18	5	2	0	0	7
Reynolds	Mark Antony	1980	0	0	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Rice	Cameron Ian	1992	0	0	22	0	22	0	0	8	0	8
Rice	Timothy Dean	1990	0	0	18	19	37	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	Russell John	1983	0	1	16	0	17	0	0	9	0	9
Richardson	Shaun Patrick	1992	16	33	15	0	64	5	11	15	0	31
Richardson	Stuart George	1988	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	6	0	6
Ridgway	Aaron Graeme	2005	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgway	Ben Michael	2007	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Ridoutt	Ian Kenneth	1978	30	32	19	0	81	4	1	9	0	14
Rigby	John Farquar	1965	68	90	0	0	158	5	16	0	0	21
Rigby	Richard James	1987	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rigg	Daniel James	2004	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Riley	Simon Gerald	1994	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Roberts	Anthony Neil	1988	0	22	6	0	28	0	18	11	0	29
Roberts	Bevan Morgan	1972	8	6	0	0	14	6	1	0	0	7
Roberts	Dennis L	1964	7	57	0	0	64	0	24	0	0	24
Roberts	Ian Gregory	1973	52	9	0	0	61	84	8	0	0	92
Roberts	Spencer Stuart Haines	2005	56	4	1	0	61	33	3	0	0	36
Robertson	Andrew Donald	1981	0	28	17	8	53	0	2	3	0	5
Robertson	Bruce Wilkie	1974	4	23	0	0	27	2	11	0	0	13
Robertson	David S	1961	7	13	0	0	20	2	6	0	0	8
Robertson	Graeme D	1963	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Robertson	Jeffrey David	1979	61	85	33	4	183	129	142	72	6	349
Robertson	Justin R	1998	0	0	25	1	26	0	0	16	3	19
Robertson	Mark Andrew	1986	0	3	3	0	6	0	0	1	0	1
Robertson	Peter Stewart	1978	2	4	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	3
Robertson	Stephen Gary	1983	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	20	0	20
Robinson	Peter Edward	1990	7	24	15	0	46	3	7	8	0	18
Rodda	Daevyd Alexander	1999	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rode	Anthony P	1997	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	5	0	5
Rode	Steven David	1997	18	2	3	0	23	18	2	1	0	21
Rodgers	Tim John	2000	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rogers	Tristan Alan	1998	0	0	10	2	12	0	0	0	0	0
Romney	Simon	2008	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Rose	Nicholas Owen	2001	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	5	0	5
Ross	Alan Boyne	1963	64	4	0	0	68	13	6	0	0	19
Ross	Angus Forster	1998	54	23	0	0	77	11	4	0	0	15
Ross	John B	1961	1	8	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Rouda	Jason Joel	2009	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Rowe	Jonathan Barry	1991	6	0	1	1	8	5	0	0	0	5
Rowe	Matthew George	1993	0	0	26	0	26	0	0	14	0	14
Rowe	Michael John	1993	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Rowlands	Grant Paul	1994	42	64	0	0	106	2	5	0	0	7
Rowlands	Scott Christian	1996	36	40	0	0	76	0	2	0	0	2
Rule	William Mark	2008	0	20	35	0	55	0	0	0	0	0
Russo	Sebastian Nicholas	2009	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0
Ryall	Keith Francis	1969	2	15	0	0	17	1	8	0	0	9
Ryan	Anthony James	1993	0	6	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	1
Ryan	David Allan	1986	0	2	5	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Salter	David William	2004	8	46	0	0	54	4	27	0	0	31
Salter	James	2006	1	1	6	0	8	0	1	12	0	13
Salvas	Bowen David	2000	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	11	0	11
Saunders	Andrew James	2001	18	0	0	0	18	12	0	0	0	12
Saunders	Rohan Charles	1994	0	36	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0
Saunders	Scott Andrew	1997	2	148	15	0	165	0	70	41	0	111
Sawtell	Kerry Leslie	1984	24	17	0	0	41	2	2	0	0	4
Sawyer	Nigel Gifford	1967	50	64	0	0	114	4	33	0	0	37
Scaife	Duane Andrew	1996	0	51	0	10	61	0	4	0	0	4
Scaife	Matthew John	1996	0	2	14	0	16	0	0	1	0	1
Scammell	Darren Mark	1983	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	5	0	5
Scaunich	Danny Anthony	1986	24	15	3	3	45	1	0	1	0	2
Scaunich	Fabian Martin	1999	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Schaffter	David A	1961	10	0	0	0	10	5	0	0	0	5
Schmidt	Mark Peter	1994	0	6	12	0	18	0	3	7	0	10
Schmidt	Neville William	1974	227	53	0	0	280	286	46	0	0	332
