

Full Points Footy's

Tasmanian Football Companion

by

John Devaney

Full Points Footy
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Book Format And Style

Highlighted capital letters are used for club headings, e.g. **LEFROY**

Biographical entries have headings in bold capital letters, e.g. **BALDOCK, DARREL**

Other subject entries are headed in bold lower case lettering, e.g. **North West Football Union.**

Entries are arranged alphabetically. The Glossary contains an alphabetical list of the awards referenced in the text together with brief descriptions of them. It also contains brief explanations of some of the terms commonly used in Australian football which may be unfamiliar to some readers.

A club's current name - or, in the case of a former club, the name by which it was last known - is shown in highlighted capital letters at the start of its entry, with any previous names listed after it in brackets.

Introduction

The history of Australian football in Tasmania dates back almost a hundred and fifty years at least and has yet to be explored in more than cursory detail. Moreover, much recent work on the subject has been sullied by a misguided preoccupation with the V/AFL as the presumed epicentre of the football universe. Such a view needs challenging, not least because it grossly undervalues the scale of Tasmania's impact on and contribution to the history and development of a game that stopped being 'Victorian' much longer ago than any human being alive today can possibly remember.

This book will, in itself, do nothing to alter things, but it is offered in the way of an hors d'oeuvre. I leave the main course to other, more capable and qualified hands.

John Devaney
May 2009

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“Small is beautiful.”

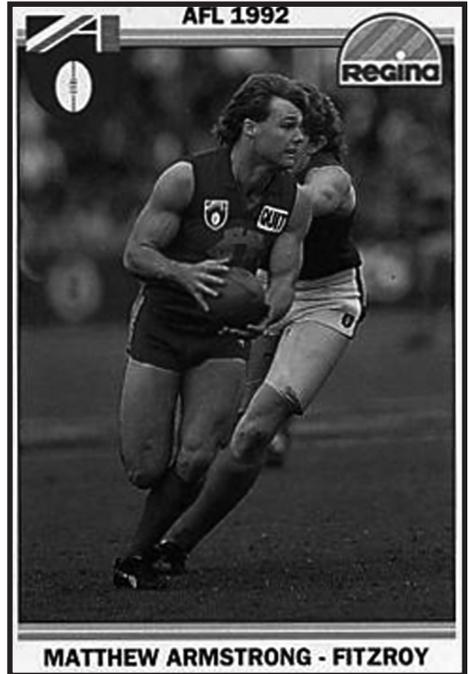
Leopold Kohr

A

ABERNETHY, BRUCE was a highly poised and polished performer who enjoyed a fourteen season, 300-plus game career with four clubs. He began with Port Adelaide in 1979, and played in a premiership team in each of his first three seasons before crossing to North Melbourne in 1982. He spent two seasons with North, and then three at Collingwood, impressing during this time as a classy attacking wingman or half back who had great pace and considerable skill. In 1987 he returned to Port Adelaide where he promptly won the best and fairest award followed by the Jack Oatey Medal after the Magpies' grand final defeat of Glenelg in 1988. He also played in Port's 1989, 1990 and 1992 premiership-winning teams. In 1991 he was a member of Adelaide's inaugural AFL squad, playing 11 games to add to his 190 for Port, 43 with North, 58 for Collingwood, and 10 interstate appearances for South Australia. Bruce Abernethy's link with Tasmania stems from his having been born there, in the town of Ouse, on 10th May 1962.

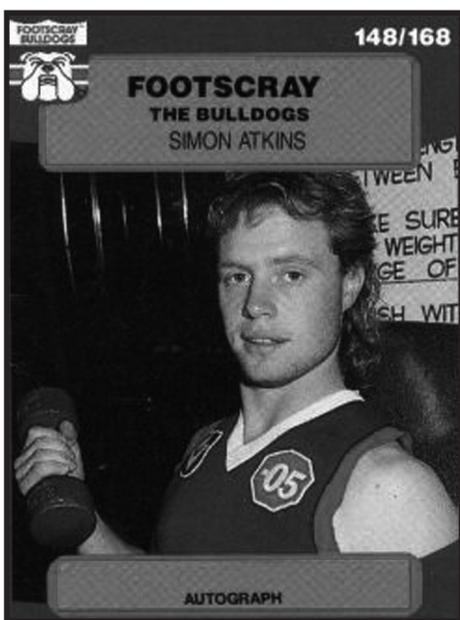
AHEARNE, F. 'COCKY': A traditional goalsneak in the mould of 'Dick' Lee or Roy Bent, 'Cocky' Ahearne combined considerable pace and elusiveness with indefatigable accuracy in front of goal. He was a key member of the great Cananore sides that won three consecutive local and state premierships between 1925 and 1927. He also played regularly for Tasmania, including games at the 1927 Melbourne carnival. Ahearne was the TFL's top goal kicker in 1925 with 50 goals, and in 1927 with 45. In the Canaries' famous 178 point annihilation of a visiting Port Adelaide side in 1925, he was the leading goal kicker in the match with 8 of the victors' 31 goals.

ARMSTRONG, MATTHEW: A strong running, talented on-baller, wingman or



half back, Matthew Armstrong was one of Fitzroy's most noteworthy performers during the closing years of that club's VFL/AFL tenure. Were it not for a serious knee injury sustained in 1990, just as he was showing signs of developing into a genuine superstar, Armstrong's achievements might well have been even more noteworthy, with even a Brownlow being within the bounds of possibility. As it was he was a consistent and occasionally brilliant player for the Lions over the course of 132 games between 1987 and 1994. He also represented both Victoria (once) and his home state 93 times) in state of origin football and was a particularly noteworthy performer in the 1988 bicentennial carnival in Adelaide. In 1995 Fitzroy traded him to North Melbourne where he added a final 40 AFL games over two seasons. In 1995 in particular he was an extremely damaging player for North, but his AFL career ended in immense disappointment when he was omitted from the 'Roos' 1996 grand final team against

Sydney, and thus missed the chance to earn a premiership medallion. After leaving the Kangaroos, Armstrong joined the Northern Bombers, where he finished his senior career. When Tasmania entered a team in the VFL in 2001 Matthew Armstrong was appointed as the fledgling club's inaugural coach. In 2003 he managed to steer the club into the finals, an achievement that was repeated in both of the next two seasons. However, a sequence of poor results midway through the 2006 season precipitated his departure.



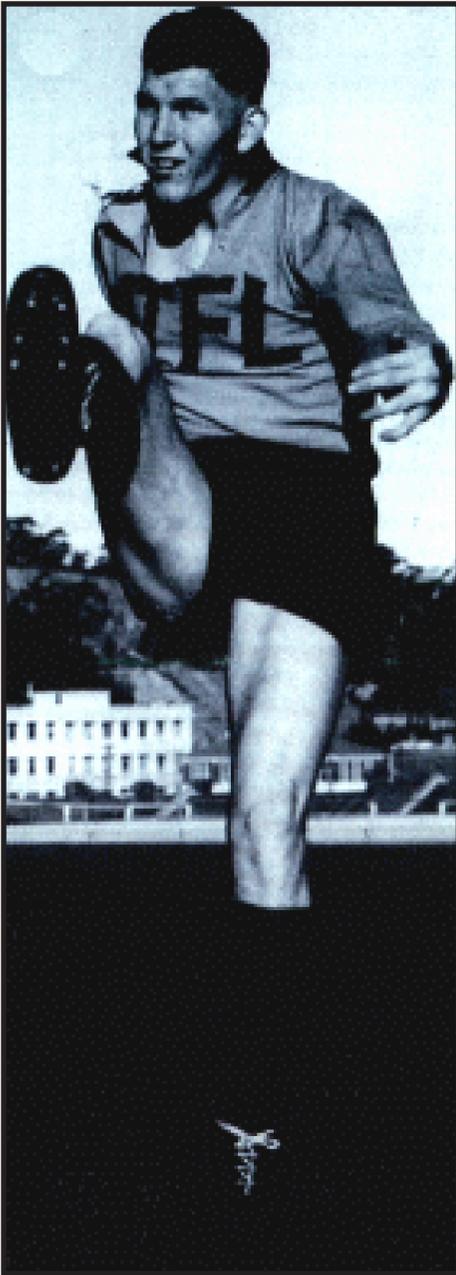
ATKINS, SIMON: After playing briefly with Wynyard, Simon Atkins was recruited by Footscray and made his VFL debut in 1987. Superb in the clinches and on heavy grounds, he was a prolific possession gatherer who used the ball extremely effectively, especially by hand. During the 1990 season he executed no fewer than 291 handballs to head the AFL's list. A Tasmanian state of origin representative, he twice finished second in the Bulldogs' best and fairest voting. After 127 games for Footscray, Atkins crossed to Fitzroy in 1995 and was a consistently conspicuous

performer in 41 games during that club's final couple of seasons in the AFL. Between 1997 and 2000 he played 80 games for Werribee, winning the club's best and fairest award in his debut season. He coached Coburg in 2004 and in 2005 returned to Werribee as senior coach.

ATKINSON, JAMES: A hard-hitting, tenacious defender, Jim Atkinson had the misfortune to break virtually every bone in his body during an eventfully auspicious fourteen season league football career in two states. He began with Fitzroy in 1917, and was a key member of that club's 1922 premiership-winning side, earning best afield accolades in the 11 point grand final win over Collingwood, when he played in a back pocket. Atkinson also won the Maroons' best and fairest award that year, and captained the club in 1924-5. In 1926 he accepted the position of captain-coach of Lefroy, where he remained for the next four and a half seasons, gaining a reputation as one of the finest players in the league, and representing Tasmania at the 1927 Melbourne carnival. Strong overhead, and dashing, he was always conspicuous because of his blond mop of hair which gave rise to the obvious nickname of 'Snowy'. Midway through the 1930 season he was forced to retire when the injuries that had dogged him throughout his career finally became completely debilitating. Ironically, Lefroy that year went on to win the premiership that had eluded them throughout Atkinson's spell as coach.

A fine all round sportsman, 'Snowy' Atkinson also represented both Victoria and Tasmania on the cricket field.

B



North Hobart's Ray Bailey

BAILEY, RAY was a handy half forward flanker capable of moments of genuine

brilliance. Quick, elusive, and an excellent kick for goal, he was an important player for North Hobart between 1958 and 1964, during which time he played a total of 138 senior games, besides helping the club to the 'double' of local and state premierships in both 1961 and 1962. He finished his playing career with a three and a half season stint with Launceston that was brought to an abrupt end when he suffered a serious knee injury. During his time with North Hobart, Ray Bailey was selected to represent Tasmania 3 times. In August 2000 he was named in North Hobart's unplaced 'Team of the Century'.

BAKER, KEVIN: Glenorchy's 'games played' record holder with 312 senior appearances to his credit, Kevin Baker was a first rate ruckman renowned for his relentless determination and superb palming skills. He won the Magpies' best and fairest award in 1968, 1971 and 1972, and played in the winning grand finals of 1958 against Sandy Bay and 1965 against North Hobart. He represented Tasmania against the VFA at Launceston in 1968. During the 2000 season Baker was selected on the interchange bench in Glenorchy's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

BALDOCK, DARREL: Renowned for his pure football intelligence and uncanny ball handling skills, Darrel John Baldock - popularly referred to simply as 'Doc' - enjoyed a superlative career in two states over twenty seasons. An immediate success with East Devonport where he won the club best and fairest in each of his first three seasons (1955-6-7) and a Wander Medal in 1957, Baldock's somewhat rotund appearance, together with his lack of height and pace, belied his dazzling array of skills. As the cliché goes, 'he often seemed to have the ball on a string'. Between 1959 and 1961



Darrel Baldock

he was captain-coach of Latrobe, winning a second Wander Medal in his first season with the club.

Baldock was an immediate success in the interstate arena, representing Tasmania for the first time in 1957 and performing with distinction in the 1958 and 1961 carnivals, the latter as captain.

On moving to St Kilda in 1962 he maintained his high standards, winning that club's best and fairest award in 1962, 1963 and 1965. He also represented the VFL on several occasions including the 1966 Hobart carnival when he captained his side to victory. Most memorably of all, perhaps, in 1966 he became the only St Kilda skipper in history to hold aloft the premiership cup after the Saints' nerve-eroding 1 point grand final win over Collingwood.

Returning home in 1969, Baldock once again assumed the coaching mantle at

Latrobe, steering his charges to a NWFU record four successive premierships between 1969 and 1972. He also continued to play exceptional football, exemplified by his courageous performances for Tasmania in the 1969 Adelaide carnival, his third Wander Medal that same year, and his excellent display in Tasmania's famous defeat of Western Australia at North Hobart in 1970.

Appointed captain-coach of TFL club New Norfolk in 1974, Baldock was forced to resign after just 4 games when, having earlier in the year been elected as the Labor member for Wilmot in the Tasmanian parliament, he was appointed Minister for Housing and Social Welfare. In 1987 he returned to football as coach of St Kilda, but his impact on the team was undermined by illness, and in three seasons in charge he was unable to propel the Saints above tenth place on the ladder. Few if any Saints fans would choose to blame him for this, however, preferring to luxuriate in the recollection of his achievements as a player.

Baldock's status as one of the greatest Tasmanian footballers of all time was reinforced in 2004 with his selection as captain of that state's official 'Team of the Century', and the following year by his induction as an icon in the official Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame. His playing career comprised a total of 397 senior games made up of 71 for East Devonport, 158 with Latrobe, 119 for St Kilda, 4 for New Norfolk, 15 interstate games for Tasmania and 10 for the VFL, and 20 intrastate appearances for the NWFU.

BARWICK, DOUG was a talented forward or utility whose kicking was exceptional and whose powerful upper body served him well in the clinches. He hailed originally from East Launceston, and moved from there to Fitzroy in 1984. In four seasons with the Lions he played 76 senior VFL games and kicked 127 goals, impressing sufficiently to gain selection for Victoria in his final year. The 1988 season saw him at Collingwood, where

he spent another four seasons, highlighted by participation in the Magpies' drought-breaking 1990 flag triumph. Barwick played 71 games for Collingwood and kicked 90 goals.

BARWICK, VICTOR: Originally from Queenstown in Tasmania, where he played for local club Linton, Victor Barwick was wooed to the mainland by St Kilda in 1903. Supremely skilled and built like a miniature tank, he was extremely highly regarded in his day, with team mate Dave McNamara describing him 'a true champion'.

Barwick played for most of his career as a rover, and captained the Saints in 1905 and 1909. He represented the VFL in 1904, and would surely have done so on many more occasions had there been more interstate games played at the time.

After seven years with St Kilda, Barwick left to join VFA side Brighton, but the 1913 season saw him back with the Saints as the club mounted its most serious and sustained challenge yet on the premiership. Unfortunately, it appears that Barwick was past his best as a player, and he failed to make the Saints team for the finals, which culminated in a narrow challenge final loss to Fitzroy.

BELCHER, ALAN: An outstanding ruckman and on field leader, Alan Belcher's football career was laced with misfortune, and his life was tragically short. He was born in Derwent Valley, Tasmania but, like his brothers Norm and Vic, played all his senior grade football in Victoria. After playing briefly for Brunswick in the VFA he crossed to Collingwood in 1904, but managed just 4 games for the year, and the following season saw him back with Brunswick. After a solid year with the Pottery Workers, Belcher returned to the VFL in 1906, this time with Essendon. Powerful and inspirational, he led from the front, a propensity that was officially recognised and endorsed in 1910 when he was appointed club captain-coach in return for a weekly payment of £1. He was vice-captain in 1911 when Jack

Worrall took over the coaching reins, and if he felt disappointment at this it was nothing compared to how he must have felt later in the year when injury forced him to miss playing in the winning grand final against Collingwood.

The 1912 season saw Belcher re-appointed club captain, a role he was to retain for the next four seasons. Once again, the Same Old lifted the premiership, and this time Alan Belcher had the satisfaction of leading the side to victory against a South Melbourne team which featured his equally talented brother Vic.

After going into mothballs for two years because of the war, Essendon resumed in 1918, with Alan Belcher playing both that season and the next to finish his league career on 180 games, 176 of which were with the Dons. He had also played for the VFL in 1906 and 1907, as well as at the 1911 Adelaide carnival. After leaving the game, however, he was beset by a series of personal tragedies which ultimately led to his untimely death in 1921.

