


ON THE BALL



On the Ball 21st Edition February 2013

New Members- Sent out in excess of 200 letters to gain new members. Some we had lost track of and others an invitation to join. Also sent out to a number who were able to claim the scrolls (Montage) available at the 2007 Kings of the Pride function. Response very ordinary (disappointing actually) on both angles but we are pleased to add these new members to our mailing list- Graham Goninon, Brian Hepper, Peter Keays, Leigh McConnon, Garry Sidebottom, Alan Thompson, Graham Williamson, Peter Francis, Allan Lynch, Ron Kinder. Unfortunately had to drop off a number under the three year-no hear system.

Membership was down in 2011. Some had obviously been overlooked. Remember- We don't back bill. Nice to get them throughout the year but it is easy to overlook.

Donations have been great and we thank those members. You are helping to keep the Fitzroy name alive. Our contribution of \$7,500.00 towards the Fitzroy Museum at Etihad Stadium was well received and we were also able to assist one of our members who suffered a life threatening illness.

Credit Cards- Every effort is made to protect credit card numbers and these are obliterated immediately after processing. We thank Bill Atherton (our auditor) for his work on these and any transfer is done by "express post" or phone communication. Receipts are always issued for credit cards, cash and money orders, but not issued for cheques as these are easily verified

Interstate members- We have a number, basically ex-Victorians. We haven't been able to get the Brisbane branch of our Association going yet. Nobody has stepped forward to grab the reins

Whereabouts of past players sought by Col Hutchinson (AFL) as per last On The Ball. Have only had phone calls from Ken Grimley and Des Luckman.

Does anyone up in Queensland know the whereabouts of Lorraine Maizells. Mother of ex-Bear Brent Green who passed away approximately four years ago. Tracked her as far as I could. I have a scroll in Brent's name which I am sure she would treasure. Fortunately I was able to track down the widow of Laurie Schache (ex-Bears player) who tragically passed away in 2002. She now lives in Seymour and I was able to forward the scroll to her.

Badges- Do you wear your badge to football. Met Ken Grimley up in Brisbane because he was wearing his badge, Great way to meet ex-players. Available at \$10.00 each.

Books on Fitzroy- Still have Jim Main books (players year by year) available \$30.00 Includes many team photos. Also For Love of the Jumper \$40.00. Postage extra. You won't get them in years to come

Leigh Carlson- There was a player who could turn the opposition inside out . Met him at the Brunswick Street Oval on Saturday 28th April. Is connected with Marcellin who played Fitzroy (VAFA) . Fitzroy won. Leigh has two sons playing for Marcellin. He still has the half Collingwood-Fitzroy guernsey he wore in the fund raising game in 1994. When he got the ball, they didn't know which way he would kick.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- FITZROY BOWLING CLUB- 11AM SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2013

Bryan Clements made the suggestion for a hotel close to a home game in Melbourne where we could meet. The MCG is awkward because of time and distance. The Locker Room at Etihad Stadium meets the occasion. (Gate Two) walk in and turn right. Good set-up. Includes TAB.

Change of address. Please let us know. We lose track of too many members otherwise.

What makes a footballer? Tich Edwards who had a great recruiting record thumped his chest and said "If they haven't got it there, forget about them. I watch to see them do something brilliant, watch to see them do it again and then go home and meet the parents"

Members will be disappointed to hear that Jeremy Guard is no longer with the Brisbane Lions. Jeremy who played 68 games with Fitzroy (1992-1995) was very popular with players and supporters. It is believed that he is seeking his future in the field of finance

Giving something back to the Club. Darren Handley who played with us in 1987-88, returned to coach Fitzroy 4ths in 2012 Well done Darren..

Fitzroy had great success in the VAFA in 2012. Seniors not quite good enough in Grand Final but Seconds and Thirds capped off a great year with Premierships. Crowds at the Brunswick Street Oval whilst not reaching thousands, have been very good. Seniors now move from Premier C to Premier B

Re-union at Etihad Stadium Brisbane Lions V North Melbourne On 27th May- Approximately 180 in attendance. Garry Sidebottom (Perth) Bill Lokan (WA) Ron & Stewart Duncan (QLD) Curly Ellis (Mallacoota) Mark Dwyer (Warrnambool) Lee Murnane (Colac) were amongst others to travel distance. A great feeling to see another win. Disappointing that some who had booked, failed to turn up. Next time!

Re-union at "The Gabba" on 18th August 2012. Slightly disappointing turn-up from the Brisbane side. About 60 in attendance. Approximately half were Victorians or ex-Victorians. Was able to deliver a couple of scrolls (Jamie Cooper montage) to two ex-Bears. Appears that the lethargy which affects our members has spread to up there. It was great to see the Lions storm home after facing a six goal deficit first quarter

Hall of Fame at Crown Palladium June 23rd 2012 I was concerned that we were going over old ground but there was no doubt that it was an outstanding success. Limited to 900 and it was disappointing that some had to be knocked back. It was great to see so many of our old players there. Routine was well planned and plenty of time to move around and talk Haydn Bunton and Kevin Murray were elevated to Legend status and Hall of Fame inductees were- Marcus Ashcroft, Fred Hughson, Justin Leppitsch, Nigel Lappin, Alastair Lynch, Leigh Matthews, Jack Moriarty, John Murphy, Percy Parratt, Bernie Quinlan, Paul Roos, Alan Ruthven, Bill Stephen, Michael Voss and Garry Wilson. All recipients responded very well to their award but the highlight was that delivered by Paul Roos on his time and team-mates at Fitzroy

National Service- The AFL are trying to locate footballers who played at least one senior game and also attended National Service. I know that Keith Bromage, Graham Campbell, Stewart Duncan Graeme MacKenzie, Barry McKenzie, Tony Ongarello, Bernie Quinlan and I did. I also believe Graham Gotch did. Please let me know on 9808 6138 if you qualify or of any other Fitzroy players who did.

Some of the news is a bit late. I had planned for an August newsletter (I promise one this year) but my involvement in Bowls plus a few other interests got in the way. Still looking for bowlers for our twice annual Combined Past Players Bowls Day. Pretty poor state of affairs when we can only field one team and we make it a free day. Are you interested. A phone call to 9808 6138 would be welcome.

Members on the email list- Past Players & Officials – A Year In Review- A very nice run down on the 2012 season put together by Sam Lord at the Brisbane Lions office at Etihad Stadium. A great read.