


# ON THE BALL



March Edition 2012

The movement of the Brisbane Lions Melbourne office from Manningham to Etihad Stadium has certainly made a difference. The appointment of Jeremy Guard (Fitzroy FC 1992-1995), the return of Sam Lord and the appointment of Teagan Jones has seen many changes for the better. The setting up of a large data base of players, the function at Etihad for the game against North Melbourne and the function against West Coast at the Gabba for those of us who made the trip, is further encouragement and we will see a repeat in 2012. The move to Etihad undoubtedly helped bring about the establishment of the Fitzroy Museum in November and the opening saw approximately 630 supporters in attendance. The setting up of the various cabinets, fittings, etc. was set up by former player John Atkinson (1968) and Arthur Wilson and his helpers set up a magnificent display. It is well worth viewing. The opportunity will come at the Round 9 game against North Melbourne at Etihad Stadium on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

The appointment of Roy Ferguson to our Committee in 2011 is already showing its worth. He has stepped into setting up our web-site "fitzroybrisbanepast players.org.au". He is still learning the game & is being given great assistance from Stewart Potter (a school teacher at Donald) who also works on the website for Fitzroy- "fitzroyfc.com.au". Click onto both as well as the Brisbane website "www.lions.com.au" " We are working in with Sam at the Melbourne office for spread of information.

Although we haven't made full use of passing on information by email we are broadening our base and members will be better informed in the future. It has always been difficult to keep members up to date as cost of advertising in the media would send you broke and email will be used where possible. Older members like myself who haven't converted to the internet will be covered to the best of our ability.

The Brisbane Board are determined to fully recognize the Fitzroy scene and new CEO- Malcolm Holmes and Director Paul Williams have been frequent visitors to Melbourne in 2011. Brisbane must be concerned by the fall in Melbourne membership although support at games is really appreciated.

Membership of our Association is nowhere it should be. We have been unable to attract some members despite a number of efforts (not replying to contact) whilst others either don't know of our Association (although we get plenty of publicity one way or another) or in the case of many, don't know that reserve or thirds players are eligible. Through the data base in the Melbourne office, we have a more fully up to date list of addresses and contact will be made with them in the near future.

Obituary- We have lost a number of good Fitzroy people since the publication of our last Annual report- Arthur Aylward, Merv Brooks, Reg Carr, Vic Chanter, Lorna Duncan, Graham Gotch, Ern Hickey, Shirley Johnstone (wife of Norm) Albert Padley, Paul Shanahan and Kalev Vann. There are possibly others we don't know about but if an Association member we certainly do and attend funerals whenever possible.

Old age is catching up with many of our members and included in this are the number of past players who require knee or hip replacements and should be looking at medical cover. It is quite obvious that many will require replacements as time goes by and it shows the value of hospital cover as the public system entails a lengthy waiting process. The AFLPA (players' association) have been able to assist with out-of-pocket expense after an operation but stress the importance of - Firstly being a member of their own Players', Association, secondly, being a member of the AFLPA and importantly having hospital cover. They also have a Geoff Pryor Hardship Fund where a grant of \$5000.00 can be made upon fitting the criteria.

Do you remember who played in the last game (Round 17, 1966) at Brunswick Street Oval. That there is a plaque in the rooms with all the names. Russell Cromarty is one of those. Russell and his wife Eileen are currently part owners of the Merimbula and Tura Beach newsagencies ..Russell played his first senior game

in September 1965 against Richmond. He managed 20 senior games but was conscripted into the Army and sent to Vietnam (there is probably another story there) Upon return from Vietnam he came back to Fitzroy but found that his anticipation and judgement had suffered so spent the remainder of his career in the local league and played in a premiership team. He also had a successful cricket career. He would welcome any old mates to drop in and see them.

Fitzroy are doing well in the Amateur League wearing the old Fitzroy jumper. Currently in "C" Division Amateurs. First home game 5<sup>th</sup>. May. Unfortunately it is also a home game in Melbourne for Brisbane. Barbara and I are regulars at their home game functions. Click onto [fitzroyfc.com.au](http://fitzroyfc.com.au) for information .

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- FITZROY BOWLING CLUB. SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012 at 11am. A good day but we need numbers. Mark it down on your Calendar. Catch up with old mates. Parking always poses a problem so get there early.

Col Hutchinson from the AFL who compiles statistics is seeking information on a number of Fitzroy players- living, deceased,etc. I have been able to help to a degree. Information wanted on- Bob Allen, played 1926. Ivan Astruc, played 1897, Jack Barrett, played 1954-55, Jim Brown, played 1945-47, Gordon Brunnen, played 1948, Bob Fitzsimmons, played 1936-37, Kevin Hart, played 1947-49, Joe Kerrigan played 1897-99, Bryan Lane, played 1956-57, Greg. Lourey, played 1951-52, Reg. Milburn, played 1949, Wally Miller, played 1943-45, Alf Neeson, played 1935-36, Lew Owens,, played 1947, Jeff Patterson, played 1954, Gordon Proudfoot, played 1954-55, Norm Reidy, played 1946, Ed Ryan, played 1926, Ken Seymour, played 1956, Merv. Smith, played 1946-48, Kevin Tame, played 1952, Lance Watson, played 1950-52, Ed.(Tich) White, played 1945.

Any information to this office. (9808 6138) SOMEBODY OUT THERE MUST KNOW SOMETHING.

1958 WEG Night Premiership Posters. Haven't had much of a response from participants Likewise to the scrolls (Montage) from the 2007 Kings of the Pride Function .

Hotels. Many past players finish up running hotels. John Booth ( Newmarket Tavern, Flemington.) John Birthisel (Railway Hotel, Wangaratta) Gary Marshman (Toora Hotel). Would welcome news of others.

Many would have heard that Max Cole had health problems for some time, commencing back in July. He made a miraculous recovery which everyone ( including himself) is pleased about. He has been a great worker for our Association and it was a great feeling to welcome him back to our November meeting. His wife Denise has been a marvellous standby.

Do you remember those days or these names?- Lillie Bishop, Norma Burnie, Jenny Burns, Lorna Duncan, Thelma Fellows, Dot Forda,, Mavis Hepper, Joan Maffei, Sylvie Malcolm, Dot Padley, Alvie Phillips, Edna Phillips, Peta Phillips, Phyl O.Meara, Dot Thompson, Deidre Worn. Hope we got all those names correct Dot! What a contribution the Ladies Auxilliary made to the Fitzroy Football Club!

Brisbane Lions have planned another player get-together at Etihad Stadium. Round 9 Brisbane Lions V North Melbourne. Sunday May 27. Mark it down on your Calendar.

Usual Query- Golfers & Bowlers. Where are they? Who are they? Next Bowls Day 18<sup>th</sup> March. Next Golf Day? Pretty hard to organize without numbers. If you are interested, let me know. Ph. 9808 6138.

In 2011, Brian Clements suggested that we have a pre-game get-together at a place close to Etihad Stadium. The nearest is the Mail Exchange Hotel in Bourke Street, just down from Spencer Street. Appropriate game at Etihad against Esendon. Commences 1-40pm. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>. May. Would need to meet 2-3 hours before to allow time to get to ground