BELCHER, VICTOR: The only player to represent South Melbourne in both of its first two VFL premierships, Vic Belcher's league career began in 1907, and ended in 1920, 226 games later. Prior to that he had played briefly with Brunswick in the VFA. Renowned for his ability to ruck all day, Belcher was also an inspirational leader, and captained the southerners from 1913 to 1917 (with a war-enforced break in 1916), and again in 1920. He also coached the club from 1914 to 1917.

Vigorous, tenacious and hard-working rather than a stylist, Belcher was often at his best when the going got strenuous. This was seldom better exemplified than in the hurly burly of the second half of the 1918 premiership play-off against Collingwood, when Belcher's resolute and tireless ruckwork was the chief difference between the teams in a photo finish.

Between 1922 and 1924, Vic Belcher was non-playing coach of Fitzroy, steering the Maroons to the 1922 premiership, 2nd place

the following year, and 3rd place in 1924. He also served as non-playing coach of his original club, Brunswick, for a time, and was coach of VAFA side Old Scotch Collegians when it won a then record fourth successive A Section flag in 1934.

His older brother Alan was also a fine footballer with Collingwood (briefly) and Essendon while another brother, Norman, played briefly with both Geelong and Essendon. All three of the Belcher brothers hailed originally from Derwent Valley in Tasmania.

BIFFIN, RAY commenced his senior career with North Launceston where he played from 1965 to 1967. During that time he represented the NTFA in 1966, and played in a losing grand final against East Launceston the following year. In 1968 he crossed to Melbourne where he would spend twelve productive if largely unspectacular years, playing 171 VFL games and kicking 131 goals. In 1976, playing mainly at full forward, he booted 47 goals for the year to top the Demons' list, but he was equally effective as a bustling, ruggedly unpretentious full back. Biffin coached VFA first division side Dandenong in 1980 and 1981, and later spent some time as coach of Hawthorn's under nineteens.

BOND, CHRIS was a tough, tenacious on-baller who saw service at two Tasmanian and three AFL clubs. In Tasmania he played for Wynyard and North Hobart before attracting the attention of Carlton, where he transferred at the end of the 1989 season. He spent three seasons with the Blues, playing 22 senior AFL games and kicking 8 goals, but the club's surfeit of players of his type meant that his opportunities were limited. He did much better at his next port of call, Richmond, for whom he played precisely 100 games and kicked 32 goals between 1993 and 1997, besides winning the club's 1994 best and fairest award. Typically used in a 'run with' role he exhibited as much

skill at times as many of the players he was tagging. It was a similar story at Fremantle, where he spent the 1998 and 1999 seasons, playing a total of 41 games and kicking 15 goals. In his first season in the west he finished fourth in the Dockers' best and fairest voting and received the best clubman award, testimony to his impact both on and off the field.

BONNEY, JOHN enjoyed an illustrious playing career in two states. He performed with equal effectiveness across centre, on the ball, or on a half forward flank and represented both Tasmania and the VFL in the interstate arena. He commenced with Cooee in 1962 and, over the ensuing five seasons, played 53 games for the club as well as making numerous intrastate appearances for the NWFU and notching up 5 interstate matches for Tasmania. In 1967 he was recruited by St Kilda, for whom he went on to play a total of 87 senior VFL games in three stints (1967-9, 1971-3 and 1976), kicking 79 goals. For much of his time with the Saints he commuted by air from Cooee to Melbourne each weekend. Highlights of his time in the VFL included an interstate appearance against Western Australia in 1971 and membership the same year of St Kilda's losing grand final team against Hawthorn.

In between his first couple of VFL stints he fronted up with Cooee, while in 1974 and 1975 he played 42 games as captain-coach of Burnie, whom he steered to a premiership in the first of those years. After spending the 1977 season out of the game he rounded off his career as playing coach of his original club Cooee during a 1978 season that spawned both the local and state flags. John Bonney thus became the first man to coach two different NWFU teams to premierships.

Bonney's achievements in the game appear all the more impressive when you consider that, after sustaining a ruptured spleen as a youngster, he had been told by doctors that he would never play football again.

BIG V HUMBLLED IN THE APPLE ISLE



BACK ROW (L-R): J.Fitzallen, M.Pascoe, S.Morcom, I.Hayes, J.Ross , R.Geard, D.Parremore
THIRD ROW (L-R): N.Conlan, G.Smith, T.Shadbolt, M.Lawrence, G.Mason, C.Moore, B.Strange, B.Payne
SECOND ROW (L-R): J.Pelham (Trainer), D.Gale, K.Sheehan, J.Hawksley (Vice captain), J.Metherell (Coach), S.Spencer (Captain), A.Webb, B.Loring , D.Lewis (Manager)
FRONT ROW (L-R): M.Kelleher, M.Steel, R.Withers, D.Lester

Some sports lend themselves readily to acts of 'giant killing'. Soccer, where superiority in skill does not translate automatically into superiority on the scoreboard, is perhaps the classic example. In Australian football, however, examples of ostensibly 'inferior' teams triumphing against the odds over significantly stronger opponents are comparatively rare. In part, this is because Australian football, by its very nature, precludes a 'playing for a draw' mentality. Whereas in soccer it is possible to claim even the sport's most illustrious prizes by deliberately setting out merely to contain rather than outscore the opposition, such containment policies would never work in Australian Rules where success depends on the effective deployment and expression of skill rather than on its attempted suppression.

Tasmania's renowned 13.13 (91) to 12.12 (84) defeat of a VFL 'second best' selection at York Park, Launceston on 13 June 1960 must therefore be regarded as proving that,

on that one occasion at least, the Tasmanian players were better exponents of the skills of Australian football than their much vaunted opponents.

Exhibiting great pace and combining with greater effectiveness than their opponents Tasmania jumped the 'big V' with 4 goals to 1 in the opening term, and thereafter the Vics were always playing 'catch up' football. With former Melbourne rover Stuart Spencer prominent for the apple islanders Tasmania maintained its dominance during the second and third terms, but as the fourth quarter opened there were signs that the Victorians were at last starting to find form. With Essendon's Ken Fraser controlling the pivot, and club mate Hugh Mitchell marking everything which came his way, the Vics hit the front midway through the final term and from that point on might reasonably have been expected to run away with affairs (after all, this was what almost invariably happened where VFL interstate sides were concerned). However, with more than 15,000 Tasmanians baying for Victorian blood it was the home side which suddenly lifted a notch, and, in a desperation move, the VFL's captain-coach, 'Bugsy' Comben, ordered his players to stack the back lines. This proved to be a costly mistake as Tasmania were able to exploit the spaces created elsewhere on the ground and surge to a 7 point victory. Perhaps the most ironic feature of the match was that arguably the two best players afield were Victorian Stuart Spencer, playing for his adopted state of Tasmania, and the VFL's Taswegian centre half back Verdun Howell.

The win was in some senses the culmination of a great career for Tasmania's coach, Jack Metherell, a West Australian who had earlier played in the VFL with Geelong, and coached North Hobart with great success. Metherell was a stickler for hard work and team discipline, attributes which his charges consistently exhibited to optimum effect on arguably the most noteworthy afternoon in Tasmanian football history.

BRACKNELL

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) since 1998

Home Ground: Bracknell Recreation Ground

Formed: Early 1920s

Colours: Red and white

Emblem: Redlegs

Senior Grade Premierships: Esk Football Association (EFA) - 1937-8-9, 1946, 1949, 1956-7, 1959-60-1-2-3-4-5, 1982 (15 total); Central Esk Football Association (CEFA) - 1945 (1 total); Esk-Deloraine Football Association (EDFA) - 1985, 1994, 1997 (3 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: EFA Best and Fairest - Frank Jordan 1976; Leon Prewer 1979 (2 total - records incomplete); EDFA Best and Fairest - Rick Shelton 1984, 1986, 1987, 1991; K.Rowlands 1985; Charles Ross

1995 (3 winners/6 wins); W.C. Curran Medal - Paul McKendrick 1998 (1 total - records incomplete)

The Redlegs have a proud record dating back to shortly after the first world war. They were one of the Esk Football Association's most successful clubs for over half a century, contesting twenty-two senior grand finals for fifteen wins. The success continued after the EFA merged with the Deloraine Football Association to form the Esk Deloraine Football Association in 1984. The merged competition endured for fourteen years, during which time Bracknell enjoyed continuous membership, contesting five senior grand finals for wins in 1985, 1994 and 1997. The club also won a reserves and two under sixteens flags. In Ricki Shelton, the Redlegs had the EDFA most decorated footballer. Shelton won four competition best and fairest awards, one more than Perth's Bruno Zelesco.

Since 1998 Bracknell has been a member of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association. The club currently competes in division one. It reached a grand final in 2008, but lost to perennial power club George Town by 7 goals.



BRAIN, TERRY: Flimsily built but courageous to a tee, rover Terry Brain was already a stalwart of the South Melbourne league side when the 'foreign legion' phase of that club's history got underway in 1933. Recruited locally, he began with South in 1928, and went on to play a total of 141 games and kick 198 goals for the club over the course of the ensuing ten seasons. Brain was first rover when the Blood-Stained Angels went top in 1933 with a grand final win over Richmond, and the

following season saw him named as the club's best and fairest player. He was a member of South's losing grand final teams of 1934 against Richmond and 1935 against Collingwood. Although he played all of his senior grade football in Melbourne Brain was born in Launceston on 14th August 1906.

BRIDGENORTH

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA)

Home Ground: Bridgenorth Football Ground

Formed: 1923

Colours: Red, gold and green

Emblem: Parrots

Senior Grade Premierships: West Tamar Football Association (WTFA) - 1929, 1949, 1950-1-2, 1956, 1959-60, 1963, 1967 (10 total); Kerrison Shield - 1956 (1 total); Tamar Football Association (TFA) - 1983-4 (2 total); Northern Amateurs Division One - 1996 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Clevedon Cup - Kevin Lack 1952; Ken Williams 1958 & 1959; Allan Pearson 1968 (3 winners/4 wins - records incomplete); W.C. Curran Medal - Chris McKenzie 2000 (1 total - records incomplete)

Most Games: 404 by Dennis Broomby

Formed in 1923, Bridgenorth Football Club competed initially in the West Tamar Football Association. Between 1923 and 1940 the club was a regular finalist, but its only premiership came in 1929 when it defeated Rosevears in the grand final by 20 points, 9.7 (61) to 5.11 (41).

In 1941, the WTFA went into recess because of the war, and did not resume until 1946. Bridgenorth won its second flag in 1949, and went on to be the most successful club in the competition during the ensuing decade, contesting eight out of ten grand finals for five wins. It commenced the 1960s with another premiership, and had added two



New Norfolk, Hawthorn and Glenorchy great Peter Hudson takes a typically strong, unspectacular mark whilst representing the TFL in an intrastate clash with the NTFA.

more before the WTFA was dismantled at the conclusion of the 1969 season.

In 1970 a new competition, the Tamar Football Association, got underway. Formed by the amalgamation of the East and West Tamar competitions, it was dominated at first by the eastern clubs, and the Parrots did not manage to qualify for a grand final until 1982, when they lost to George Town by a point. The following year they made amends, downing the same opponent in the grand final by 34 points, 18.13 (121) to 13.9 (87). A second TFA premiership followed in 1984, after which the Association disbanded.

Bridgenorth's most recent senior flag was claimed in 1996 in the Northern Amateurs Division One competition. In 1997 this competition was renamed the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, not to be confused with the earlier competition of the same name, which had gone into mothballs in 1987.

The NTFA is a two division competition, with the Parrots currently competing in division one.

BRIGHTON

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) from 1996

Formed: 1885 as Mangalore. Changed name to Brighton in 1995.

Club Address: Pontville Oval, Main Road, Pontville, Tasmania 7030

Home Ground: Pontville Oval

Colours: Navy blue and red

Emblem: Robins

Senior SthFL Premierships: 1998 (1 total)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: Brendon Browning 2000 (1 total)

In 1996, Brighton was one of eight founder members of Tasmania's Southern Football League. A finalist in both 1996 and 1997, the club broke through for a dramatic premiership in 1998 when it won a

replayed grand final against Cygnet. After a tense, low scoring draw in the initial game, Brighton won the replay convincingly by 13 goals.

The Robins again contested the grand final in 1999, but on this occasion former TFL side Hobart proved too strong.

When the SthFL split into two divisions in 2002 Brighton found itself in the elite premier league along with ex TFL heavyweights like North Hobart, Glenorchy and Clarence. Adding to the club's premiership tally was therefore always going to be difficult but the departure of these clubs to the new statewide competition in 2009 will make the task correspondingly easier.



BROOKS, HECTOR (shown above): A contemporary of Cananore legend Horrie Gorringe, North Hobart's Hektor Brooks was a similarly intuitive, clever and accomplished rover who won his club's most consistent player award on seven consecutive occasions during the 1920s. He was often at his best in representative matches, and his combination with Gorringe in intrastate fixtures made the TFL well nigh invincible. He also performed creditably for Tasmania at both the 1924 Hobart and 1927 Melbourne carnivals. In 1928, Brooks journeyed north to play for Launceston-based club City under the coaching of Roy Cazaly. City went on to

win that year's local and state premierships. Returning to Hobart in 1929, Brooks rounded off his senior football career with a couple of seasons at New Town.

In August 2000, Hector Brooks was included in the official North Hobart 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

BROWNING, ROGER: The oldest of three brothers to represent New Norfolk during the 1950s and 1960s, Roger Browning's career was cut short by injury, but for a brief time he was without doubt one of the finest players in the Apple Isle. Winner of the Leitch Medal in 1961 and 1962, Browning was voted his club's best and fairest player in all four of his full seasons in the game. He played a total of 79 club games, and also represented both the TANFL and Tasmania.

Roger Browning was selected in a back pocket in New Norfolk's official 'Best Ever

BURNIE DOCKERS (Cooee, Burnie Hawks)

Affiliated: Junior competitions 1920-22 & 1930-44; NWFU 1945-86; TFL Statewide 1987-2000; NTFL 2001-present

Club Address: P.O. Box 95, Burnie, Tasmania 7320

Website: www.burniedockers.com.au

Email: info@burniedockers.com.au

Home Ground: West Park, Burnie

Formed: 1894, became Burnie Hawks 1987 and entered statewide competition; merged with Burnie Tigers in 1993, and became known as Burnie Dockers in 1995
Colours: Purple, green, red and white

Emblem: Dockers (formerly Hawks, and prior to that Bulldogs)

Senior Grade Premierships: Burnie Football Association - 1931, 1933-4-5-6 (5 total); NWFU - 1961, 1964-5, 1973, 1978, 1982 (6 total); NTFL - 2001-2-3-4-5 (5 total)
Tasmanian State Premierships - 1964 & 1978 (2 total)

Wander Medallists: Len Hayes 1949; Lou Redman 1950; Graeme Shepherd 1973; Tom Lee 1979 (4 total)

Baldock Medallists: Nick Probert 2003; K.Munday 2008 (2 total)

All Australians: Nil

NWFU Top Goalkickers: D.Anderson (89) 1952; L.Hayes (51) 1957; S.Beaumont (73) 1972, (94) 1978, (143) 1984; A.Hodgetts (73) 1973; D.Shepherd (60) 1975 & (102) 1976 (8 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: Andrew Hering (102) 2001 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: Justin Plapp (98) 1996 (1 total)

Highest Score: Burnie Dockers 49.35 (329) vs. Smithton 0.1 (1) in 2001

Most Games: 263 by Harold 'Tiger' Dowling

Originally formed in 1894, Cooee had endured two fairly prolonged spells in abeyance (1896 to 1919, and 1923 to 1929) before emerging as a pivotal force in the Burnie Football Association, in which it won a total of five flags between 1931 and 1936. In 1938 Cooee was one of four founder members of the Darwin Football Association and claimed the 1941 premiership of that competition with a 34 point grand final win over Upper Burnie.

When organised football resumed after the war in 1945 Cooee was admitted to the NWFU, bringing the number of teams in the competition up to ten. At first, the side struggled, but with accomplished players like Len Hayes, Owen Bugg, Lou Redman and Laurie Horton to the fore it broke through for its first grand final appearance in 1951, only to fall in a heap against a powerful Ulverstone side and go down by 65 points. Further losing grand final appearances followed in 1956 and 1960 before the Bulldogs broke through for their first ever NWFU flag thanks to an 8.10 (58) to 8.5 (53) grand final defeat of local rivals Burnie in 1961. After that, it was as though the dam had broken: between 1962 and the dissolution of the NWFU at the end of the

1986 season Cooe contested another ten grand finals for half a dozen wins, making it by some measure the competition's most successful club during that time. Its 'elevation' to the ranks of the TFL's emerging statewide competition in 1987 was presumably therefore more or less automatic.