Schofield	Adam Stephen	2009	6	1	11	0	18	0	0	9	0	9
Scholes	Mark James	2005	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Scoffern	Damon Bradley	1993	0	12	1	0	13	0	1	0	0	1
Scott	Craig	1996	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	James Alexander	1985	0	2	10	0	12	0	0	2	0	2
Scott	Michael Clifford	1985	3	8	0	0	11	0	2	0	0	2
Seamer	Grant Richard	1990	0	2	0	8	10	0	0	0	1	1
Seccull	Darren Peter	1985	143	14	0	0	157	62	9	0	0	71
Seccull	Mark Wayne	1987	258	25	10	0	293	203	7	22	0	232
Seow	Danny William	1991	10	0	0	0	10	15	0	0	0	15
Settineri	William Anthony	1982	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Shakallis	Peter	2008	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	3	0	3
Shakespeare	Peter Andrew	2001	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	3	0	3
Shand	Wayne James	1986	41	0	0	0	41	83	0	0	0	83
Shannon	Daniel Paul	2002	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	4	0	4
Shapter	Mark Russell	1972	68	1	0	0	69	22	0	0	0	22
Shaw	Adam James	2000	0	2	29	0	31	0	0	10	0	10
Shaw	Timothy James	1976	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
Shearer	Robert James	1997	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Sheldon-Collins	Mitchell James	2010	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Shepherd	Alex Peter	1999	2	48	0	0	50	3	41	0	0	44
Sheppard	Dean R	1983	0	15	13	0	28	0	1	1	0	2
Sher	Andrew Jeffrey	1978	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	1	0	1
Sher	Antony William	1990	0	31	0	15	46	0	10	0	3	13

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
<i>Shergold</i>	<i>Robert Stephen</i>	<i>1978</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Shinder</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Shinkfield</i>	<i>Paul John</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Shinners</i>	<i>Daniel Jack</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Shulman</i>	<i>Jason</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Siapantas</i>	<i>Laz John</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>Sibley</i>	<i>Michael D</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Silberer</i>	<i>Mark Andrew</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Silberer</i>	<i>Paul Robert</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Simms</i>	<i>Austin Damien</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Simons</i>	<i>Mitch Melrose</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Anthony David</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Hector Richard</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Trevor Andrew</i>	<i>1984</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Sincock</i>	<i>Geoffrey Ronald</i>	<i>1977</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Sincock</i>	<i>Russell John</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Sinko</i>	<i>Joel</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Skelton</i>	<i>Bill</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Skelton</i>	<i>Luke Ablett</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Skilton</i>	<i>Brett Anthony</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Slucki</i>	<i>David Simon</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Smart</i>	<i>Stephen James</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Andrew David</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Bradley Clinton</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Daryl Colin</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Daryl J</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Dennis Elliott</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Geordie Clinton</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Graham David</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Michael John</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Tim Alexander</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Wayne Richard</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>109</i>
