


ON THE BALL



19th Edition

March 2011

First things first and we need to start off our year with a clear view of what our Association is all about. Both Norm and I have certain thoughts as to where we are heading and we would like to get the opinion of members at our Annual General Meeting at the Fitzroy-Victoria Bowling Club on the 27th March commencing at 11am. We can't get your opinion if you aren't there. Our quorum for the meeting is 25 and in the past we have barely managed to exceed our number by more than half a dozen. Put the date on your calendar now and don't forget to turn up.

At the Kings of the Pride function in August 2007, a number of "Montages" showing the amalgamation of Fitzroy and the Brisbane Lions were available for members to collect. The montage displayed various Fitzroy-Brisbane Bears and Brisbane Lions player in action. The individual scroll showed the name of the Fitzroy player and his debut round for Fitzroy.

A number of scrolls were not picked up on the night or collected from the Brisbane Lions Melbourne office. With the transferring of the Melbourne office to the Etihad Stadium, I collected the scrolls and stored them at my home until a method could be worked out to have them in the hands of the recipients. I have a complete list of the 1136 senior game Fitzroy players, some dating back to the 1800's and it is hoped that many of the scrolls could be placed in the hands of relatives. The scrolls which measure 48cmx34cm are in a cardboard cylinder and easily delivered by post. \$10.00 will cover postage.

Have you ever wished that you had purchased a book before it went out of print? Well that applies to the Jim Main book on Fitzroy. Have you got one yet. If not, they would be hard to find anywhere. They cover the years of Fitzroy from 1897-1996 showing the players who played in each game and a summary of the year. They are beautifully illustrated and are in hardback cover. Knowing they were going out of production, I obtained a number at the cost of \$30.00. Postage will be extra.

Was contacted recently by a cousin of Don Furness. Wanted to purchase a Fitzroy jumper for a relation up in Queensland who was a devout Fitzroy supporter and now Brisbane Lions. Was able to put him in touch with Bill Atherton at his Mordialloc shop who satisfied his needs. Bill who has the rights to the FFC logo has a number of jumpers in keeping with changes over the years including the colours of the Heritage games.

With the assistance of Ken Woolley, we intend making more use of emails where possible. We have a reasonable list at the present time. If there are changes to your email or to addresses or phone numbers, please let us know otherwise we will take it that everything is correct. I am still receiving mail returned "left address or not known this address" We have lost a number of members this way.

Many would have read in the Herald-Sun of the death of Paul Shanahan (FFC 1968-72) and the accompanying photo of him and the umpires at the fog filled Fitzroy v Carlton game at the Junction Oval on 21st August 1971. The defeat of Carlton eliminated them from the final series.

Some may not know but the Brisbane Lions Melbourne office is now at Etihad Stadium and not the Manningham. Jeremy Guard is Victorian Manager. Sam Lord is back from Brisbane. Memorabilia is no longer available from the office. Phone numbers are the same. General office 8850 5600. If you need to get to the office- enter Gate 4, down to Level 2, push the red button adjacent to the glass door and a voice will direct you to the office.

Norm Brown, Max Cole, Ken Woolley and myself met with Jeremy Guard at the office late last year and discussed the future of the Association. Jeremy felt that they could be of assistance through their office and with his contact with the younger players, considered that much could be gained.

Each year, thanks to the generosity of the Brisbane Lions, a no. 27 guernsey is presented to the Cobram Football Club in memory of Les (Salty) Parish. Normally, I make the presentation but in 2010, one of our members, Don Batty did the honours and this is a precious version of his speech.

Les played his junior football at Yarrawonga as a member of the 3rd 18. In 1976 he played a season with Tungamah winning the Lawless Medal for League Best & Fairest and the League goal-kicking trophy. In their Grand Final he kicked 5 goals, gaining victory by kicking the winning goal with one minute to play. He attempted to break into League ranks at North Melbourne but they claimed he lacked condition. He returned to Yarrawonga winning the Club B & F for 3 years. Through Bill Stephen he went to Fitzroy determined that fitness would not be an obstruction to playing VFL football. He was often observed after training with his fitness mate Mick Conlan in the gym pushing themselves to super fitness. He became a regular in the team under coach Robert Walls. He was a key player, highly respected by eminent players such as Bernie Quinlan, Garry Wilson, Paul Roos and Gary Pert. Ask Fitzroy supporters who wore no. 27 and they would respond Salty Parish.

Following Fitzroy he played for Melbourne and then back to Yarrawonga where he won the Ovens and Murray League Best and Fairest in 1986.

Salty's devotion to football and representing various country Leagues made him a football legend. He won multiple club B & F awards at Cobram, Griffith, Tungamah and Yarrawonga. He completed his playing career as playing coach and then player for Cobram. In his final match he gave a masterful performance in Cobram's 1995 Premiership victory.

He passed away on 12th February 1998, aged 42. To perpetuate the memory of a player who made such a skilled and dedicated contribution to Fitzroy and Cobram FC's, this guernsey trophy is an annual award at Cobram, presented for Courage and Determination which exemplified the qualities of Les (Salty) Parish

My thanks to Kevin Rowe for forwarding a list he obtained from the late Len Smith of Fitzroy's 1953 U/19's, listing those who went on to play senior football- John Charles, Wally Clark, Reg Carr, Graham Campbell, Graham Gotch, Ron Harvey, Leo Smythe, Rod Vernon & Ron Smith. As well as senior players I now have a reasonable list of Fitzroy players who were listed for the Reserves and U/19's. Most show the Training List, not the actual games but at least we have a starting point. It is all part of our history.

I have given up on functions but not a get-together. Bennettswood Bowling Club on Sunday 1st May. Commencing 12noon. Free day excluding drink. Barbeque style. Would like to have some idea if you are attending but will cater for whoever turns up. Time is slipping by. Your mates are getting older

Couldn't let the occasion go by without an extract from the Tich Edwards story- While watching a game against Melbourne reserves, standing with Charlie Cameron by the fence, a big Melbourne ruck-man knocked a small Fitzroy player into the fence. Charlie who had his foot on the fence quickly planted it behind the big bloke's ear. Well Melbourne officials reported the incident after the game. I took Charlie into their room to apologise and we had it all squared up when Charlie started abusing him. So he was brought up before the League Special Tribunal which was chaired by the League President, Ken Luke. Charlie had 30 witnesses and they all told the same story. They were well schooled before they went in Melbourne had only called one witness me. When my turn came- If I commit myself he will get a decent stretch. How do I get out of this situation? When Ken Luke asked me a question, "I said my hearing aids not working too good tonight. I might be saying yes when I should be saying no". He turned around to Lal McLennan and said "What's wrong with this man." Lal told them I had been discharged from the Army for being deaf. Mr. Luke apologised to me and said I needn't give evidence. Charlie got two years anyway so I was left in charge of the reserve.

The Fitzroy FC 2011 Calendar has a coloured caricature of Ron Alexander, plus action photos of Bernie Quinlan & Doug Barwick, together with Paul Shanahan and umpires in the game in the fog at the Junction oval, the 1945 Fitzroy team (pretty rugged lot) with the crowd and the grandstand in the background as well as photos of the six Fitzroy Brownlow Medallists. Bill Atherton ph. 9580 6464 can assist