On commencing in the statewide competition, Cooe adopted the new name of the Burnie Hawks. Coached by Warren McCarthy, and with former Hawthorn star Colin Robertson as their on field leader, the Hawks were competitive from the start, finishing fifth out of ten clubs in their debut year, repeating this result in 1988, and proving consistently strong, without ever quite managing to break through for a flag, throughout their fourteen year involvement in statewide football. In 1995, two years after absorbing NTFL side Burnie Tigers, the club embarked on a partnership with fledgling AFL club Fremantle, becoming known as the Dockers in the process.

Since the collapse of the statewide competition at the end of the 2000 season Burnie has competed in the NTFL, with considerable success. In 2001, under the coaching of former Collingwood champion Mick McGuane, the side went through the roster matches unbeaten and won the flag with a 17.14 (116) to 7.10 (52) grand final defeat of fellow ex-statewide club Northern Bombers. It repeated this success the following year, this time with Nick Probert holding the coaching reins, when it overcame a spirited early challenge from Ulverstone to win in the end with some comfort, 14.5 (89) to 5.12 (42). Then, in 2003, the Dockers made it three in a row in fine style by overcoming the previously unbeaten Northern Bombers in a surprisingly one-sided grand final, 14.11 (95) to 6.13 (49).

Going from strength to strength, in 2004 the Dockers secured their most conclusive premiership victory yet, with their 23.19 (157) to 7.8 (50) annihilation of Devonport generating an all time record margin of victory for an NTFL grand final. The 2005

season brought a league record-equalling fifth successive flag thanks to a hard fought 17 point grand final victory over perennial victims Devonport, and few people would have been prepared to bet against a sixth consecutive premiership win in 2006. However, it was not to be, as the side endured a frankly abysmal year, managing just 8 wins and conclusively failing even to qualify for the finals. That failure was repeated twelve months later, albeit after a slightly more positive campaign that yielded a 9-9 record and a positive percentage to boot.

Among the many fine players to have represented the merged club since its inception have been Wayne Keegan, Paul Atkins, Errol Bourne, Leigh Heath, Keenan Reynolds, Brad Davis and Nick Barnes.

In common with most other states, Tasmania has, over recent years, been continually forced to modify its football infrastructure in order to keep in step with developments in the sport's highest tier, the AFL. Such frequent change has not made life easy for clubs like the Burnie Dockers, but it is high testimony to those in charge that the club has continued to thrive.

BURNIE TIGERS **(Romaine, Emu Bay)**

Affiliated: NWFA 1885-1912; Burnie Football League (BFL) 1913-21; NWFU 1922-31; Burnie Football League 1932-33; NWFU 1934-40; BFL 1945; NWFU 1946-86; NTFL 1987-92

Home Ground: West Park, Burnie

Formed: 1885 as Emu Bay; merged with Burnie Hawks in 1993

Colours: Black and yellow

Emblem: Tigers

Premierships: 1899, 1927-8, 1937, 1939, 1954, 1958-9-60, 1962-3, 1966, 1974, 1992 (14 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1963 (1 total)

Cheer Medallists: Charlie Hallam 1928 (1 total)

S.L. Alford Medallists: Clem Riggs 1937 (1 total)

Wander Medallists: Ray Stokes 1954 (1 total)

All Australians: Nil

NWFL Top Goalkickers: G.Goninon (67) 1947; B.Quirk (52) 1948; M.Morse (60) 1961; D.Hodgetts (79) 1971 & (73) 1972; L.Barnes (82) 1979 (6 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: C.Reynolds (76) 1991 & (96) 1992 (2 total)

Highest Scores: Burnie 30.21 (201) vs. Penguin in 1963;

Most Games: 265 by David Langmaid

The club which developed into the original Burnie Football Club was formed in 1885 under the name Emu Bay, a monicker it retained until 1890 when it became known as Burnie. In 1901 it reverted to its original name for five seasons, became known as Romaine in 1906, and then finally settled on the name Burnie in 1909. These constant changes of identity must surely have proved unsettling, and, perhaps not surprisingly, not once during this entire period did the club manage to secure a premiership.

Prior to World War One Burnie participated in the North West Football Association until 1912, and thereafter in the Burnie Football League. The North West Football Union had been formed in 1910 and during the early post war years it was looking to expand in order to cement its role as the primary controlling body in the region. Burnie joined the NWFU in 1922 bringing the number of member clubs to six. It made an immediate impact, reaching that year's grand final in which it lost narrowly (4.12 to 5.12) to Latrobe.

Between 1927 and 1930 Burnie, with players like Charlie Hallam, Ray Townsend, Mick Lucas and Claude Bennett to the fore, fielded its strongest teams up to that point. It contested the grand final in all four of those years, downing Devonport in 1927 and 1928, but losing to Circular Head in 1929,

and Latrobe the following year.¹ Fortunes declined somewhat during the first half of the 1930s, and indeed between 1932 and 1933 Burnie left the NWFU and participated in the Burnie Football League once more, but the side was back as a force during the years leading up to the onset of another world war. Between 1936 and 1939 Burnie contested every NWFU grand final. It lost to Devonport in 1936, despite managing 26 scoring shots to 25, but gained revenge in 1937 after edging home in a 5 point thriller. Outclassed to the tune of 37 points by Devonport in 1938 it was much too good for Latrobe the following season, winning 16.10 (106) to 8.13 (61) in what proved to be the last grand final before the war. Particularly notable among many prominent players for Burnie during this period was 1937 Alford Medallist and triple club champion Clem Riggs.

When football on the north west coast resumed after the war in 1945 it found Burnie once again competing in the Burnie Football League with its place in the NWFU taken by another Burnie-based club, Cooe. Between 1945 and 1948 the NWFU comprised separate Eastern and Western Divisions, and Burnie left the BFL to join its near neighbour Cooe in the Western Division in 1946. In both 1946 and 1947 Burnie reached the grand final, only to lose on both occasions, to East Devonport in the former year, and Ulverstone in the latter.

The 1950s proved to be the most successful decade in the club's history up to that point with the Tigers as they were by that stage known contesting a total of four grand finals and emerging victorious from all but one of them. They did even better in the 1960s, claiming another four flags along with their first, and ultimately only, state title.

The remainder of the club's history was rather less auspicious, yielding only two further premierships in a little over two decades. In 1993, the year after winning their last senior flag, the Tigers joined forces

with former sparring partner Cooe, which since commencing in the TFL statewide competition had been known as Burnie Hawks. The merged club became known as the Burnie Dockers in 1995, and since the statewide league was dismantled at the end of the 2000 season it has competed, with considerable success, in the NTFL.

Footnote

See the entry on Devonport for details of the structural changes forced on the NWFU during this period after the washing away of the Forth Bridge.

and 1973 Burns played 71 WANFL games for East Perth, including the winning 1972 grand final against Claremont, in which he starred in the centre. He also represented Western Australia twice. Midway through the 1973 season he joined North Melbourne where he was a prominent performer in three successive grand finals - the win against Hawthorn in 1975, sandwiched in between losses to Richmond in 1974 and Hawthorn in 1976. A conspicuously skilled and polished footballer, Burns played 95 VFL games and kicked 68 goals for the Kangaroos from 1973 to 1976 and in 1978. He finished his league career at Geelong, where he added 17 games and 10 goals in 1979 and 1980.



BURNS, JOHN carved out a noteworthy league career for himself in three states. He began with NTFA side East Launceston where he enjoyed a particularly successful 1969 season, earning Tasmanian interstate selection at the Adelaide carnival, and winning both his club's best and fairest award and the Hec Smith Memorial Medal for best and fairest in the Association. Between 1970

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CAMPANIA

Current Affiliation: Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA)

Home Ground: Campania Football Ground
Formed: 1882

Colours: Green and gold

Emblem: Wallabies

Senior Grade Premierships: Richmond Football Association (RFA) - 1933 (1 total); South Eastern District Football Association (SEDFFA) - 1949, 1953, 1963 (3 total)

Campania has a long history that has not been without its problems, but has also spawned a reasonable amount of success. On occasion the club has even had to go into recess, and from 1980 until 1990 it was merged with Richmond, but it managed to overcome these difficulties and now competes in its own right in the Oatlands District Football Association.

Campania was a regular finalist during its time in the South Eastern District Football Association, and in addition to its premierships reached another ten grand finals, the result from one of which cannot be traced.

CAMPBELL TOWN

Current Affiliation: Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA) since 2009

Home Ground: Campbell Town Football Ground

Formed: 1886

Colours: Black and red

Emblem: Robins

Senior Grade Premierships: Midlands Football Association (MFA) - 1931-2, 1934-5-6, 1950-1, 1955, 1961 (9 total); Northern Midlands Football Association (NMFA) - 1938 (1 total); Fingal District Football Association (FDFA) - 1973-4, 1976-7, 1979, 1981 (6 total); NTFA Division Two - 1998, 2000-1 (3 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: A.R. Fisher Medal (MFA)

- Max Davidson 1952; Lance Crosswell 1953; Noel Wynwood 1954; Ray Webb 1959, 1960, 1964 & 1966; Geoff Davidson 1962 (5 Medallists/8 Medals - records incomplete); Athol Ellis Memorial Trophy (FDFA) - Ambrose McDonald 1987 (1 total - records incomplete); Esk-Delorraine Football Association Best and Fairest - Steven Lovegrove 1996 (1 total); NTFA Division Two Best and Fairest - Stephen Lovegrove 1998 (1 total - records incomplete)

Most Games: 250 by Noel Wynwood

The Robins were successful members of the Midlands Football Association for the better part of four decades, winning a total of nine flags. In 1937 and 1938 this competition was split into northern and southern sections with Campbell Town enjoying premiership success in the former in 1937.

At the end of the 1971 season, the MFA disbanded, and Campbell Town crossed to the Fingal District Football Association, remaining there until that competition too was dismantled two decades later. During the course of their twenty-one season stint in the FDFA the Robins contested a total of nine grand finals, half a dozen of which were won. The side was at its strongest during its first decade in the competition, only twice failing to reach the grand final.

Recent years have seen Campbell Town competing in division two of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, in which competition it claimed three senior grade premierships, beating Evandale in the 1998 grand final, Perth in 2000, and St Patrick's Old Collegians in 2001. Remarkably, the club's 2000 and 2001 flags were achieved undefeated.

Probably the most noteworthy player in the club's history to date was Ray Webb, winner of four Fisher Medals as best and fairest in the MFA, plus at least five club best and fairest awards (the records in respect of some years having been lost).

CANANORE

Affiliated: Derwent Football Association 1901-4; STFA/TFL junior grade 1905-7; TANFL/TFL 1908-1944

Home Ground: Tasmanian Cricket Association Ground

Formed: 1901

Colours: Yellow and black

Emblem: Canaries

Premierships: 1909-10-11, 1913, 1921-2, 1925-6-7, 1931, 1933 (11 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1909-10-11, 1913, 1921-2, 1925-6-7, 1931 (10 total)

William Leitch Medallists: Jack Billett 1930; Albert Collier 1931 (2 total)

George Watt Memorial Medallists: Geoff Kilmartin 1940 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: F.Burton (11) 1909; C.Ward (16) 1910 & (24) 1911; G.Baclernach (13) 1913; J.Brain (47) 1924 & (64) 1926; F.Ahearn (50) 1925 & (45) 1927 (8 total)

During its comparatively brief existence, the Cananore Football Club was responsible for giving considerable enjoyment to thousands of football supporters, and for providing a home to many of the most notable identities in Tasmanian football during the first four decades of the last century.

After beginning life as a junior club in the Derwent Football Association in 1901 (where it was successful in procuring the 1901 and 1904 premierships), Cananore transferred to the STFA's junior grade (effectively its reserves competition) in 1905. In 1906 and 1907 it won the junior grade premiership, and in 1908 it replaced Derwent in the three team senior competition, which in 1907 had changed its name to the TFL. Despite losing every game in its debut season in the 'big time' Cananore was not disgraced, and in 1909, with Tasmania's 1908 carnival coach Bruce Carter having arrived at the club from Mersey, it proved that it was an extraordinarily quick learner by not only annexing the local premiership, but the first

ever official state flag as well after a 4.6 (30) to 2.6 (18) victory over northern premier Launceston at Hobart.

Somewhat unusually, although Bruce Carter was both Cananore's coach and, arguably, the finest footballer in the state at the time, he did not captain the side, leaving that duty to former Carlton (16 games) and Melbourne (69 games) player, Jack Gardiner. With this pair at the helm, the Canaries as they were known proved well nigh invincible, adding further successive local and state premierships in 1910 and 1911, as well as providing the nucleus of Tasmania's 1911 Adelaide carnival side, which proved to be one of the strongest in the state's history.¹

Despite starting the 1912 season in fine form with a 10.12 (72) to 7.6 (48) defeat of 1911 runner up, North Hobart, Cananore, which had lost coach Carter to North Launceston, struggled for the remainder of the year, managing just 1 further win to finish last.

Bruce Carter's importance to the team was graphically demonstrated when he returned to the fold in 1913 and immediately inspired the Canaries to rediscover the winning formula, culminating in a fourth premiership in five seasons thanks to a 10.13 (73) to 4.12 (36) grand final defeat of Lefroy. The state premiership match between Cananore and NTFA premier Launceston was sensationally cancelled after the northern club objected to the engagement of a TFL umpire to control the match. Launceston ended up being disqualified by the TFL, which had that right as the official, Australasian Football Council-recognised Controlling Body for all Tasmanian football. The ban was ultimately lifted before the start of the 1914 season. Meanwhile, Cananore was awarded the state title on forfeit.

The Canaries again contested the TFL grand final in 1914, losing by 3 goals to North Hobart, but arguably the most significant occurrence of the season was the debut in a Cananore jumper of one of the greatest footballers Tasmania has ever produced,

Horrie Gorringe. Possessed of blinding pace and impeccable disposal skills, Gorringe spent his entire playing career, which lasted thirteen seasons, at Cananore, and represented Tasmania with distinction at the 1924 and 1927 carnivals at Hobart and Melbourne respectively.

An interstate carnival was also held in 1914, in Sydney, and while it was taking place the AFC arranged for an exhibition series to take place in Brisbane, featuring leading clubs from each of the four major football states. Cananore was invited to participate as Tasmania's representative in this series, and despite the absence of a number of key players who were representing Tasmania in Sydney the side performed with credit against mainland heavyweights in the shape of Collingwood (VFL) and Perth (WAFL). South Adelaide (SAFL) also participated.²

After another losing grand final in 1915 (against Lefroy), Cananore, along with Tasmanian football in general, went into recess because of the war. When football resumed in 1919 there was further disruption in store as an influenza epidemic broke out which resulted in the suspension of all major sporting activities on the advice of the Tasmanian health authorities. Cananore was comfortably placed at the head of the TFL ladder, having won all 7 matches contested, when the season was brought to a premature end.

The 1920s proved to be a highly fruitful decade for the Canaries as, with record crowds now following the game, they won both local and state premierships in 1921, 1922, 1925, 1926 and 1927. Cananore's 1925 combination would probably have to go down as one of the strongest in Tasmanian football history. Prior to the TFL finals the Canaries played a challenge match against visiting SAFL side Port Adelaide and, watched by a disbelieving crowd of 4,000, won with stunning ease, 31.30 (216) to 5.8 (38). Both the local and state grand finals were won in similarly emphatic fashion: North

Hobart was vanquished 15.14 (104) to 7.9 (51) in the TFL, while NTFA premier North Launceston was overwhelmed 20.17 (137) to 9.12 (66) in the state premiership decider.

With former Collingwood champion Albert Collier coaching the side Cananore enjoyed another remarkable season in 1931, a year which yielded record attendances and gate receipts for the league. The Canaries, as minor premiers, faced North Hobart in the grand final, and at the end of an exhilarating tussle scores were deadlocked on 9.12 (66) apiece. The replay the following week was just as absorbing, with Cananore finally edging home by 3 points, before scoring an even harder fought 1 point win over North Launceston to secure the state title. Albert Collier was rewarded for a dominating season with the William Leitch Medal to go alongside his 1929 Brownlow.