<i>Smitsdorff</i>	<i>Lyle Brian</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Snowball</i>	<i>Timothy Oswald</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Somaia</i>	<i>Mehul</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>Somers</i>	<i>Dylan Gregory</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Stuart Peter G</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Sorati</i>	<i>Andrew Peter</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Sorati</i>	<i>Paul Anthony</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Southgate</i>	<i>David Campbell</i>	<i>1978</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Spalding</i>	<i>Simon John</i>	<i>1982</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Spanos</i>	<i>Jonathon York</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Spargo</i>	<i>Stephen Charles</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Spears</i>	<i>Gregory John</i>	<i>1978</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Speirs</i>	<i>Scott William</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Spence</i>	<i>A G</i>	<i>1982</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Sprague</i>	<i>Brian K</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>29</i>

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Stack	Greg Rundle Allan	1992	0	1	31	0	32	0	0	8	0	8
Stahmer	John W	1961	46	7	0	0	53	28	1	0	0	29
Stahmer	Michael W	1963	0	36	0	0	36	0	3	0	0	3
Stamford	Kyle Gerald Edwards	2006	0	4	18	0	22	0	3	15	0	18
Stanley	Jeremy Charles	2005	0	27	16	0	43	0	0	0	0	0
Stanojevic	Mark Andrew	1998	1	18	0	0	19	0	2	0	0	2
Steadman	Alan Geoffrey	1980	7	4	14	0	25	3	6	20	0	29
Steel	Malcolm Charles Aldridge	1986	0	0	12	7	19	0	0	4	0	4
Steen	Jack Christopher	2008	6	3	30	0	39	2	0	21	0	23
Steenholdt	Brett Raymond	1989	25	19	3	6	53	36	25	8	1	70
Steenholdt	Jason Leigh	1987	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	1
Steer	Justin Phillip	1994	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Steinfort	Carl Alexander	2005	19	0	0	0	19	15	0	0	0	15
Stenford	David L	1983	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Stephens	Michael Anthony	2003	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	Callan Joel	1993	0	0	26	3	29	0	0	1	0	1
Stevens	Mark Christopher	1986	0	3	11	0	14	0	4	19	0	23
Stevens	Robert Rhys	2000	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Stewart	Bradley Robert	1981	0	1	16	0	17	0	0	3	0	3
Stewart	Craig Alexander	1981	0	1	14	0	15	0	0	19	0	19
Stewart	Robert James	1986	0	7	7	5	19	0	14	35	12	61
Stillman	Peter Crawford	1972	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Storrer	Michael	1973	18	6	0	0	24	71	22	0	0	93
Story	David Charles	1976	0	17	0	0	17	0	3	0	0	3
Stowe	Michael Lee	2010	18	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0
Strahan	Roderick Terence	1979	8	6	22	0	36	6	5	43	0	54
Strain	Peter	1972	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Strudwick	Darryl Grant	1985	0	23	4	0	27	0	4	0	0	4
Stuart	Alan Clayton	1979	40	33	33	0	106	8	19	9	0	36
Stuart	Drew	1983	1	58	18	0	77	0	27	16	0	43
Stuart	Gavin	2003	0	13	0	0	13	0	1	0	0	1
Sturrock	Samuel Timothy	2007	0	8	33	0	41	0	0	2	0	2
Surgenor	Peter Ashley	1975	14	18	0	0	32	3	4	0	0	7
Sutcliffe	Michael John	1974	2	19	0	0	21	4	39	0	0	43
Sutherland	Andrew Charles	1975	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sutherland	Andrew K	1963	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Sutherland	Duncan F	1961	13	0	0	0	13	23	0	0	0	23
Sutton	Travis Wesley	1996	0	3	13	0	16	0	0	2	0	2
Svarc	Adam John	2004	4	6	0	0	10	1	1	0	0	2
Swaby	Neil Stewart	2001	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	1	0	1
Swanton	Daniel Gary	2001	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	8	0	8
Tanner	Glenn David	1987	87	5	5	0	97	128	5	22	0	155
Tanner	Grant James	1990	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	2	2
Taranto	Anthony Paul	1986	0	2	0	5	7	0	1	0	12	13
Taranto	Carlo A	1988	14	10	0	0	24	5	13	0	0	18
Tarr	Geoffrey Alan	1988	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	31	0	31
