

Newsletter

The following are excerpts from the April 2011 Association's Newsletter which is produced three times per year, namely April, August and December

Obituaries

We are very saddened to report that the following members have passed on since our last Newsletter:

Alby Murdoch-former player from 1957-1962, playing 65 games.

Bill Pearson-former player from 1945-1947, playing 51 games and a member of the 1946 Premiership Team.

Where are they now?

We started this section in our December 2010 Newsletter and have had a very positive feedback. We will continue to profile past players in future Newsletters.

Barry Grinter

Barry played with Essendon from 1971 to 1972 and 1974 to 1976, playing 78 games and now lives at Ararat. Barry also played with Richmond in 1978, playing 6 games.

Question: What did you do, football wise, following your playing days with Essendon?

Answer: Hobart FC-Captain Coach, Richmond, West Torrens SA, Sydney-North Shore FC, Nambour/Windsor Zilmere and Townsville in Queensland.

Question: What job/jobs did you pursue following your playing days, including what you are doing currently?

Answer: When playing football a police officer, then mostly in hotel industry, currently have Wimpy's Court House Hotel in Ararat.

Question: Have you suffered with any post football injuries and have any required surgery?

Answer: Luckily no.

Question: Do you have any ongoing medical problems?

Answer: No.

Question: What are your thoughts on the modern game, and how would you change any of the areas you don't like?

Answer: Still great game, faster and more skilful. Get rid of flooding, kicking backwards and running down the clock and it would be even better.

Question: Do you have any special anecdotes from your playing time to pass onto other past players?

Answer: I was part of the Windy Hill brawl against Richmond.

Question: Who were your mates in your playing days with Essendon, do you keep in touch?
Answer: Gary Grainger, Stewie Barclay and Sandy Talbot. When possible.

Question: Who were the players you most admired in your playing days at Essendon?
Answer: For Essendon- Des Tuddenham
Other teams- Alex Jesaulenko, Peter Hudson

Mal Pascoe

Mal played from 1953 to 1958, playing 94 games, and was a member of the Runner Up Team in 1957. Mal now lives in Howrah, Tasmania

Question: What did you do, football wise, following your playing days with Essendon?
Answer: I coached Hobart FC for 9 years, played in 176 games, played in four Premierships. Won a few titles, including goal kicking (1959 & 1960), William Leitch Medal 1959. Inducted in to the Hobart FC Hall of Fame in 2010.

Question: What job/jobs did you pursue following your playing days, including what you are doing now?
Answer: I got a job with GMH motors selling new and used cars. Manager for 39 years. Now retired?

Question: Have you suffered with any post football injuries that have required surgery?
Answer: No.

Question: Do you have any ongoing medical problems?
Answer: No.

Question: What are your thoughts on the modern game, and how would you change any of the areas that you don't like?
Answer: They are great, the game is faster. The drop punt I don't like it. I could always drop kick with accuracy.

Question: Do you have any special anecdotes from your playing time to pass onto other past players?
Answer: I attended North Essendon State School with Ken Fraser and Alan Dale, we then played cricket for the local church team right next door to the School in North Essendon.

Question: Who were your mates in your playing days at Essendon, do you keep in touch?
Answer: Hugh Mitchell and Stan Booth. No unfortunately (Stan Booth passed away in 2007)

Question: Who were the players you most admired in you playing days with Essendon?
Answer: For Essendon- Bill Hutchison and John Coleman.
Other teams- Ron Barassi (Melbourne) and Ted Whitten (Footscray)

Question: Do you have any comments that you would like to pass on about your time at Essendon?
Answer: I started in the U19's at age of 15, onto the two's and then the seniors. I enjoyed all my years at Essendon. They are a great club and will always be.
I have enjoyed my decision to come Hobart FC. My first year was a dream, State winner and Tasmanian Sportsman of 1959.

Alan Reid

Alan played with Essendon from 1979 to 1983, playing 45 games. He now lives Beijing, China.

Question: What did you do football wise, following your playing days with Essendon?
Answer: I played 6 games with Geelong and then retired.

Question: What job/jobs did you pursue following your playing days, including what you are doing now?
Answer: 1. Senior Trade Commissioner, Austrade, Australian Embassy, Beijing.
2. Chief Operating Officer, Fosters China.
3. Managing Director, Intercedent (Beijing) Ltd.

Question: Are you still working?
Answer: Yes, as above 3.

Question: Have you suffered with any post football injuries and have any required surgery?
Answer: No.

Question: Do you have any ongoing medical problems?
Answer: No.

Question: What are your thoughts on the modern game and how would you change any of the areas that you don't like?
Answer: I like the modern game. It is the natural evolution of the game we played during my time at Essendon. The aerobic fitness aspect has become all important in the make-up of the modern footballer which is good as an athlete of any size can play. This is a major advantage of the modern game.