Two years later Cananore again overcame North Hobart on grand final day to secure what would prove to be the club's last ever senior flag. There was to be ignominy mixed with the triumph, however, as the Canaries became the first TFL premier to lose a state premiership decider on southern soil. North Launceston was the victorious northern club.

In the years leading up to World War Two Cananore continued to perform competitively, reaching three more grand finals before the TFL was forced, owing to a shortage of players, to suspend operations in 1942. When the competition resumed three years later its new, district-orientated structure meant that there was no room for clubs like Cananore, which lacked a discrete district base.

During its brief existence, Cananore was the TFL's second most successful club, with its overall record bettered only by that of North Hobart. Moreover, the club's achievement in procuring ten state premierships was unsurpassed at the time of its demise. These achievements alone should be sufficient to earn the Canaries a prominent place in any objectively selected football 'Hall of Fame', but the

sad reality is that, with football outside the AFL-VFL behemoth being accorded less and less value and credence with each passing year, it is not likely to be very long before Cananore's highly laudable legacy disappears without trace.

Footnotes

1 Apart from losing heavily to eventual carnival champions South Australia, the Tasmanians performed creditably in all their games, thrashing New South Wales by 74 points, scoring a surprise 5 point victory over Western Australia, and giving the VFL a real run for its money before going under by 31 points. These results were sufficient to earn Tasmania third place at the championships.

2 The results of the three matches played during the exhibition series, which took place between 8 and 15 August 1914 (the conflict that was to become known as the Great War having commenced on 4 August):

Collingwood 9.7 (61); South Adelaide 8.13 (61)

Collingwood 12.19 (91); Cananore 10.10 (70)

Perth 21.8 (134); Cananore 14.16 (100)

CARTER, NOEL played top level football, mainly as a rover, in three states, beginning with Ulverstone in the NWFU, whose best and fairest award he won in 1972. The following season saw Carter venture across the Bass Strait to the 'big time' of the VFL and one of the bona fide 'power' clubs of the era in Richmond. Over the course of the next five seasons, Carter played 49 games for the Tigers, including the 1973 grand final win over Carlton.

The final, and by far the most auspicious, phase of Carter's career was spent with South Fremantle where he earned a reputation as one of the most inspirational on-field leaders in the game. Tough, hard at the ball, and almost fanatically determined, he led from the front as the Bulldogs established themselves as one of the leading sides in the WANFL, and indeed Australia. Between 1979 and 1981 Carter captained South to three successive grand finals which produced a loss against East Fremantle, a comfortable win over Swan Districts (reviewed here), and, finally, an atrocious display of kicking

for goal, which effectively handed the 1981 premiership to Claremont on a plate. Carter, who was high among his team's best players in each match, could certainly not be blamed for the losses, and his high reputation was further enhanced with club best and fairest awards in 1980 and 1984.

In nine seasons at South Fremantle, Noel Carter played a total of 155 league games, besides representing both Western Australia and Tasmania in the interstate arena.

CASHION, TERRY: Much travelled rover Terry Cashion seems destined to remain the only Tasmanian ever to win interstate football's most noteworthy individual prize, the Tassie Medal. After preferring soccer as a youngster, Cashion saw the light as a thirteen year old when he began playing under age football with Buckingham. After four seasons there he exploded onto the big league scene with New Town in 1939 when he finished runner up in the TFL's best and fairest award, the George Watt Memorial Medal, a feat he duplicated the following year. During the war he spent some time stationed in Victoria with the army, and played a handful of VFL games with South Melbourne before being sidelined with a knee injury. Cashion's next major port of call following his discharge from the army and recovery from his injured knee was Clarence, where he played for a couple of seasons, including the 'Roos first ever TFL season in 1947. That year also saw Cashion donning a Tasmanian jumper for the first time, and his performances during the Hobart carnival were sufficiently meritorious for him to be awarded the Stancombe Trophy as Tasmania's most noteworthy performer of the series.

Three years later at the Brisbane carnival the by this stage seasoned performer, now with Longford, played even better, securing not only a second Stancombe Trophy, but the coveted Tassie Medal itself as well. In a series marred by atrocious weather conditions, the Tasmanians as a whole performed with a considerable amount of credit, comfortably beating the VFA, and giving a respectable

account of themselves against all three of the major football states. Much of the credit for this belonged to Cashion, who positively revelled in the conditions, matching or outplaying all of his supposedly more illustrious opponents in every game.

Cashion again represented Tasmania at the Adelaide carnival of 1953 in what proved to be his interstate swansong. Back in the TFL by this stage, with Sandy Bay, he retired from top level football at season's end with a total of 193 senior games under his belt. An excellent indication of his consistency is his achievement in winning a total of seven club champion awards in only ten full seasons of senior football.

The immensity of Terry Cashion's reputation in Tasmanian football circles was emphasised in June 2004 with his selection as first rover in the state's official 'Team of the Century'. Two years later he was inducted as a legend in the official Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame.

CAZALY, ROY: To some extent, Roy Cazaly's name - used as a battle cry by Australian troops - during the second world war - is almost synonymous with the sport of Australian football. It is somewhat ironic therefore that he was remembered for his time at St Kilda (where he played 99 games between 1910 and 1920) as "just another footballer", only eking out a reputation as a 'superstar' when he joined South Melbourne in 1921. While at South he added another 99 senior games, made his Big V debut (going on to play 13 times), topped the club goalkicking list on two occasions, and won the best and fairest award in 1926. Less tangibly, he established a reputation as Victorian football's foremost aerialist, giving rise to the time-honoured catch cry - first coined by team mate Fred Fleiter - 'Up there Cazaly!'

Cazaly was more than just a brilliant aerialist, however. A non-smoking teetotaler, he was ahead of his time as far as fitness went, and he combined superb physical conditioning with an acute football brain. The former enabled him to play well over 400 senior games in Victoria and Tasmania, while the latter was on eminent display during a highly successful

seven premiership coaching career.

Additional details about Roy Cazaly's career can be found in the entries on City-Launceston and Glenorchy.

In 2005, Cazaly was named as an inaugural coaching legend in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

CENTRAL HAWKS

Affiliated: Southern Football League (SthFL) from 2006

Home Grounds: Oatlands Recreation Oval and Bothwell Recreation Ground

Formed: 2005 following the merger of Bothwell, Oatlands and Kempton Football Clubs

Colours: Brown and gold

Emblem: Hawks

Senior SthFL Premierships: Nil

Peter Hodgman Medallists: Nil

The amalgamation of three Oatlands District Football Association Clubs in Bothwell, Oatlands and Kempton gave rise to the Central Hawks, who commenced involvement in the SthFL's regional league in 2006. Coached by Dean Clark, the side won its opening 4 matches of the season, and continued to perform creditably in achieving 9 wins from 18 games to finish sixth of ten clubs, thereby only narrowly missing finals participation.

In 2007 the Hawks lost a hard fought first semi final to Claremont by a couple of points, thereby finishing fourth, but the following year they were unable to build on this and missed the finals entirely.

Prior to the merger Bothwell had amassed the impressive total of twenty-three senior grade premierships in various competitions over the course of an existence stretching back to the 1880s. Oatlands could trace its history back even further, but the club had been slightly less successful than Bothwell with 'only' sixteen senior grade flags to its credit. Kempton claimed to have been established as early as 1864, although

this seems highly questionable. Known as the Magpies, the club had won at least five senior grade premierships, although there might well have been more as records prior to the 1930s are sketchy at best.

CHANNEL

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 2009

Formed: 1967

Home Ground: Snug Oval

Colours: Red, white and black

Emblem: Saints

Senior Grade Premierships: Huon Football Association - 1975, 1977-8, 1981, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1990 (8 total); SthFL - 1996 (1 total)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: A.Beveridge 1998; M.Gowans 2005 (2 total)

Most Games: 411 by Ken Smith

When the disastrous bushfires of 1967 left the Kettering, Margate, Snug and Woodbridge Football Clubs without clubrooms and much of their equipment, their respective members decided to join forces and form a new club. That club was named Channel, after the southern Tasmanian region in which all four clubs had been situated, and from the 1967 season it would be lining up in the Huon Football Association. Shortly afterwards, a set of red, white and black playing jumpers were donated to the club by the Longley Football Club, which would no longer be needing them as it had recently merged with Kingston.

Channel spent a total of thirty-nine seasons in the Huon Football Association, reaching the grand final on 15 occasions for 8 wins. The club was a founder member of the Southern Football League in 1996, and won that competition's very first premiership with a 12.15 (87) to 11.4 (70) grand final defeat of Kingston. In 2009 Channel transferred to the Old Scholars Football Association.

CHARLESWORTH, JACK was a rugged, strongly built, old fashioned stay-at-home type of centremen who was a key member of Cananore's powerful 1920s combinations which landed both local and state premierships in 1921-2 and 1925-6-7. He played a total of 196 games for the Canaries, and was a regular TFL and state representative, including games at both the 1924 Hobart and 1927 Melbourne carnivals. After he retired as a player he was made a life member of the club.

CHITTY, BOB: A brilliant, versatile footballer for Carlton for over a decade, Bob Chitty's talent seldom enters the discussion when his VFL career comes under review, for one simple, but very valid, reason: Bob Chitty was one of the toughest, most fearsomely aggressive footballers ever to take the field. Some players manufacture aggression, others seem born to it; as far as Bob Chitty was concerned, aggression oozed out of his every pore.

That said, it was, for the most part, controlled and focused aggression: Chitty was no thug. Reported countless times over the course of his 146 game VFL career, he was suspended for a total of just sixteen weeks, eight of which accrued from his involvement in the multifarious flare-ups that sullied the 1945 so-called 'Bloodbath grand final'.

Recruited by Carlton from Sunshine, Bob Chitty spent a season in the Blues' reserves before making his senior debut in 1936. Thereafter, he was never dropped, although an inevitable legacy of his style of play was that he often ended up taking the field whilst carrying injuries that would have sidelined lesser men for weeks. On one occasion the top of the middle finger of Chitty's left hand was sliced off in an industrial accident; Chitty simply had it stitched back on, and the following Saturday he was back doing what he did best, scaring the life out of Carlton's opponents, and giving his own smaller team mates an armchair ride.

In 1938, Bob Chitty was on a half back flank, his favoured position, as Carlton overcame its most hated foe, Collingwood, in the grand final. Chitty often reserved his most antagonistic

performances for clashes with the Magpies; in the 1945 preliminary final, for example, his persistent brutalisation of Collingwood champion Des Fothergill was a major contributory factor to his team's win. Captain of Carlton by that stage, Chitty put in another compelling performance in the following week's grand final against South Melbourne as the Blues secured the second premiership of his career.

Twice a Carlton best and fairest winner, Chitty emphasised that he was eminently capable of playing good football by running fourth in the 1941 Brownlow Medal count. For the most part, however, Chitty was happy to concentrate on being effective rather than eye-catching; no matter how ostensibly violently he behaved, the underlying aim was always to further the Carlton cause, which is something that Bob Chitty managed with as much passion, and arguably as much efficacy, as anyone.

After departing the VFL scene at the end of the 1946 season, Chitty spent three seasons as captain-coach of Victorian country side Benalla, before finishing his career in the same role at Scottsdale. Chitty continued to live in Scottsdale after his retirement as a player, describing himself as a 'naturalised Tasmanian'.

Circular Head Football Association:

The CHFA is the second oldest regional competition in Tasmania, formed in 1900, six years after the oldest such competition, the North West Football Association. Competing clubs over the years have included Forest and Stanley, who merged with one another in 1963, Irishtown, Scotchtown, Smithton, Redpa, Mengha and Trowutta City. Noteworthy feats include Irishtown's ten flags in succession between 1906 and 1915, and Smithton's thirteen premierships from sixteen grand finals in the 1950s and 1960s.

CITY (HOBART)

Affiliated: TFA 1879-1886; STFA 1887-1897

Home Ground: Battery Ground

Formed: 1876 as City; changed name to Hobart in 1897

Colours: Blue and white

Premierships: 1879, 1886, 1888, 1892, 1895 (joint premier with Railway), 1897 (6 total)

Association Top Goalkickers: P.Butler (7) 1881; J.Dunlop (7) 1886; C.Guest (21) 1895 (3 total)

City Football Club was formed in 1876 and, after entering the Tasmanian Football Association when that competition was established three years later, was successful in winning the inaugural premiership. Five further flags followed before the club disbanded at the end of the 1897 season, having assumed the name of Hobart that year. Perhaps the best known player to have lined up with City was Fred McGinis, who later embarked on a noteworthy career in both the VFA and VFL with Melbourne.

CITY-SOUTH (CITY)

Affiliated: NTFA 1879-88 & 1899-1985

Home Ground: Youngtown Memorial Oval

Formed: 1879 as Cornwall; changed name to City 1880; changed name to City-South 1957; merged with East Launceston 1986

Colours: Red and white

Emblem: Redlegs

Premierships: Cornwall/City/City-South 1883-4, 1886-7, 1902-3, 1907-8, 1910, 1914, 1921-2, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1939, 1941, 1952-3-4, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1966, 1972, 1974 (27 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1928, 1930, 1932, 1954, 1960, 1966, 1972 (7 total)

Hardenty Cup Winner: City - Len Keogh 1924 (1 total)

Tasman Shield Trophy Winners: City - H.Wade 1925; Laurie Nash 1931 & 1932; Jock Connell 1934 & 1939; E.A. 'Ted' Pickett 1935; S.M. 'Max' Pontifex 1938; Harry Styles

1948; Laurie Moir 1952 (7 Medallists/9 Medals)

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: Stuart Palmer 1971; Derek Peardon 1973; Rod Thomas 1983 (3 total)

All Australians: Geoff Long 1956 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: R.Ellis (10) 1886; J.Riva (6) 1887; A.Edwards (6) 1890; C.Allison (6) 1891; A.Norman (12) 1894, (8) 1895 & (10) 1902; F.Angus (16) 1896; L.Firth (12) 1904 & (12) 1907; Scott (12) & Waller (12) 1906; Ward (13) 1908; R.Nash (71) 1932; J.Martin (78) 1946; M.Bramich (61) 1959; S.Morcom (97) 1960; G.Wilkinson (54) 1968; C.McIntyre (74) 1985 (19 total)

Highest Score: 38.15 (243) vs. East Launceston in 1974

Most Games: 224 by Geoff Long

Record Finals Attendances: 1. 10.551 for 1972 state grand final at York Park - City-South 14.14 (98); Latrobe 8.14 (62); 2. 7,910 for 1980 NTFA grand final at York Park - North Launceston 15.13 (103); City-South 11.13 (79)

The City Football Club of Launceston was a major stalwart of the northern Tasmanian football scene for many years, and boasted a large number of champion players, including all time greats in the shape of Laurie Nash and Roy Cazaly. Originally formed in 1879, when it was known as Cornwall, the club changed its name to City the following year and in 1883 it broke through for its first NTFA premiership. By the turn of the century it had added half a dozen more.

During the pre-world war one period the NTFA was a three team competition in which success was fairly evenly distributed, with City and North Launceston both claiming six premierships and Launceston three. The same three clubs continued to dominate the competition during the inter war years, even after Longford was admitted in 1926. City was a perennial grand finalist during the 1920s, winning four flags from seven attempts. In 1928 it became the

first northern club to claim the official state premiership after it downed North Hobart by 32 points at York Park, Launceston.¹ City boasted many fine players during this era, including Len Lewis, Len Keogh and, as the 1930s dawned, Jock Connell plus the aforementioned Laurie Nash and Roy Cazaly. City's 1930 premiership side, coached by Cazaly, and with Nash starring at centre half back, was one of the finest in the club's history. In the grand final of that year it annihilated Launceston by 51 points, 15.19 (109) to 8.10 (58), and was even more impressive in downing Lefroy by 58 points to claim its second state flag.

City won the 'double' again two years later in what proved to be Laurie Nash's last season with the club.

During the 1930s Tasmanian clubs were sometimes able to offer higher match payments than their mainland counterparts and this led to a number of high profile interstate players being lured to the Apple Isle. One of the most noteworthy of these was 1932 Magarey Medallist Stanley 'Max' Pontifex who joined City as captain-coach from West Torrens in 1936. He stayed three years, winning the 1938 Tasman Shield Trophy as well as a club best and fairest award.