Tassell	Nicholas Warren	2004	18	0	0	0	18	11	0	0	0	11

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Taylor	Gary Douglas	1989	6	1	0	0	7	2	2	0	0	4
Taylor	Gregory John	1982	0	49	17	10	76	0	5	3	0	8
Taylor	Jeffrey Allan	1978	13	29	19	0	61	13	15	29	0	57
Tebbutt	Raymond Joffa	1972	0	16	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
Temby	Andrew Jonathan	2005	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Thiele	Mark Ryan	1996	0	7	21	0	28	0	2	5	0	7
Thiessen	James Henry	1993	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
Thiessen	Peter Anthony	1989	76	5	6	0	87	47	5	5	0	57
Thistlethwaite	Stephen Bryce	1966	4	62	0	0	66	0	2	0	0	2
Thomas	David Lloyd	1978	33	1	28	0	62	15	0	0	0	15
Thomas	Michael Lindsay	1989	0	0	32	0	32	0	0	15	0	15
Thomas	Nicholas Brian	2007	35	1	0	0	36	9	2	0	0	11
Thomas	Patrick	1994	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Thompson	John R	1982	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Thompson	Peter Geoffrey	1979	50	33	17	0	100	9	11	0	0	20
Thompson	Ross Charles	1981	4	35	0	0	39	0	12	0	0	12
Thoms	Peter J	1969	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Thomson	Don A	1961	14	18	0	0	32	1	8	0	0	9
Thomson	Mark Douglas	1977	15	41	0	0	56	0	13	0	0	13
Thorne	Daniel Peter	1994	0	0	11	0	11	0	0	8	0	8
Thorne	David James	2007	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Thornton	Robert Scott	1998	0	10	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	1
Thurmond	David Jeffrey	2004	3	26	0	0	29	0	3	0	0	3
Tinkler	Andrew John	1983	0	5	18	8	31	0	0	27	0	27
Tinkler	Michael James	1987	0	9	0	0	9	0	3	0	0	3
Tipper	Mark Nicholas	1988	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tobin	Gregory James	1979	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Todarello	Dominic Nathan	2009	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tonini	Craig Jon	1988	0	1	10	0	11	0	0	2	0	2
Tonkin	Brian Nicholas	1981	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Topp	Robert Ian	1978	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	3	0	3
Trapp	John Lindsay	1968	24	20	0	0	44	12	8	0	0	20
Trathen	Andrew	2009	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Travis	Mark Ian	1969	9	43	0	0	52	0	8	0	0	8
Treloar	Curtis James	1999	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Trevena	Grant John	1987	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Trim	Haydan Ronald	1989	0	17	3	0	20	0	5	0	0	5
Troedel	David J	1961	6	6	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Trollope	Brett Anthony	2004	51	0	0	0	51	20	0	0	0	20
Trotter	Michael Patrick	1996	3	2	8	0	13	1	1	8	0	10
Troup	Michael James	1973	12	57	0	0	69	7	48	0	0	55
Tuck	Gary R	1961	9	3	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	2
Turcarelli	Daniel Salvatore	2007	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Turnbull	Ray Charles	1980	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Turner	Tom John	2008	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Tuxen	David Valdemar	1973	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Tyrell	Tom Daniel	2008	0	23	5	0	28	0	6	1	0	7

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Unthank	Rowan	2010	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Urquhart	Gilbert Owen	1964	107	55	0	0	162	36	37	0	0	73
Vale	William Henry	1970	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Valenti	Shane Anthony	2005	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2
Valentine	David Thomas	1999	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	6	0	6
Van Twest	Bruce Adrian	1988	0	8	0	12	20	0	11	0	8	19
Van Wyck	Paul David	2001	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Vegter	Marc Ian	2010	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Venn	Ross Beaumont	1961	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Venten	Christopher Luke	2010	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Vine	Paul Andrew	1991	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vitolins	Adam John	2005	0	56	0	0	56	0	8	0	0	8
Vizzard	John Albert	1985	0	1	10	0	11	0	0	5	0	5
Vos	Matthew Simon	1999	0	1	0	9	10	0	0	0	0	0