Question: Do you have any special anecdotes from your playing time to pass onto other past players?
Answer: Enjoy it while it lasts!

Question: Who were your mates in your playing days with Essendon, do you keep in touch?
Answer: Paul Vander Haar, Simon Madden, Neale & Terry Daniher, Glenn Hawker, Allan Stoneham, Alex Epis. We keep in touch.

Question: Who were the players you most admired in your playing days at Essendon?

Answer: For Essendon-Terry Daniher, Merve Neagle & Tim Watson.
Other teams: Gary Ablett.

Question: Do you have any comments that you would like to pass on about your time at Essendon?

Answer: Great Club and great people. I really enjoyed my time there and made lots of friends.

Bombers Going Places

The following are excerpts from the most recent Bomber magazine in respect to the new training and administrative facility at Tullamarine:

“Essendon Football Club has made an historic decision to expand its facilities with a dual vision for the future. This vision includes the retention of Windy Hill, but also the development of a new, elite and state-of-the-art training and administrative facility at Melbourne Airport. From a football perspective, the new precinct allows for unprecedented future growth and delivers a multi-generational outcome for the club. The development plans include building the largest and most flexible indoor training space in the AFL, with elite gym, medical, recovery and IT facilities.”

“Located on Melrose Drive, the new site is 18 kilometres from Melbourne’s CBD and approximately 7 kilometres from Windy Hill. The land size is approximately 100,000 square metres and will allow the club to build two ovals, one the size of the MCG, and one the size of Etihad Stadium. It will also feature a running track around the facility, with expansive gardens and community access.”

“Windy Hill will always hold a special place in the history of the Essendon Football Club. The decision to move was not taken lightly and was made with careful planning, deliberation and thorough acumen over a long and exhausting process. As a result, the club has made a commitment to maintaining a significant presence at the ground by opening up the facilities for greater community and local sporting use.”

Hall of Fame Inductees

At the season launch of the EFC held before some 1,100 guests at the Crown Palladium on the 15th February, James Hird was inducted as a Legend and David Shaw, Ken Fletcher and Hugh Torney as Members of the Hall of Fame.

The Membership category of induction to the Hall of Fame was initiated by the EFC in 2009 and to date 10 Members have been inducted. The number of Members able to be inducted is in the ratio of three to every one Legend inducted, which to date is twenty one including James Hird. The Hall of Fame Selection Panel nominates the potential inductees to the EFC Board on a yearly basis.

Due to the lack of appropriate training facilities at Essendon, the EFC has decided to close down the Hall of Fame until the new training facilities are available at Tullamarine, which is expected to be in 2013.

Facts Figures and other Trivia

The first set of rules were introduced in 1868. This new innovation, Victorian Rules Football, was so humble in its formative years that no revenue was earned in the first twenty years. Players received no remuneration but had to pay sixpence a week towards the cost of the football.

In 1986 Charles “Commotion” Pearson was chosen as “The Best in the Colony”. He is also regarded as the first player to take overhead marks and in early history books was described as the first player to “take risks with his rocket-like leaps into the air for marks”.

1911 was the first year that players were officially allowed to be paid to play football.

In 1922 when Essendon was considering moving from East Melbourne, the club had agreed to play their games at North Melbourne, however Essendon City Councillor Arthur Showers sought legal advice on this move and it was determined that the North Melbourne ground was on Crown Land and to be used by citizens of North Melbourne for their pleasure and recreation. Hence the move to Essendon. Arthur Showers had great vision.

Dick Reynolds originally trained with Carlton in 1930, however no one noticed his talent and he eventually started his great career with Essendon in 1933.

In 1946 Essendon and Collingwood drew in the Semi Final and in the replay Essendon went on to win by 19 points, although scores were level at $\frac{3}{4}$ time. The team went on to win the flag easily against Melbourne by 63 points.

Although the 1970's were not a great era for the club, there were some highlights, including Graham Moss winning the Brownlow Medal in 1976, and three club Best & Fairest Awards. Dons Smallgoods became the first official Sponsor in 1976.

At the end of the 2010, 1,094 players had represented the club at senior level since 1897. Of this number, 119 players played one game (10.6%) and 579 played 20 or less games (52.9%)

Greg “Spudda” Tate, who passed away in 2010, was highly respected in his home town of Kerang, being the town clerk from 1966 to 1972 and again from 1974 to 1986. In a full page report in the “Northern Times” on June 1st 2010, following his death, Cr Basile was quoted as saying “Mr. Tate was a very efficient and capable town clerk. He ran an

efficient council administration. He stood up for what he believed in, giving advise to councillors and sticking to that advice he gave them.”

Greg played with the club from 1947 to 1951, playing in 70 games, including being a member of the 1947 and 1951 Runner Up teams.