The NTFA became a six club competition in 1948 with the admission of Scottsdale and Cornwall (later to become City's eventual merger partner, East Launceston). City enjoyed a concerted run of success in the 1950s with seven straight grand final appearances between 1950 and 1956 yielding four premierships. A 9.16 (70) to 6.10 (46) defeat of Hobart clinched the 1954 state flag. Reg Kenyon, 'Bill' Linger, Geoff Long, 'Bill' Spearman, Brian Hegarty, Verdun Howell and Ted Mackey were some of the many talented players to front up for the Redlegs during this period.

After changing its name to City-South in 1957 the club next enjoyed premiership success two years later thanks for a 13.10 (88) to 9.13 (67) grand final defeat

of Longford. A 5 point win over North Launceston the following season clinched what in later years would come to be termed 'back to back' honours, and City-South then went on to annex a fifth state title thanks to a 3 goal victory over Burnie.

The remainder of the 1960s brought three further grand final appearances, two of which were successful. In 1966 the club claimed the 'double' again after it overcame Hobart by 8 points in a bruising state grand final.

In 1972 City-South experienced one of the most memorable seasons in the club's history. The NTFA grand final at York Park, watched by 6,894 spectators, pitted the Redlegs against Launceston and, after a closely fought opening term, City-South overwhelmed their opponents with 9 goals to 1 over the remaining 3 quarters of the match to win easily by 47 points. The following week, once again at York Park, the state grand final took place between the Redlegs and NWFU premiers Latrobe, captain-coached by Darrel Baldock. In the previous week's state preliminary final Latrobe had convincingly accounted for TFL premier Sandy Bay, 12.14 (86) to 4.8 (32), and for much of the grand final they appeared to hold the upper hand. At three quarter time Latrobe led by 5 points, 8.12 (60) to 8.7 (55), only for City-South, with most of the crowd of 10,551 roaring them on, to unleash a dazzling final quarter display which yielded 6.7 to 0.2 and a resounding 6 goal win.

Following this triumph City-South had the honour of being Tasmania's first ever representatives in the end of season club championship of Australia series which was held in Adelaide. Despite losing both their games, to eventual champions North Adelaide, and East Perth, the Redlegs performed creditably. Two years later, however, it was a vastly different story, as City-South, having overcome Scottsdale in a low scoring NTFA grand final, provided a third of the players who went to the

championships in Adelaide as part of a composite Tasmanian squad (the other two thirds of the squad coming from TFL premiers North Hobart, and NWFU premiers Burnie). On this occasion the Tasmanian entrants were blown away in humiliating fashion by eventual champions Richmond, and East Fremantle, results which helped sound the death knell of the club championship concept.

The 1974 premiership would prove to be City-South's last, with the club contesting just one further grand final (a 24 point loss to North Launceston in 1980) prior to the merger with East Launceston in 1986.

Footnote

1 City had been unofficial state premiers in 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908. The contests became officially sanctioned in 1909.

CLAREMONT

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 1996

Formed: c. 1924

Home Ground: Abbotsfield Park

Colours: Black and white (originally green and yellow)

Emblem: Magpies

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1965, 1968, 1974-5-6, 1978-9-80-1, 1984, 1986-7-8, 1992-3-4-5 (17 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1968, 1974, 1978-9, 1981, 1984, 1986-7, 1992-3 (10 total - record); TAFLSD Districts - 1981, 1984, 1986 (3 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Walter Howard Medal - Keith Brassington 1948; John Leask 1959; Eddie Mitchell 1959 & 1960; Norman Hanley 1966; Mick Mason 1980 & 1985; John Moles 1984; J.Salter 1992 (7 Medallists/9 Medals); Peter Hodgman Medal - J.Gulliver 1996 (1 total)

Most Games: 334 by Richard Blackwell

Details of Claremont's early history are patchy, but the picture becomes clearer after the club commenced in the Tasmanian Amateur Football League's Southern Division in 1949. That was also the year the club replaced its original colours of green and yellow with the black and white still worn to this day.

After reaching consecutive grand finals in 1950 and 1951, both of which were lost, Claremont's fortunes underwent a prolonged decline. Finally, in 1965, the Magpies again contested a grand final, and this time they were successful, downing University by 27 points, 13.16 (94) to 8.19 (67). Three years later, they added a second flag with another grand final win over Uni, this time by the much closer margin of just 2 points. Shortly afterwards, they procured their first state title thanks to an 11.14 (80) to 10.13 (73) defeat of Northern Division premier Mowbray.

It was during the 1970s that Claremont really arrived as a competition power, winning five premierships from five grand finals. In 1974, 1978 and 1979 the side also won the state title.

Impressive though this was, things would get even better, as in the sixteen seasons between 1980 and 1995 the Magpies contested every grand final except one, winning ten of them. The state championship was no longer being contested every season by this time, but Claremont still managed to win it on six occasions, losing only once.

In 1996 the TAFE went into recess, and Claremont crossed to the Southern Football League. In 1997 the Magpies won all except one of their 19 roster matches only to put in a 'shocker' on grand final day and go under to Kingston by 25 points. This remains the closest they have come to winning a SthFL flag. From 2002 until 2008 the Magpies competed in the SthFL's regional league, getting within one game of the grand final in 2007 and finishing fourth the following year.

CLARENCE

Current Affiliation: Tasmanian Football League (TFL) since 2009

Club Address: P.O. Box 94, Rosny 7018, Tasmania

Email: clarencedfc@iice.net.au

Home Ground: Bellerive Oval

Formed: 1903

Colours: White and red

Emblem: 'Roos

Premierships: TFL - 1970, 1979, 1981, 1984, 1993-94, 1996-7, 2000 (9 total);

Southern Football League 2001-2, 2004, 2006 (4 total)

William Leitch Medallists: H.Yaxley 1949; S.Spencer 1960; J.Richmond 1967; R.Lucas 1968; T.Sorrell 1976; S.Wade 1989; G.Williamson 1991; D.Noonan 1995 & 1996; M.Jones 1999 (9 Medallists/10 Medals)

Horrie Gorringe Medallists: Nil

Dolphin Medallists: Scott Wade 1989 (1 total)

All Australians: Stuart Spencer 1958 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: J.Cooper (42) 1951; J.Mills (49) 1968; T.Wayne (74) 1971; A.Vanderfeen (66) 1981; P.Dac (94) 1994; S.Allen (80) 2000 (6 total)

SthFL Top Goalkickers: M.Williamson (63) 3007 (1 total)

Highest Score: 41.21 (267) vs. Brighton 5.4 (34) in round 5 2005

Most Games: 279 by Gavin Cooney

Record Home Attendance: 5,075 on 13 June 1987: North Hobart 13.20 (98); Clarence 8.8 (56)

Record Finals Attendance: 24,968 for 1979 grand final at North Hobart Oval: Clarence 12.11 (83); Glenorchy 11.14 (80)

For long-suffering Clarence supporters the 1990s and the early years of the new century have brought unprecedentedly sustained success. Prior to 1990 finals appearances and premierships had been sporadic, but since then the 'Roos have made a habit of both.

The district of Clarence, separated from Hobart by the Derwent River, has been a home of football for well over a hundred years. The first mention of the sport came in 1884 when a local side, Bellerive, played a challenge match against VFA side Carlton which, not surprisingly, the Victorians won comfortably. Over the next twenty years or so Bellerive continued to engage in frequent informal matches, mainly against local opposition, but it was not until 1903 that organised football came to the region with the formation of the Bellerive Football Association.

The BFA lasted just one season, with Bellerive Football Club the first and only premiers. In 1904 the competition was replaced by the Derwent Football Association which comprised five clubs, including Bellerive. After winning one premierships (in 1907) of that competition Bellerive moved on to the three club Metropolitan Football Association in 1910 where it achieved regular success.

After the Great War Bellerive re-formed but did not play in a formal competition until 1930 when it was a founder member, along with four other clubs, of the South Eastern Football Association. Bellerive won the first three flags in this competition and followed up with further premierships in 1937 and 1940.

During world war two a floating bridge was built connecting the eastern and western banks of the Derwent. The Clarence region was now a mere ten minute drive from the centre of Hobart, and it was not long before major new housing developments sprang up and the population escalated. Clarence could no longer be regarded as a country area and when the TFL began considering expanding its competition Bellerive, as one of the leading lights in the SEFA, were prime candidates for inclusion. In 1944 the Bellerive committee resolved to pursue admission to the TFL as a serious option and made the strategically astute decision to alter the club name to Clarence, thereby suggesting an

association with the entire Clarence region, of which Bellerive was just a part.

To suggest that the TFL was considering expansion is actually an over-simplification. Three of the TFL's established clubs - Lefroy, Cananore and New Town - were in difficulty and the league committee charged with preparing the ground for the resumption of full scale football after the war proposed that one way of alleviating these problems would be to introduce district football, whereby players represented the clubs in whose districts they resided rather than being free to join whichever club they wished. The implicit assumption here was that, with a district system operating, a more even playing field would tend to be created. Moreover, it was felt that there existed sufficient playing talent in and around Hobart to support six clubs of league standard, hence Clarence's optimism about being included.

In the event, when the TFL resurfaced in 1945 it was with two old clubs - North Hobart and New Town - and two new clubs in the shape of Hobart and Sandy Bay. SEFA clubs New Norfolk and Clarence were told that they would have to wait to be admitted to the league, but simultaneously reassured that this remained the TFL's short to medium term objective. On the surface this seemed eminently logical, but both Clarence and New Norfolk suspected that there was a hidden agenda revolving around the two established league clubs' concern over losing some of their most lucrative recruiting territory.

Clarence reached the 1945 grand final of the South Eastern Association but managed only an embarrassing 1.5 (11) to New Norfolk's 12.12 (84). The 1946 season proved more enjoyable, however, as the side not only won the flag but, despite narrowly losing a challenge match against TFL wooden spooners Hobart, subsequently learnt that the league had resolved to admit them from 1947, along with New Norfolk. At Clarence's AGM in November the members agreed to a second name change in two

years and the club officially became known as the Clarence District Football Club. After some debate the members decided to adopt the kangaroo emblem, on the grounds that "you never see a kangaroo going backwards".

Clarence's TFL career began with a convincing 16.15 (111) to 9.13 (67) defeat of old South Eastern Association rivals New Norfolk. This earned the Kangaroos top spot on the ladder, a situation in which they would not find themselves again for many years.

Clarence finished the 1947 season in fifth place with 3 wins: finals participation was still some way off. In fact, it was not until 1952, with former Sandgroper great Les McClements at the helm, that the Kangaroos finally secured a finals berth after just squeezing into the four. Perhaps not surprisingly, however, the side appeared overawed by their achievement, and promptly lost the first semi final by 30 points to eventual premiers Sandy Bay.

The general consensus about Les McClements during his five season (1951-5) stint as coach was that, although he was undeniably a brilliant player, as a coach he was merely adequate.¹ What Clarence needed was a coach with drive, passion and a touch of ingenuity; in 1957 (after finishing last the previous year under John Golding) they got their man.

Stuart Spencer was twenty-five years old when he arrived at Clarence, a veteran of 122 VFL games with Melbourne including participation in the 1955 and 1956 premiership sides. He was also a dual winner of the Demons' best and fairest award, no mean feat when you consider that his team mates included players of the calibre of Ron Barassi, John Beckwith, Brian Dickson, Laurie Mithen and Ian Ridley. There is no doubt that, had he wished, he could have gone on playing in the VFL for many more years, but for family and business reasons he elected to relocate to Tasmania.² With him he brought a professionalism and an indefatigable resolve to succeed, which

gradually had a discernible impact on those under his tutelage.

The key word here is 'gradually': improvements in attitude and approach emerged long before the scoreboard started to display the benefits. Clarence finished last in both 1957 and 1958 before starting a slow ascent of the ladder the following year. By 1960 the side was performing with an aggressive vitality which left most opposition sides floundering. Unfortunately, after topping the ladder going into the finals, the team lost its way, and defeats in consecutive weeks by Hobart and North Hobart brought the season to an abrupt, inglorious end.

The 'Roos dropped to fourth in 1961 but 1962 was a landmark year in that it brought both the club's first TFL finals victory as well as its first grand final appearance. Second after the roster games Clarence lost a thrilling second semi final to North Hobart by 8 points before overcoming Sandy Bay in front of a preliminary final record attendance of 13,410.

The grand final was fiercely contested, and indeed Clarence managed as many scoring shots as the Robins. However, North were just that bit steadier, and got home by 15 points. A TFL grand final record crowd of 19,311 watched the match in which the losers were particularly well served by Eric Hawkes, Cliff Tabe, Brian Evington and Graham Jackson.

Stuart Spencer coached Clarence again in 1963 but the side slumped to fourth. There was worse to follow during the next couple of seasons under Spencer's successor Geoff Fryer, with the 'Roos finishing fifth on both occasions. Spencer was re-installed as coach in 1966 and there was marginal improvement as the side finished fourth. However, the loss of promising under age player Royce Hart to VFL club Richmond was arguably the most significant event of the season.³

Former City-South, East Devonport and St Kilda player John Bingley took over from

Spencer as senior coach for the 1967 season and remained until 1972. Under his guidance the 'Roos enjoyed their first truly noteworthy era, including their first ever TFL flag in 1970, won after they had participated in the finals in each of the three preceding seasons for third, third and second place finishes. The 1969 grand final pitted Clarence against a North Hobart side which had annihilated the Roos by 81 points a fortnight earlier in the second semi final and which looked on course for a repeat when it led by 49 points midway through the third quarter of the 'big one'. However, the Roos were quick learners and hit back strongly, dominating the remainder of the game to succumb in the end by just a couple of goals. Indeed, given that Clarence's last 5 kicks for goal all produced minor scores the result could quite easily have been different.

The watershed year of 1970 began with some shrewd recruiting on the part of the Clarence committee. Four players in particular stood out: Adrian Bowden (ex Sandy Bay and Melbourne), Mike Nash (ex Collingwood reserves), Bob Lynch (ex City-South, Fitzroy and New Norfolk) and Bob Cheek (a 1969 Tasmanian state rep. from Penguin). Collectively, if somewhat inane, termed 'the foreign legion', this quartet would go on to play a significant role in Clarence's rise to pre-eminence, but the real key to the achievement was the coaching of Bingley, who simply refused to accept second best.

After qualifying for the finals in second place, despite a somewhat worrying loss of form over the final few roster matches, Bingley had his charges all but breathing fire for the second semi final encounter with Sandy Bay, which the Roos won comfortably by 22 points. For the grand final against New Norfolk a fortnight later there was an insatiable optimism about the Clarence camp with which the Eagles proved unable to cope. A grand final record crowd of 24,413 saw Clarence methodically rip their opposition apart from the time nineteen year old Terry Mayne kicked the opening goal of the game

thirty seconds in. Mayne went on to add 9 more goals as the Roos won convincingly, 19.16 (130) to 10.15 (75). Coach Bingley remarked afterwards that the victory meant even more to him than his participation in St Kilda's historic, drought-breaking 1966 premiership, sentiments which undoubtedly endeared him even further to the Clarence faithful.

The Roos next attempted to secure the state flag, but after a comfortable preliminary final victory over Scottsdale Darrel Baldock's Latrobe proved too strong.

Clarence went within 9 points of back to back flags in 1971 after conceding Sandy Bay a lead of 41 points at half time of an absorbing grand final. The cracks were beginning to emerge, however, and after the Roos finished a disappointing fourth in 1972, Bingley resigned as coach.

Somewhat controversially, the Clarence committee chose Robin Norris, a local lad, as Bingley's replacement, but fourth place in both 1973 and 1974 was the best he could manage. Enter Trevor Sorrell from Port Adelaide, whose coaching achievements could not quite match his playing prowess. During Sorrell's two year stint the Roos got no further than the preliminary final.

Under Sorrell's successor, Eric Pascoe, Clarence finished sixth in 1977 and fifth the following year. Noel Leary arrived from Sandy Bay for the 1979 season anticipating a stern challenge in his first coaching assignment, but to everyone's surprise his charges performed heroically, qualifying for the finals in second position. Peter Hudson's Glenorchy were very much the team to beat, however, having finished the roster matches 16 points clear of the Roos, a superiority they were swift to re-assert in the second semi final.

Clarence used the preliminary final against reigning premiers Sandy Bay to rediscover their form and confidence, winning comfortably, but few people other than Roos supporters considered that they had anything other than an outside chance of upsetting the Magpies. Clarence's job was made even

more difficult given the unusual circumstance of Glenorchy being not only popularly favoured to win, but also, in light of the fact that this was to be the great Peter Hudson's final game,⁴ a warm sentimental favourite.

