


ON THE BALL



ON THE BALL JUNE EDITION 2013

RE-UNION AT ETIHAD STADIUM-Brisbane V North Melbourne- Disappointing turn-up really after all the effort Brisbane has done in promoting the day. Sunday may not be the best day, starting time a bit late in the day still and all it was a re-union. A day when you get to meet team-mates from the past. Gary Lazarus and the two Duncans (Ron & Stewart) made it from Brisbane. If Brisbane are to make the effort we should make the effort. For everyone of us the cost to Brisbane is approx \$85.00

Membership fees- Good response for 2013. Plus some very generous donors whose donations swell our coffers. Without naming them, it is much appreciated

Membership Applications- When you are returning your form, if nothing has changed, there's no need to include all other details, phone numbers etc. Don't forget to notify changes of address

BILL STEPHEN FUNCTION As well as honouring the contribution Bill Stephen has made to Fitzroy, I also look upon this as a re-union of past players, officials and supporters. Brisbane are making the effort to bring us together and this is the opportunity to put a table together and have a great night with your former team-mates. Veneto Club, Wednesday 31st July. Standard tickets \$65. Buy you own drinks.

To save a lot of writing, I tape the minutes of our AGM and with the meeting going in the vicinity of 60 to 70 minutes, the minutes have to be precied to cover the essential part of the business. There is quite a bit of humour at the meeting and particularly in General Business when members are free to bring up anything. Roy Ferguson who is doing our website injects quite a bit of this humour, many interesting stories come out from the information he receives on email. He related a story on Jack Streader and Bill Stephen who played in the same side filled in more details. Bill also told of having spoken to Bob Beecroft (full forward when we kicked the highest VFL score) who is doing very well over in the West

Roy, who is a valuable addition to our Committee is working on our website which will improve with time. He is learning the game and getting assistance from Stuart Trotter (a school teacher from Donald) Stuart also does the Fitzroy website. Click on the Fitzroy website - fitzroyfc.com.au our website fitzroybrisbanelionspastplayers.org will come up or you can click straight onto our Website.

Vale- Norm Johnstone- It was like the passing of a Legend with the death of Norm Johnstone on Friday morning 7th June 2013. From the stories told, many opposition players wished they hadn't crossed his path on the field. He was a hard, tough man, solidly built and fearless. A protector of his team-mates. His bulk and experience was sadly missed upon his retirement. He played 228 games for Fitzroy from 1944 to 1957. Won the Best and Fairest in 1947 and was selected to play Interstate Football in 1948. A Life member of Fitzroy and Brisbane Lions, he was also selected in our Team of the Century. Tich Edwards, in his book written in the 80's stated that in his opinion, Norm would have been the first player selected for Fitzroy.

Here are the players from 1957 year- Owen Abrahams, Ian Aston, Brian Barclay, Tom Broadbent, Graham Campbell, Alan Chip, Dave Chivers, John Clancy, Wally Clark, Matt Cunningham, Colin Davey, Don Furness, Alan Gale, Eddie Goodger, Graham Gotch, Ken Grimley, Ron Harvey, Bob Henderson, John Hutchinson, Ken Jones, Graham Knight, Bryan Lane, Jack McGregor, Kevin Murray, Tony Ongarello, Brian Pert, Barry Roberts, Keith Rochow, Phil Rochow, John Shelton, Ray Slocum, Leo Smythe, Bill Stephen, Rod Vernon, Keith Webb, Stan Whitmore, Keith Wiegard, Vin Williams, Kevin Wright, Bruno Zorzi. Coach Len Smith- Captain Alan Gale- Best and Fairest Graham Campbell, Leading Goal Kicker Owen Abrahams

P. T. O.

Attended Norm's funeral on Friday 14th June. A very large crowd in attendance. In delivering his eulogy Bill Stephen related many stories of Norm, his value to the team, his protection of team-mates and his belief that with the current training methods, Norm would fit into any present day team.

In an interview on Radio RSN on Friday 7th June, Royce Hart mentioned Bruce Doull as a great attacking centre half. You can only go on what you see but could you ever get a better attacking centre half back line than that led by Chris Smith at the Junction Oval, ably supported by Laurie Serafini and Grant Lawrie.

Very pleasing to see the old side on Lion back for the Adelaide & Collingwood games Fitzroy people aren't the only ones who don't like the paddle pop Lion. A big move up in Brisbane to get rid of it.

The AFL Combined Past Players' Association have been working hard to get a Past Players' room at the MCG. They have succeeded in getting three games for 2013 and hopefully, more in 2014.

National Service- A simple request to locate Fitzroy players who had played at least one VFL/AFL game seemed fairly simple but wasn't as easy as all that. However, with a bit of effort managed to track down a number- Dennis Aspinall, Keith Bromage, Graham Campbell, John Duckworth, Stewart Duncan, John Hutchinson, Graeme Mackenzie, Barry MacKenzie, Tony Ongarello, Ray Slocum, John Shelton, and added myself to the list. Still waiting to hear from Ken Grimley and Bernie Quinlan. Have been told that Doug Hellings and Bryan Lane also qualified but haven't located them. I believe that Graham Gotch also qualifies but unfortunately he passed away a couple of years ago and details are hard to find.

I look at our membership of the hard core members who are keeping us going. It is not for lack of effort that our list isn't larger. Some apparently don't know we exist whilst others apparently aren't interested.

Pruned our mailing list again under the three year rule. You can overlook one year, possibly two, but when it comes to three years it shows a loss of interest. Apart from "On The Ball" we don't provide much but Brisbane have picked up the ball with their re-unions at Etihad and also at the Gabba where they have another re-union listed for July 13th. We also look on the Bill Stephen function as contributing to our cause.

At our AGM on 24th March, Frank Brain, one of most loyal supporters, was awarded Honorary Life Membership. Frank who was born in Fitzroy, went to school with Eddie Hart, Alan Ruthven and Harold Shillinglaw. He was of great assistance to Committee at our home games. He never missed an AGM but has been in poor health and was unable to attend the presentation.

On the advice of our Auditor we will be charging \$20.00 to send out the "Montage" as painted by Jamie Cooper for the 2007 Kings of Pride function. This will cover the cost of the cylinder and postage. For those I have contacted, it is a memento of having played for Fitzroy with your name, round and year you pulled on the Fitzroy guernsey. From the response it would seem that many members don't appreciate the significance of it, particularly from a family aspect.

Didn't have much response either for the signed and framed 1978 Night Premiership WEG posters with only Barry Padley claiming his.

A matter raised at our AGM was the cost of tributes in the Herald-Sun and the fact that many were for non members. We usually hear of the death of a member from their family and naturally recognize their passing. The suggestion was put forward at the meeting was acknowledgment on the web-site..