Voss	Brett Charles	2008	54	0	0	0	54	123	0	0	0	123
Vun	Larry	1992	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Waanders	Jeremy Grant	2008	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	2	0	2
Waite	Ben Peter Arthur	2004	33	3	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0
Waite	Nathan Gary	2005	7	5	27	0	39	3	2	38	0	43
Walden	Andrew John	1987	181	7	1	0	189	381	11	4	0	396
Walden	Shane Braden	1994	108	9	17	0	134	19	5	9	0	33
Wall	R S	1964	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Walsh	Dylan	2010	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	3	0	3
Walsh	James Thomas	2005	0	32	26	0	58	0	0	5	0	5
Walsh	Stephen Michael	1981	2	16	31	0	49	0	6	10	0	16
Walters	Jim Patrick	1982	13	2	0	0	15	9	0	0	0	9
Warden	Chad E	1997	9	3	0	0	12	8	2	0	0	10
Warden	Daniel Raymond	1996	35	8	24	0	67	3	6	23	0	32
Warfe	Cameron George	2002	0	2	10	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Warfe	James Stuart	1999	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Waring	Cameron Brian	1989	0	13	0	6	19	0	9	0	7	16
Warnes	David Robert	1999	42	88	0	0	130	23	69	0	0	92
Warnock	John Frederick	1973	59	1	0	0	60	3	0	0	0	3
Warren-Smith	Doug	1965	2	4	0	0	6	3	2	0	0	5
Waters	Ben Michael	1996	0	17	32	6	55	0	6	16	0	22
Waters	Neil Laurence	1979	0	1	10	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Watson	John Gregory	1983	0	0	14	0	14	0	0	1	0	1
Watt	Matthew Thomas	2005	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Watts	Stuart Andrew	1999	0	0	0	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
Waxman	Andrew Peter	1999	0	26	29	2	57	0	7	17	0	24
Waxman	Christopher James	2000	8	21	36	0	65	4	17	28	0	49
Weaver	Mark	1993	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Webb	Darren Craig	1998	4	6	0	0	10	0	4	0	0	4
Webb	Darren Rolfe	1999	0	0	35	2	37	0	0	7	0	7
Webb	Jarrold M	2000	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Weber	Ryan Jules	1992	0	42	25	1	68	0	6	5	0	11
Wenke	Quentin R	1964	6	6	0	0	12	9	8	0	0	17

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Whelan	Anthony Sean	1992	0	9	0	4	13	0	5	0	3	8
Whitaker	Andrew Scott	1993	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	4	0	4
White	Adam Vincent	2000	87	0	0	0	87	31	0	0	0	31
White	Benjamin Andrew	2010	11	0	2	0	13	5	0	0	0	5
White	Frank W	1963	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
White	Geoffrey Stuart	2001	7	61	7	0	75	0	5	5	0	10
White	Graham	1965	6	3	0	0	9	1	2	0	0	3
White	Matthew John	1991	0	1	0	10	11	0	0	0	7	7
Whitehead	Scott William	1986	0	2	5	17	24	0	1	4	9	14
Whitelaw	Andrew Duncan	1991	0	0	4	10	14	0	0	7	2	9
Whiteman	George Matthew Richard	1972	0	86	0	0	86	0	51	0	0	51
Whiting	Tom John	2009	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whyte	Roderich C	1963	0	19	0	0	19	0	2	0	0	2
Wickenton	Dean Paul	1993	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Wickenton	John Vincent	1979	18	0	37	0	55	16	0	18	0	34
Wigg	Andrew James	1987	2	28	35	0	65	0	15	17	0	32
Wigg	Grant Maxwell	1993	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Wigg	Peter Geoffrey	1988	2	27	17	8	54	1	13	11	3	28
Wignall	Brett Ian	1996	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wilkes	Martin	1985	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wilkins	Brett T	1990	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	2
Williams	Andrew John Laurence	1968	142	71	0	0	213	134	107	0	0	241
Williams	Darren Raymond	1983	20	18	2	0	40	7	5	0	0	12
Williams	Jason Stanley	2000	0	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3
Williams	Larry Christopher	1999	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Williams	Stephen	1994	0	0	18	0	18	0	0	18	0	18
Wilson	Andrew John	1983	60	9	0	0	69	71	11	0	0	82
Wilson	Ian Ross	1967	13	33	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	Robert Daniel	1986	4	35	0	15	54	2	19	0	14	35
Wilson	Sean Michael	2005	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	1	0	1
Wiltshire	Christopher Daniel	1996	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	1	0	1
Winder	Gregg Rodney	1999	0	1	20	0	21	0	0	8	0	8