An all time TFL record crowd of 24,968⁵ packed into the compact North Hobart Oval creating an electric atmosphere. The Roos rose to the occasion right from the start, and by the long break had established a lead of 16 points. Glenorchy's anticipated third quarter revival coincided with the onset of heavy rain and in hindsight this may have been to Clarence's advantage as it stymied the Magpies' effectiveness up forward. The last change saw Glenorchy in front by just 5 points, after which the final term proved to be something of a slog with neither side able to achieve a decisive break. In finishes of this nature, with the lead changing hands repeatedly, the match takes on some of the characteristics of a lottery - or, more accurately, a game of musical chairs; in this context, Clarence supporters were overjoyed to find that it was Glenorchy who were 'left standing' at the final siren.

Best afield in the Roos' 3 point triumph was Greg French, but in truth every Clarence player played to the limit of his ability and it was only because of this that the supposedly indestructible Glenorchy bubble was burst.

Clarence's next flag two seasons later was acquired with considerably more conviction. The side comfortably topped the ladder after the roster matches and stayed in the comfort zone in the second semi final which yielded a 79 point annihilation of New Norfolk. Two weeks later in the grand final the Eagles resorted to rough house tactics in an attempt to square the ledger and at first this seemed to succeed as they went in at the long break 9 points to the good. However, the second half brought a restoration of normality as the Roos gradually got on top to carve out a 25 point victory, with John Moles best on ground.

Noel Leary's coaching tenure ended two seasons later with no addition to the

premiership haul. Robert Shaw, Leary's replacement as coach, arrived with a sound pedigree having commenced his playing career at Sandy Bay before enjoying a 51 game career at Essendon where he earned a reputation as a reliable if unspectacular defender. In 1983 Shaw had served as skills coach at Windy Hill under Kevin Sheedy in a season which saw the Bombers play off on grand final day for the first time since 1968. Shaw brought discipline and professionalism to Clarence, combined, equally significantly, with a detailed understanding of local conditions. His impact was immediate, as the Roos went on to secure a memorable against the odds premiership. Just as in 1979, Glenorchy was the team which supposedly 'had it all', but when the heat was on in both the second semi final and grand final it was the red and whites who held sway.

Just when it seemed that the Roos had Glenorchy's measure, however, the Magpies turned the tables, winning both 1985 finals encounters between the clubs to re-establish themselves as the team to beat. Robert Shaw returned to the mainland after the grand final to be replaced by Graham Hunnibell, but neither he nor his three immediate successors Bill Picken (1987 and 1988), Peter Daniel (1989 to 1991) and Leigh McConnon (1992) could rediscover the flag-winning formula.

Former South Melbourne/Sydney stalwart Stevie Wright (237 games between 1979 and 1991) was appointed playing coach in 1993 and he soon had the 'Roos playing a brand of football light years in advance of most opponents. Back to back premierships ensued, with North Launceston (9 points) and New Norfolk (38 points) the grand final victims.

Wright left to join Central District in 1995 and there was a temporary hiatus under his successor, Grant Fagan, as the Roos succumbed to North Launceston by 10 points in that season's grand final. It was back to business as usual the following year, however, as Clarence comfortably overcame

grand final debutants Burnie by 27 points to make Fagan the first non-playing premierships coach in the club's TFL history.

As regards that fleeting episode in the history of Tasmanian football when statewide competition held sway, overall there can be little doubt - as the following table demonstrates - that Clarence was the TFL's most successful club:

TFL Grand Final Appearances 1986 to 2000		
Club	Won	Lost
Clarence	5	2
North Hobart	4	0
Northern Bombers ⁶	2	5
Glenorchy	2	2
Hobart	1	2
Devonport	1	0
Burnie	0	2
New Norfolk	0	1
Sandy Bay	0	1

The sudden demise of the TFL early in 2001 has left the above table looking less like a roll of honour and more like an epitaph. Clarence, along with fellow former TFL members Glenorchy, Hobart, New Norfolk and North Hobart, would compete in future in the Southern Football League, which had been formed in 1996.

Clarence immediately found its feet in the new environment, downing Glenorchy by 54 points in the 2001 grand final. It followed this up a year later with a hard fought 12.17 (89) to 10.8 (68) grand final defeat of North Hobart. Two years later came an arguably even more agreeable grand final triumph as the 'Roos overcame warm pre-match favourites New Norfolk in a high standard encounter which David Stockdale, writing in 'The Mercury', described thus:

When it comes to premierships, Clarence's cup really does runneth over. The Roos racked up their 12th premiership - the eight since 1993 - by bounding away from New Norfolk to win yesterday's SFL Premier League grand final by 33 points. Given the continual infusion of youth, the bad news for rival clubs, is it is likely Clarence's run will continue for some time yet. The other winner on the day was the SFL, the crowd of 6,132

being the best for a grand final since the Statewide League clubs joined the competition in 2001.

After a nip-and-tuck contest for the first three quarters in which the lead frequently changed hands, most expected the Eagles to prevail despite being a point down. After all, they had finished minor premiers, won the second semi final against Glenorchy and had the week's rest to watch the Roos and the Magpies fight out a bruising preliminary final. Yet it was Clarence which finished full of running, rattling on 7.3 to 2.1 to win 17.12 (114) to 12.9 (81).⁷

After finishing second behind New Norfolk in 2005, the Roos reinforced their status the following year as, without doubt, the pre-eminent southern Tasmanian football power of recent times, when they withstood a stern first half challenge from Glenorchy before pulling a way to record a comfortable and highly meritorious 37 point win. Final scores were Clarence 17.13 (115) to Glenorchy 11.12 (78).

In 2007 the same two sides again contested the grand final, but on this occasion the Roos were outclassed to the tune of 68 points. Although they failed to reach the 2008 grand final there is little doubt that they will be among the favourites to capture the first ever premierships in the revamped statewide competition which was launched by AFL Tasmania in 2009.

Footnotes

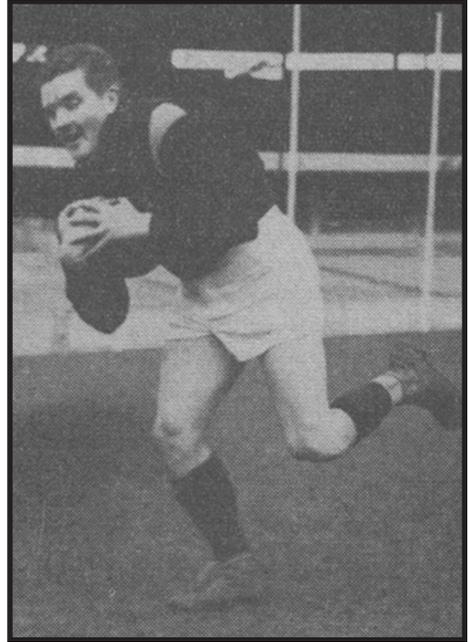
1 Aged twenty-eight and at the height of his prowess as a player when he joined Clarence, McClements' most noteworthy achievement as a player had been his victory in the 1947 Eric Tassie Medal whilst representing Western Australia at the Hobart carnival.

2 Such a move was by no means unprecedented or unusual, although it is probably fair to suggest that, four decades on, most people would tend to view it as such. However, football in the 1950s was a much more egalitarian affair in which the competition in which a player participated was not necessarily regarded as the most crucial determinant of his quality.

- 3 Hart went on to play 190 games and kick 363 goals with Richmond during a glittering eleven season VFL career.
- 4 Hudson actually made a brief 3 game comeback two seasons later.
- 5 This represented roughly an eighth of the local population.
- 6 Formerly North Launceston.
- 7 'The Mercury', 13/9/04.

CLARK, WALLY was a ruggedly tenacious rover who gave Fitzroy eight seasons of gutsy and commendable service. He rose through the ranks at the club, and made his senior VFL debut in 1955. The tougher the opposition or the occasion, the better he seemed to play, and he was a noteworthy performer in the club's ultimately unsuccessful finals campaigns of 1958 and 1960. In 1962 he was the team's top goal kicker for the year with 21 goals. The following season saw him captain-coaching the Roys' reserves side, and winning a Gardiner Medal as the best and fairest player in the competition for good measure. In 1964 he was appointed captain-coach of NWFU side Latrobe where he spent four seasons without managing to steer his charges to a flag. He did, however, win a Wander Medal in his debut season.

CLARKE, NOEL: Without doubt one of the finest ever Tasmanian forwards, Noel Clarke gave distinguished service to four clubs, as well as to Tasmania in interstate matches. He commenced his senior career with North Launceston in 1949 and played in two consecutive NTFA premiership wins as well the 1950 state flag victory over Hobart. After a somewhat acrimonious clearance wrangle, Clarke was released to play with Melbourne in the VFL in 1951, and he went on to play 77 games and boot 155 goals for the Demons over the ensuing five seasons. He was a member of Melbourne's 1955 premiership team, booting 3 of the side's 8 goals in the grand final defeat of Collingwood. Returning



Wally Clark

to Tasmania in 1956, Clarke joined North Hobart, and promptly topped the TFL's goal kicking list with 81 goals for the year. He also represented his state with distinction at the Perth carnival, with his 15 goals for the series being bettered only by Jock Spencer of the VFL, who amassed 17.

The final phase of Clarke's career was spent as playing coach of New Norfolk between 1958 and 1961. A serious knee injury sustained early in his debut season limited his appearances, but in 1961 he managed to top the TFL's goalkicking list, for the second time, with 66 goals.

Noel Clarke was selected at full forward in North Launceston's official 'Best Team 1945-1999', at centre half forward in New Norfolk's official 'Best Team 1947-2001', and in North Hobart's unplaced official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

CLAYTON, SCOTT: At a time when the concept of the role was still being defined, Scott Clayton was in many respects the quintessential tagger.

Clayton played his early football with Hobart, before commencing the VFL portion of his career in 1981, with Fitzroy. Tough, relentlessly aggressive, and dogged, he was used by the Lions in numerous different roles, but was most commonly assigned the job of tagging a key opposition player. During the 1980s, Scott Clayton performed this function as well as anyone in the game. He also seemed to get better with time, as he proved by winning Fitzroy's club champion award in 1990, his final season. Clayton played a total of 160 league games for the Lions, kicking 23 goals.

COLLIER, ALBERT: Something of a sporting prodigy as a youth, Albert Collier captained Victorian schoolboy teams at both football and cricket, but the oval ball game was always his first love. Residing within walking distance of Victoria Park, and playing locally with Ivanhoe, he was perhaps always destined to join Collingwood, and made his debut with the Magpies, as a full forward, in 1925. However, his vigorous, often fiery style of play proved better suited to the backlines, and it was at centre half back that he eventually found his niche, occupying either that position, or a half back flank, in each of Collingwood's grand final teams between 1926 and 1930. The 1929 season was especially auspicious with Collier not only making a telling contribution to the Magpies' grand final defeat of Richmond, but landing the first of three Collingwood best and fairest awards, plus the Brownlow Medal.

Nicknamed 'Leeter' (or 'Leeta'), for reasons which neither he nor his fellow Collingwood-playing brother Harry could later recall, Albert Collier moved to Tasmania in 1931 and fronted up, with considerable success, for TANFL side Cananore. In what proved to be a record-breaking year for the TANFL in terms of attendances, the Canaries, aided by a sterling contribution from their star import, overcame North Hobart by 3 points in a



replayed grand final, and shortly afterwards defeated North Launceston for the state crown. Collier, who had displayed outstanding form for much of the season, was awarded the William Leitch Medal for the best and fairest player in the league.

After one more season with Cananore Albert Collier returned home to Collingwood and, following his success in an on ball role with the Canaries, was asked to play as a ruckman, a role he assumed with great aplomb and outstanding success. Renowned for his formidable defence of smaller team mates, notably older brother Harry, 'Leeter' won consecutive club best and fairest awards in 1934 and 1935 and became a near automatic selection for VFL interstate teams. When Collingwood beat South Melbourne in the 1935 grand final the two Collier brothers vied with one another for best afield honours.

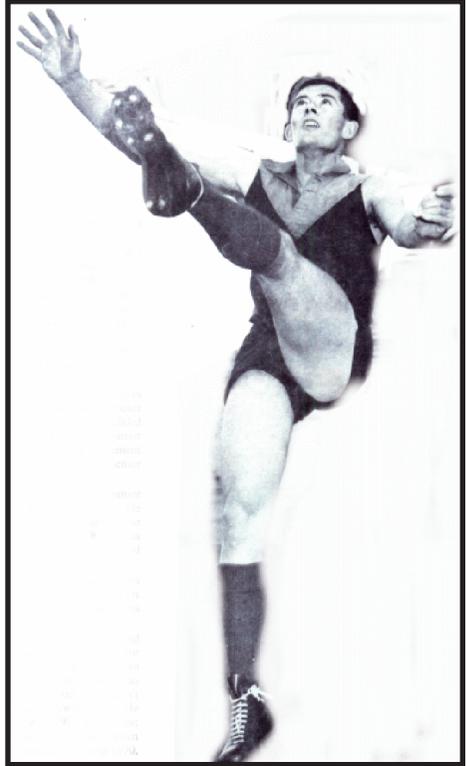
Later in his career, Albert Collier suffered a series of knee injuries which undermined both his pace and his impact. Nevertheless, he continued to give solid service to the Magpies until 1939, when the effects of his injuries forced him to call it a day. In 1941 he made a brief, 12 game comeback with Fitzroy, and in 1945-6 he captain-coached VFA club Camberwell, steering the side to a losing grand final against Sandringham in his second season. However, it is for his 205 games in a Collingwood jumper that the redoubtable Albert 'Leeter' Collier, who was placed at centre half back in the club's official 'Team of the Century', will be best remembered.

COLLINS, DAVID: Best remembered for having the ball in his hands well within goal kicking range when the infamous 'goal post final' was abandoned, North Hobart's David 'Dickie' Collins was a mercurial forward who could send his trademark left foot torpedo punts a 'country mile'. He began with the Robins in 1961, and went on to play precisely 250 senior games for the club in thirteen seasons. A premiership player in 1962, 1967 and 1969, he topped the TANFL's goal kicking ladder in 1962 with 77 goals, and in 1967 with 58. Collins won the Robins' best and fairest player award in 1970, and played interstate football for Tasmania twice.

CONLAN, NEIL was a young prodigy as a footballer who joined New Town as a 17 year old in 1953. Later that year he became the youngest player to represent Tasmania when he played at the Adelaide carnival. He went on to play a total of 25 games for his state, a Tasmanian record.

Resilient, courageous and highly skilled, Conlan was regarded by Tasmanian football historian Ken Pinchin as "probably the toughest and certainly the best centreline player Tasmania produced".

Consistently noteworthy performances at interstate level saw mainland clubs



David Collins

begin to take a keen interest, and on a couple of occasions during the 1950s he was 'signed' by Richmond. Conlan, however, was happy to remain in Tasmania, winning a club record four successive best and fairest awards with New Town/Glenorchy from 1955-58, and playing in the 1953, 1955-56 and 1958 premiership sides.

In 1959, Conlan accepted the position of captain-coach of NWFU team Devonport. In 1962, he steered the Magpies to a grand final, but they lost to Burnie. He continued to perform well as a player, gaining regular Tasmanian selection, winning a major media award in 1960, and being chosen as the best NWFU player in intrastate games in 1963. Replaced as coach of Devonport in 1964 by Jervis Stokes, Conlan carried on as a player for another couple of seasons before spending a year with NWFA side Wesley Vale.

Conder Shield Results 1932 to 1993

Conder Shield: Major W.T. Conder, the inaugural president of the Australian Amateur Football Council, donated the Conder Shield in 1932. At first, it was played for on a knock-out basis by amateur clubs in northern Tasmania. Between 1935 and 1946, the knock-out competition winner was challenged by the southern amateur premier, and from 1948 until its demise the Conder Shield was effectively a state amateur championship or premiership trophy, contested by the northern and southern premier clubs.

1932 St Patrick's Old Collegians 14 10 94 Old Launcestonians 8 5 53
1933 Associated Banks 11 21 87 Old Launcestonians 7 9 51
1934 Churinga 17 15 117 Dark Blue Rovers 0 5 5
1935 Hutchins 17 19 121 St Patrick's Old Collegians 13 10 88
1936 Hutchins 25 13 163 St Patrick's Old Collegians 12 12 84
1937 Churinga 13 19 97 Friends 12 5 77
1938 Churinga 13 19 97 Hutchins 11 7 73
1939 Churinga 23 17 155 Friends 7 11 53
1940 Churinga 20 14 134 St Patrick's Old Collegians 6 11 47
1941 Churinga 10 15 75 St Patrick's Old Collegians 9 13 67
1942 *No competition*
1943 *No competition*
1944 *No competition*
1945 *No competition*
1946 Hutchins 25 19 169 Waverley 11 7 73
1947 Churinga 18 17 125 Old Virgilians 16 8 104
1948 St Patrick's Old Collegians 13 10 88 Old Hobartians 8 9 57
1949 Mowbray 15 15 105 Tasmanian University 10 14 74
1950 Mowbray 14 14 98 Old Virgilians 12 14 86
1951 Old Virgilians 18 17 125 Old Launcestonians 17 13 115
1952 Old Launcestonians 12 19 91 Old Virgilians 8 11 59
1953 Old Launcestonians 14 16 100 Ogilvenians 11 12 78
1954 St Patrick's Old Collegians 19 15 129 Old Virgilians 7 4 46
1955 Friends 16 11 107 St Patrick's Old Collegians 9 4 58
1956 Friends 13 20 98 St Patrick's Old Collegians 6 5 41
1957 Lindsfarne 24 11 155 Old Scotch Collegians 5 11 41
1958 Friends 12 13 85 Old Launcestonians 9 7 61
1959 Friends 13 12 90 Old Launcestonians 13 11 89
1960 Old Launcestonians 15 13 103 Friends 8 14 62
1961 Hutchins 20 18 138 Brooks Old Boys 13 17 95
1962 Friends 8 9 57 Old Launcestonians 5 9 39
1963 Hutchins 26 18 174 Brooks Old Boys 13 8 86
1964 Old Launcestonians 14 14 98 Hutchins 12 10 82
1965 Mowbray 13 21 99 Claremont 9 5 59

- 1966 Sorell 14 16 100 Mowbray 8 7 55
1967 Old Hobartians 18 24 132 Mowbray 11 3 69
1968 Claremont 11 14 80 Mowbray 10 13 73
1969 Old Hobartians 14 15 99 Mowbray 8 12 60
1970 Tasmanian University 11 5 71 Old Launcestonians 3 14 32
1971 Tasmanian University 26 12 168 Old Launcestonians 3 14 32
1972 Old Hobartians 10 12 72 Mowbray 7 8 50
1973 Tasmanian University 15 9 99 Mowbray 8 7 55
1974 Claremont 21 16 142 Mowbray 6 14 50
1975 *No competition*
1976 Old Scotch Collegians 14 6 90 Claremont 13 10 88
1977 Tasmanian University 12 18 90 Quandeine 10 18 78
1978 Claremont 14 16 100 Old Scotch Collegians 3 8 26
1979 Claremont beat Quandeine on forfeit
1980 Old Scotch Collegians 18 20 128 Claremont 8 9 57
1981 Claremont 22 18 150 Rocherlea 9 15 69
1982 Old Launcestonians 11 8 74 Lindisfarne 7 11 53
1983 Hutchins 21 17 143 Old Scotch Collegians 10 14 74
1984 Claremont 16 15 111 St Patrick's Old Collegians 12 6 78
1985 Mangalore 24 13 157 Rocherlea 15 5 95
1986 Claremont 15 10 100 Old Scotch Collegians 10 13 73
1987 Claremont 19 14 128 Northern Districts 10 12 72
1988 Rocherlea 18 21 129 Claremont 8 12 60
1989 Lindisfarne 21 15 141 Longford 12 8 80
1990 *No competition*
1991 *No competition*
1992 Claremont 20 16 136 Hillwood 13 7 85
1993 Claremont 17 18 120 Tamar Cats 2 11 23

Summary Of Wins: 10 Claremont; 7 Churinga; 6 Hutchins; 5 Friends, Old Launcestonians; 4 Tasmanian University; 3 Mowbray, Old Hobartians, St Patrick's Old Collegians; 2 Lindisfarne, Old Scotch Collegians; 1 Associated Banks, Mangalore, Old Virgilians, Rocherlea, Sorell

In 1967, he embraced a new challenge by accepting the role of playing-coach at Manuka, where he was to achieve outstanding success. In his first season he steered the Bullants to their first flag since 1955, repeating the success in 1968, and then again in 1969 (this time as non-playing coach). All told, he oversaw a total of 5 premierships at Manuka, making him one of the most successful ACTAFL coaches ever.

After a break from football in the mid-1970s he returned as Manuka's chairman of selectors in 1977 and the following year was appointed non-playing coach of Belconnen. Tragically, in July that year he died in his sleep aged just forty-two. His son Michael later carried on the family's football tradition by playing at senior level for Manuka, Fitzroy and Sandringham.

Neil Conlan's contribution to Tasmanian football was amply recognised in 2004 with his inclusion in the state's official 'Team of the Century'.

CONNELL, JOCK: Brilliant overhead, and a superb kick over distance, Jock Connell was one of the best Tasmanian ruckmen of the inter-war years, although his senior league career actually continued until 1950. Beginning in 1929 he played close to 300 senior games, comprising 220 for his first club, City, an unknown number for Longford, 33 for the NTFA representative side, and 4 for Tasmania at the 1933 Sydney carnival. Connell won the Tasman Shield Trophy for NTFA best and fairest in 1934 and 1939, and was four times selected as club champion with City. He left City at the end of the 1946 season to coach Tamar League side Lefroy, but in 1949 he made a playing comeback, which was to last two seasons, with NTFA club Longford.

COVENTRY, HARRY: Prior to the emergence of Horrie Gorringe, Harry Coventry could lay serious claim to

having been the finest rover ever seen in Tasmanian football. Quick, elusive, and a deadly accurate kick with either foot, he debuted with Latrobe in 1897 aged just thirteen, and by the turn of the century he was acknowledged to have all the makings of a champion. When South Melbourne visited Tasmania and played a combined north-west coastal team in 1903, Coventry produced an eye-catching performance that soon had VFL clubs chasing his signature. Twenty-one years later, when Coventry was aged forty, that pursuit was still going on - and still failing. Happy in Latrobe, where he had secure work as a chemist, Coventry saw no reason to uproot himself and perhaps compromise his future in an unfamiliar and challenging environment.

After thirteen seasons with Latrobe he embarked on a three season walkabout in 1910, spending the first and last of those seasons with Mersey, and playing the 1912 season with Launceston. At heart he was always a Diehard, however, and the 1913 season saw him back home with Latrobe.

Coventry officially retired at the end of the 1924 season, but continued to play in home matches for some time afterwards. Then, when asked to take over as coach of the Diehards three years later, he inevitably chose to bring his boots with him, and added several more games to a tally which, though unknown, was almost certainly a Latrobe Football Club record.

Coventry played in five Latrobe premiership sides and was a regular member of NWFAN/NWFFU representative combinations.

Of-mooted suggestions that Coventry played "in excess of 500 senior games" during his career have been comprehensively scotched by Launceston-based football historian Ross Smith.

CRESSWELL, DARYN: A typically hardy, courageous and resilient Tasmanian,

Daryn Cresswell played initially with Glenorchy and North Hobart before being drafted by Sydney, for whom he made his AFL debut in 1992. Tough, combative and hard working, but also highly skilled, he was one of the Swans most consistent performers over the ensuing decade. Moreover, he knew how to get the ball and use it effectively, regularly topping the Swans' stats tables in both kicks and handballs (and, needless to say, in overall possessions, too). Named in the 1997 AFL All Australian side, he was Sydney's club champion in 1994, and finished in the top three in five of the next six seasons. Cresswell played a total of 243 AFL games in twelve seasons, with his last game coming in the losing preliminary final of 2003 against Brisbane. The significance of his impact with the Swans was recognised in 2003 with his inclusion in the club's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'. He remained involved in top level football after his retirement with assistant coaching roles at, first, Geelong, and later Brisbane.

CRICKETERS

Affiliated: TFA 1879-1885

Formed: 1876

Colours: Predominantly blue

Premierships: 1880, 1884 (2 total)

Association Top Goalkickers:

E.Burgess (13) 1883 & (10) 1884 (2 total)

The Cricketers Football Club was established in Hobart in 1876, and was one of four founder members, three years later, of the Tasmanian Football Association. The club disbanded prior to the commencement of the 1886 season, having won premierships in 1880 and 1884.

CROSSWELL, BRENT was born in Tasmania on 8th August 1950 and played his early football at Scotch College and

for Midlands Football Association club Campbell Town's under age sides. Recruited by Carlton, he made his senior VFL debut in the opening round of the 1968 season at home to Geelong. He did reasonably well without making the best players list but improved steadily as the season went on to eventually be rewarded with the club's best first year player award. He capped the season off by starring in Carlton's 3 point grand final defeat of Essendon despite injuring a shoulder early on. Two years later he again confirmed his reputation as a big game player with a best on ground display in the Blues' sensational come from behind grand final victory over Collingwood.

Crosswell was a highly skilled, intelligent, often flamboyant player, sufficiently versatile to play equally well in a variety of positions. If he had a weakness it was that he all too often failed to perform at levels commensurate with his ability when there did not appear to be much at stake. Give him a dry ball and the wide open spaces of the MCG in September though and he was indomitable.

Forced by illness to miss Carlton's 1972 premiership victory he rekindled his career and reputation when, on moving to North Melbourne in 1975, he starred in the 'Roos historic grand final demolition of Hawthorn. If his personal displays in the 1977 grand final and replay were less auspicious they nevertheless saw him join the elite group of players who have participated in 4 senior premierships at the elite level.

After 76 games with North to add to the 95 he had played with Carlton, Crosswell moved to Melbourne in 1980 where he added a further 48 games in his final three seasons of league football, taking his overall tally to 222 games in 15 seasons. He also booted 255 goals and was a VFL representative.

In 2004, he was selected on a half back flank in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century'.

CYGNET

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 1998

Home Ground: Cygnets Oval

Club Address: Cygnets Oval, Guys Road, Cygnets 7112 Tasmania

Formed: c. 1906 as Lovett football Club

Colours: Black, white, silver and teal blue (formerly black and white)

Emblem: The Port

Senior Grade Premierships: Huon Football Association - 1912-13, 1915, 1922-3, 1925-6, 1928, 1931, 1935, 1938, 1945, 1947-8, 1950-1, 1955, 1957, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966-7-8, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1984, 1994 (31 total); SthFL - 2002-3-4 (3 total)

State Country Champions: 1947-8 (2 total)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: D.Dillon 2001; J.Brereton 2004 (2 total)

Most Games: 345 by Laurence 'Ocke' Jarrett

During the time when Tasmania's Southern Football League was reorganised into Premier and Regional divisions (2002-8) Cygnets was by some measure the latter competition's most successful team. A proudly local club, no fewer than eighteen of its 2004 premierships twenty-two came up through the junior ranks.

Prior to entering the SthFL in 1998, Cygnets had enjoyed consistent success in the Huon Football League, winning no fewer than thirty-one senior grade premierships in just under ninety seasons. The club also won the state country championship in 1947 and 1948.

D

Darwin Football Association: The DFA was established in 1938, with the first premiership going to Wynyard, which defeated Penguin in the grand final by 5 goals. Both clubs would subsequently migrate to a higher grade of football in the North West Football Union. Today's DFA comprises eight clubs: Cuprona, Natone, Queenstown, Ridgley, Somerset, South Burnie, Yeoman and Yolla. The 2008 premiership was claimed by Ridgley which scored a 22.16 (148) to 16.6 (102) grand final victory over Somerset.



DEANE, COLIN: A forthright and terrier-like rover, who kicked the ball beautifully, Colin Deane played his early football with New Town during that club's first few seasons in the TANFL. Recognised as

one of the league's finest players, he was a regular member of TANFL intrastate representative teams, and played for Tasmania at the 1924 Hobart carnival. The following year he moved to VFL club Melbourne, where he gave excellent service in 82 games over the course of the next six seasons. He was a member of the Fuchsias' 1926 premiership-winning team, and played interstate football for the VFL. In contrast to his time in the TANFL, Deane played most of his football in Victoria as a follower.

After leaving Melbourne, Deane spent some time in New Zealand before returning as coach of the club's seconds team, which he promptly steered to the flag, in 1932. The following year he returned to senior football as captain-coach of St Kilda. After playing just 3 games, however, he retired as a player in order to concentrate on coaching, but a return of just 6 wins from 18 games for ninth place on the ladder was not good enough for him to retain his position for 1934.

DELORAINÉ

Current Affiliation: NTFA since 2004

Home Ground: Deloraine Racecourse Ground

Formed: 1894

Colours: Royal blue and white

Emblem: Kangaroos

Senior Grade Premierships: 1902-3-4-5-6-7-8-9, 1912, 1925-6, 1928, 1932-3, 1937, 1941, 1944, 1949, 1952, 1958-9, 1961-2, 1968, 1973, 1975-6, 1978-9 (29 total)

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: S.Howe
1985 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: I.Donnachy (116)
1984 (1 total)

Highest Score in NTFL: 24.21 (185) vs. South Burnie 9.10 (64) in 1997

Most Games: 365 by George Young

The Kangaroos have spent two separate spells in what might be considered the top level of Tasmanian club football, but so far all of their premierships have been achieved in lower grade competitions.

Between 1902 and 1909 the side won an incredible eight consecutive flags in the Meander Football Association (MFA). During the 1920s, after the MFA had become known as the Deloraine Football Association (DFA), Deloraine again achieved regular pre-eminence, prompting the club's admission in 1930 to the NWFU. Unfortunately, this hard earned elevation coincided with the worst economic depression of the twentieth century, and after a couple of unsuccessful seasons the club's financial position was so parlous that its very existence was threatened. In the end, its survival was secured by a return to the much lower key milieu of the DFA where, in 1932, it promptly rediscovered the winning formula with a 31 point grand final defeat of Westbury. After securing a second consecutive flag in 1933, Deloraine went on to enjoy consistent success for the next half century, culminating in the club's admission to the NTFL in 1987.

Although the Kangaroos tended to struggle at NTFL level, they did qualify for the finals in both 1995 and 1996. However, a premiership, and indeed even a grand final appearance, continued to elude them, and at the end of the 2003 season, faced with escalating costs, the club felt constrained to pull the plug on its involvement in northern Tasmania's elite competition. Since 2004 the 'Roos have competed in Division One of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association where they once more find themselves rubbing shoulders with former sparring partners like Longford and Scottsdale.

Deloraine Football Association: This competition ran from 1950 until it merged with the Esk Football Association in 1984. Participating clubs included Chudleigh (4 senior grade flags), Elizabeth Town (4), Hagley (3), Meander (3), Mole Creek (11) and Red Hills (8).

DERWENT

Affiliated: TFL 1906-7

Formed: circa 1905

Premierships: 1906 (1 total)

Derwent Football Club spent just two seasons competing in southern Tasmanian football's premier competition. It was successful in winning a premiership in its first year.

DEVONPORT (Formby)

Current Affiliation: NTFL since 2991

Club Address: P.O. Box 302, Devonport, Tasmania 7310

Website: www.devonportfc.com.au

Email: admin@devonportfc.com.au

Home Ground: Devonport Oval

Formed: 1881 (as Formby Football Club)

Colours: Black and white

Emblem: Magpies

Premierships: 1894, 1897, 1908, 1914-15, 1925, 1933-4, 1936, 1938, 1981, 1988 (12 total)

Cheel Medallists: Bill Berryman 1925 (1 total)

Royal Medallists: Bill Berryman 1930 (1 total)

Wander Medallists: Cec Rheinberger 1974; Kerry Coates 1976; Jim Prentice 1978 (3 total)

William Leitch Medallists: David Code 1987; Fabian Carelli 1997; Wayne Weidemann 1998 (3 total)

Baldock Medallists: Kurt Heazlewood 2007 (1 total)

All Australians: Ron Stubbs 1980 (1 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: G.Foley (28) 1914; P.Martyn (34) 1924; A.Cooke (77) 1936 (3 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: K.Rainsford (94) 1998 (1 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: M.Langmaid (88) 2002 & (88) 2003; P.Crowden (111) 2007 (3 total)

Highest Score: 37.9 (231) vs. Launceston in 1996

Most Games: 242 by Ricky Brown

Record Finals Attendance: 16,934 for 1988 TFL grand final at North Hobart Oval: Devonport 15.7 (97); Glenorchy 8.6 (54)

The origins of football in Tasmania's north west coastal region are uncertain. It is possible that the game was played in mining settlements as long ago as the early 1870s, brought there either directly from the mainland, or by miners who travelled west from Launceston, where Tasmania's oldest known football club was formed in 1875. By 1881, however, the game was definitely being played in both Latrobe, then the largest town in the area, and Devonport, and June of that year saw the formation of clubs in both settlements.