Winkler	A	1985	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Winter	Mark Anthony	1981	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Wise	Roderick John	1977	56	119	0	0	175	50	222	0	0	272
Witts	David Rohan	1980	2	1	14	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Witts	Louis John	1979	19	17	18	0	54	2	4	5	0	11
Woff	Paul Clifton	1992	5	1	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	2
Wolbers	Fred Peter	1977	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Wolf	Alex Michael	2010	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Wood	Andrew D	1993	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	10	0	10
Wood	Gregory A	1982	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wood	Jeffrey Neil	1984	0	76	29	7	112	0	10	4	0	14
Woods	Grantley William	1977	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2
Woods	Jeffrey Graham	1977	3	3	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	2
Woods	Jeremy McDonald	2007	0	1	15	0	16	0	0	1	0	1
Woods	Simon Matthew	1993	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	1	0	1

Surname	First Name	Debut	Games					Goals				
			1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL	1st	Res	U19	3rd	ALL
Worledge	Dennis A	1963	15	11	0	0	26	5	5	0	0	10
Worledge	Lindsay A	1961	7	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	2
Worrell	Michael R	1963	0	14	0	0	14	0	6	0	0	6
Wray	Matthew Robert	1998	0	60	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0
Wright	Andrew James StMaur	1981	6	1	15	0	22	6	0	23	0	29
Wright	Anthony John	2006	11	16	21	0	48	2	9	47	0	58
Wright	Benjamin James	1999	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	1	1
Wright	Joseph James	1999	11	0	21	0	32	0	0	11	0	11
Wright	Peter George	1999	8	24	20	0	52	2	7	5	0	14
Wyatt	Alastair George McGregor	2007	0	0	15	0	15	0	0	3	0	3
Wyeth	Lachlan Andrew	2008	0	15	32	0	47	0	0	1	0	1
Wyeth	Travis Rowan	2005	0	1	33	0	34	0	0	4	0	4
Yagmoor	Brendan Emile	1985	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Young	David Andrew	1970	13	3	0	0	16	43	4	0	0	47
Young	David William	1962	86	48	0	0	134	116	81	0	0	197
Young	Ken J	1961	10	26	0	0	36	0	7	0	0	7
Youngs	David	1981	46	3	13	0	62	8	0	1	0	9
Zeeno	Nathan Daniel	2007	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0

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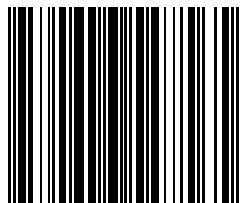
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Anderson Armstrong Atkinson Baker Bannon Barker Baxter Bean Bell Bennett Billings Bingham Boag Bode Bonwick Bouris Bourke Bowden Bowman Bowring
Corrigan Cotton Cox Criticos Cunningham Currie Dangerfield Dann Davey Deller Derham Dimond Dobson Dolman Dowsing Doyle Eagle Edwards Efstathiou
Hayes Henderson Herbert Hill Hilton Hodge Holohan Home Houghton Houston Irving Jackson Jayasekera Jenke Johnson Johnston Jones Jury Kejna Kello
Main March Marshall Mason Mattingley Mayes McCready McDonnell McGorlick McLauchlan McLean McLennan McQueen Meadows Mears Meckiff Meehan
Plecher Pollock Poole Pound Pountney Pritchard Quick Rae Rankine Ray Reed Regan Reid Richardson Ridoutt Rigby Roberts Robertson Ross Rowlands Salter Sa
Travis Troup Urquhart Walden Warden Warnes Warnock Waters Waxman Weber White Whiteman Wickenton Wigg Williams Wilson Wise Witts Wood Wray W
Byrns Caddy Campbell Carson Carty Caspers Chambers Chegwin Chipperfield Chisholm Clarke Clydesdale Cocks Code Collins Connell Connolly Constable Co
Forbes Ford Gadsden Galt Gartner George Gerny Gilby Gilchrist Gill Glanville Gopu Goulden Gregson Hampton Hare Harrison Harrop Hassett Hattam Hay
Lane Langford Langford-Jones Lappage Lasscock Latrielle Lavender Lay Legge Lingard Lord Lovig Lucas Lyon MacFarlane Mackay Mackenzie McKenzie M
Mosbey Mountford Moyle Mueller Mulvey Mytton Neville Newton Norton Noske Oaten O'Donnell O'Farrell Orton Parkes Parton Passalaqua Paul Phillips Pitcher
Silberer Simons Sincock Smith Snowball Somaia Southgate Sprague Stahmer Steenholdt Stuart Abbott Allen Allison Anderson Armstrong Atkinson Baker B
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