The Devonport-based club was known as Formby, and was the precursor of the Devonport Football Club of today. On 6 March 1890 the club was formally re-constituted under the name Devonport, and with the exception of the 1900 season, when it went into temporary recess, has been a permanent fixture of the Tasmanian football scene ever since.

A major landmark in the development of football in the region came in 1910 with the establishment of the five club North West Football Union¹ which Devonport was to join the following year. The club reached its first premiership deciding match in 1914, downing Latrobe by 32 points, and it repeated this success the following year with a hard fought 2 point win over Ulverstone.

Football went into abeyance owing to the war from 1916 to 1918, and its resumption in 1919 was curtailed throughout Tasmania because of an influenza epidemic. In 1920 and 1921 Devonport fielded a second team, known as 'Diggers', which comprised returning servicemen. This second team won the 1921 NWFU premiership with a 7.11 (53) to 4.6 (30) grand final defeat of Latrobe.

Consolidating into a single organisation again in 1922 Devonport initially found the going tough, but in 1924 the side once again played off for the flag, only to succumb by 14 points to Latrobe. The following year finally brought success as Devonport comfortably overcame Ulverstone, 11.11 (77) to 6.13 (49).

New club Burnie proved Devonport's nemesis on each of its next two grand final appearances,

in 1927 and 1928, and the following year the entire competition was thrown into disarray when the Forth Bridge, which linked Latrobe and Devonport to the other settlements in the area, washed away. The 1929 season saw Devonport and Latrobe, together with Deloraine and Kentish, form a temporary competition, known as 'the Central Combine', which in 1930, after the link was re-established, became the Eastern Division of the NWFU. Dissatisfied with this arrangement, Devonport withdrew from the NWFU the following year, and spent the next three seasons participating in the NWFA, winning a premiership in 1933.

In 1934 Devonport re-entered the NWFU, which had begun to employ a single division format once again. Far from undermining its prowess, its brief stint in an ostensibly inferior competition had obviously been of benefit to the team, which promptly reached the next five grand finals, winning in 1934, 1936 and 1938.

Because of the war, the NWFU suspended operations between 1940 and 1944, and on its resumption, and indeed for most of the time prior to its admission to the TFL statewide competition in 1987, Devonport struggled, with its only grand final appearances coming in 1962 (lost to Burnie by 16 points) and 1981 (downed Penguin by 15 points). Despite this, Devonport was home to many highly accomplished footballers, such as Alan Krushka, who won four successive club champion awards from 1959 to 1962, George Bligh, Peter Stuart, Neil Conlan, David Jago, Cec Rheinberger, Kerry Coates, Jim Prentice, 1980 All Australian Ron Stubbs, and Ricky Brown.

The inception of statewide football saw the Blues, as they were known at this time, come into their own at last, after a tentative start. The side failed to qualify for the finals on percentage in its debut season of 1987, but in 1988, coached by Roland Crosby, who had served his coaching apprenticeship in Victoria's Goulburn Valley competition, Devonport swept all before it. After topping the ladder at the end of the roster matches the Blues comfortably accounted for Glenorchy in the second semi final by 20 points, and were even more convincing

against the same opponent a fortnight later, winning 15.7 (97) to 8.6 (54). Crosby's coaching performance seems all the more meritorious when you consider that he was suffering from a heart ailment at the time, a state of affairs he solicitously refrained from mentioning to his players.

Devonport slumped to eighth place (out of ten) the following year, precipitating a veritable roller coaster ride of achievement over the next twelve seasons. In addition to intermittent finals appearances, the side slumped to wooden spoons in 1993 and 2000, with the latter year in particular proving ignoble in the extreme as not a single win was recorded.

The collapse of statewide football in 2001 saw Devonport revert to a regional competition, in this case the NTFL, but with only 9 wins from 20 matches for the year the club finished eighth (out of twelve), a result it failed to improve on in 2002. In 2003, however, the Magpies surged up the ladder to qualify for the finals, while the next year they went within one game - albeit a game in which they were conclusively vanquished by Burnie - of a flag. The 2005 season brought another grand final appearance, and another loss to Burnie, albeit this time by the comparatively more respectable margin of just 17 points. Then, in 2006, hopes that it might be third time lucky were conclusively dashed on grand final day by a much more talented and cohesive Launceston side, which ultimately won with ease by 57 points. The 2007 season brought a marginal decline in fortunes as the Magpies, having topped the ladder prior to the finals, bowed out of flag contention in straight sets after defeats by eventual premiers Launceston in the second semi final, and Ulverstone in the preliminary final. Kurt Heazlewood's Baldock Medal victory as the competition's best and fairest player provided a small measure of consolation.

Nevertheless, with five years of finals experience under several of the players' belts now, there seems every reason to hope that further premiership success may be just around the corner for one of Tasmanian football's oldest clubs.

Footnote

1 These clubs were Latrobe, Mersey, Penguin, Ulverstone and Wesley Vale, although Wesley Vale ended up withdrawing from the competition prior to the commencement of the season.

DODGES FERRY

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) 2002-present

Home Ground: Dodges Ferry Recreation Ground

Formed: 1978

Colours: Black, gold and red

Emblem: Sharks

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasman Football Association (TFA) - 1979-80, 1984, 1989-90-1 (6 total); SthFL - 2006 (1 total)

Tas Bryan Medallists: Kevin Watson 1979, 1982 & 1983; Noel Arnold 1986; Brendan James 1992; Michael Waller 1995 (4 Medallists/6 Medals)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: D.Noonan 2003; C.McLeod 2005; J.Curran 2008 (3 total)

Most Games: 401 by Paul 'Wally' Cusick

Dodges Ferry spent the first twenty-three years of its existence competing in the Tasman Football Association, where it won half a dozen senior grade premierships from eleven grand final appearances. The club's reserves team also claimed six flags during this time.

Since entering AFL Southern Tasmania's Regional League in 2002 the Sharks have been competitive, and in 2006 they broke through for their first premiership courtesy of a 14.13 (97) to 13.9 (87) grand final defeat of Sorrell.

DOMINIC OLD SCHOLARS (DOSA)

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 1987

Home Ground: Dominic College Football Ground, Glenorchy

Formed: 1976, only playing at Thirds level initially; commenced senior football in 1978

Colours: Maroon and gold

Emblem: Roosters

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division Old Scholars Section - 1984, 1986 (2 total); OSFA - 1987, 1994-5, 1999 (4 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Peter Fitzgerald Medal - Wayne Olding 1986 & 1992; Tony Zeltzen 1989; Matthew Honey 1995 & 1998; D.McConnon 2004 (4 Medallists/6 Medals)

Most Games: 357 by Tom Jarvis

Dominic Old Scholars Football Club - DOSA - commenced in the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League in 1978. Between 1981 and 1986, the competition split into Old Scholars and Districts sections, with DOSA competing in the former, and winning premierships in 1984 and 1986. In 1987 the two sections divorced entirely, with the Districts section carrying on under the banner of the TAFL Southern Division, and the Old Scholars section establishing itself as a separate, standalone league. DOSA won the Old Scholars Football Association's inaugural premiership with a 12.10 (82) to 11.10 (76) grand final defeat of Friends. Since then, the Roosters have added three more flags, in 1994 and '95 at the expense of Friends, and in 1999 against Hutchins.

DOWLING, HAROLD: Nicknamed 'Tiger', Harold Dowling's approach to the game was in keeping with his nickname. Never flashy and not even particularly skilful he more than compensated for these deficiencies by his fiery, combative approach which in its way was similar to that espoused by the Big V's Ted Whitten or South Australia's Neil Kerley. His senior playing career got underway in 1955 at East Devonport at the same time as Darrel Baldock, but after just 3 games he relocated with his family to the Burnie region and was cleared to Cooe. Highlights of his

time with the Bulldogs included premierships in 1961, 1964 and 1965, plus a state title in 1964. He won the club's best and fairest player award in 1970 while in 1971-2 he served as captain-coach. He retired as a player at the end of the 1973 season having amassed 295 senior grade matches, a tally which included 21 first and second eighteen intrastate matches. In 1974 and 1975 he was non-playing coach of Wynyard and oversaw a premiership in the latter season.



Jack Dunn

DUNN, JACK: Superb overhead, and a tremendous kick, Jack Dunn enjoyed a twenty-one year senior career in Tasmanian football during which he was widely



Robbie Dykes (right) in action against Clarence.

acknowledged as the best centre half back in the state. He began with North Hobart in 1910, aged just fifteen, and the following year saw him selected in a combined TFL team which lost narrowly against the NTFA in Launceston. In 1914 he travelled to Sydney with Tasmania's carnival side, and he would remain a regular fixture in Tasmanian interstate combinations for much of the remainder of his career.

After the war, Dunn continued with North Hobart, captaining the side to premierships in 1920, 1923, 1928 and 1929. He spent the 1927 season as captain-coach of NWFU side Devonport, and also led the combined Union

team on four occasions during the year. His last season in senior football, 1930, was spent in the NTFA with Longford.

In August 2000, Jack Dunn was selected as a co vice-captain in North Hobart's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

DYKES, ROBBIE was a tough, durable, hard at the ball footballer who managed the extraordinary feat of playing in every TFL grand final between 1975 and 1986 - nine of them with Glenorchy, and three with New Norfolk. He won flags with the Magpies in 1975, 1985 and 1986, and with the Eagles (as captain-coach) in 1982. Although renowned for his ruthless approach to both ball and man he was also a genuinely talented performer who won both the 1981 William Leitch Medal and Glenorchy's best and fairest player award in 1985. Dykes

was a regular Tasmanian interstate representative who resisted the temptation to test himself in the VFL. He played almost 300 games of club football. Robbie Dykes was chosen on a half back flank in both the Glenorchy 'Team of the Twentieth Century' and New Norfolk's 'Best Team 1947-2001'.

E

EADE, RODNEY began his senior football career with Glenorchy in 1975 where he made an immediate impact, catching the eye of mainland talent scouts and being voted the best first year player in the TFL. He moved to Hawthorn the following year and went on to be a tremendous performer for the Hawks in 229 games over the course of the next twelve seasons. Wearing the number 26 jumper previously made famous by fellow Tasmanian great Peter Hudson (Eade's coach while at Glenorchy) he played in a premiership side during his debut season at Glenferrie, and added further appearances in flag-winning combinations in 1978, 1983 and 1986. In 1988 he was named captain of the Tasmanian team which competed at the bicentennial Australian football carnival in Adelaide. Eade joined Brisbane in 1988 but found himself stymied by injury and was only able to add a further 30 senior games over his final three seasons in league football. There have been flashier and more extravagantly skilled players than Rodney Eade, but few who were as exhilarating to watch when in full flight.

In 1996 Eade replaced the great Ron Barassi as coach of Sydney and promptly steered the Swans to their first grand final in 51 years. North Melbourne, however, proved too strong, and thereafter, in just over six seasons at the helm, Eade was unable propel his charges higher than fifth place on the ladder. After a disappointing start to the 2002 season he stepped aside in favour of Paul Roos. He returned to top grade coaching in 2005 at the Western Bulldogs whom he has so far steered to ninth, sixth and thirteenth place finishes,

When AFL Tasmania announced its Tasmanian 'Team of the Century' in June 2004, Rodney Eade was named at right centre wing. The following year he was inducted as an inaugural legend in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

EAST DEVONPORT

Current Affiliation: NTFL since 1987

Club Address: P.O. Box 15E, East Devonport, Tasmania 7310

Home Ground: Girdlestone Park

Formed: 1901

Colours: White and red

Emblem: Swans

Premierships: 1946, 1948, 1968, 1988 (4 total)

Wander Medallists: Max Berryman 1952; Darrel Baldock 1957; Terry Pierce 1960; John Bingley 1963; Ricky Watt 1975; Lindsay Bell 1980; Richard Lynch 1982; Neville Muir 1985; Peter Borlini 1986 (9 total)

Ovaltine Medallists: Paul Spencer 1995 (1 total)

Pivot Medallists: Craig Muir 1998 (1 total)

Baldock Medallists: Adrian Partridge 2002 (1 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: R.Summers (38) 1954; C.Reynolds (95) 1980 & (97) 1981 (3 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: M.Williams (119) 1988 (1 total)

Highest Score: 36.13 (229) vs. George Town 11.4 (70) in 1987

Most Games: 259 by David Mullett

Record Finals Attendance: 11,866 for the 1968 NWFU grand final at West Park, Burnie: East Devonport 15.16 (106); Ulverstone 10.18 (78)

Perhaps best known as the club which first unleashed the prodigious talents of Darrel John Baldock on the football world, East Devonport deserves to be extolled for much more. Formed in 1901, the club endured and ultimately overcame a faltering first forty-five years to emerge during the second half of the twentieth century as a mainstay of one of Tasmanian football's three major senior competitions, the North

West Football Union. On no fewer than four occasions between 1901 and 1945 the club was forced into recession, either for economic reasons or because of a lack of available players (or a combination of both), but once given the impetus of regular high standard senior competition it swiftly went from strength to strength.

When the NWFU resumed after World War Two in 1945 East Devonport was admitted to the competition's four club Eastern Division and went on to contest the grand final, losing by 31 points to APPM (known since 1956 as South Burnie). The following season it went one better, downing Burnie 14.14 (98) to 8.9 (57) to annex its first senior premiership in any competition since the club's formation.

After missing the grand final in 1947 East Devonport was back to the fore the following year when it overcame the challenge of Wynyard by 15 points, 15.12 (102) to 12.17 (87).

When Darrel Baldock made his debut for the club as a sixteen year old in 1955 East Devonport had fallen on harder times, but the young genius was soon to inspire a rapid rise up the ladder. As far as Baldock's individual playing prowess went, "he was an instant sensation, being judged best afield in his first 3 games and gaining selection in the NWFU intra-state team".¹ He finished the season by winning the club's best and fairest award, and in 1956 he made the first of his 19 interstate appearances for Tasmania. A Wander Medal followed in 1957, but the one achievement that eluded Baldock during his four season, 71 game career with East Devonport was participation in a premiership. The closest he came was in 1958, his last season with the club, but East were comfortably defeated in the grand final by Burnie, as indeed they were in 1959, the first of Baldock's seasons at close rivals Latrobe.

During the mid to late 1960s players like John Bingley, Ron Tait, Frank Brown and Garry Davis helped re-establish a combination capable of challenging for the

flag after a number of fallow years. The long awaited breakthrough finally came in 1968 when the side won its way through to the grand final from the first semi and overran pre-match favourites Ulverstone by 28 points, 15.16 (106) to 10.18 (78). This proved to be the Swans' last NWFU flag, with its only remaining grand final appearance coming in 1971. On that occasion, the ignominy of a 61 point trouncing was, if anything, intensified still further by the fact that the team inflicting the damage was Latrobe - captain-coached by a certain Darrel Baldock.

When the NWFU and NTFA joined forces in 1987 to form the NTFL East Devonport found the new style competition, bereft as it was of TFL statewide-bound heavyweights like Devonport, Burnie and North Launceston, much more congenial than the old. A grand final appearance in the NTFL's inaugural season brought a hard fought 13 point loss to Ulverstone, but the following year the Swans finally reigned supreme after a superb 20.7 (127) to 18.15 (123) defeat of Burnie in a rip roaring classic of a match played in front of a record NTFL grand final crowd of 8,750 at Devonport. For good measure, full forward Mark Williams booted 119 goals for the year, setting a club record which still stands.

The loss of a number of key players, including Williams who joined Latrobe, saw East Devonport plummet down the ladder to last position in 1989, since which time the club's supporters have grown giddy after a veritable roller coaster ride of inconsistency which has yielded the extremes of consecutive (losing) grand final appearances in 1997 and 1998 and completely winless wooden spoons in 2000 and 2007.

The return to regional competition in 2001 of erstwhile statewide competitors North Launceston and Burnie has effectively raised both the stakes and the standard in the NTFL, and so far East Devonport has found the going difficult. However, those who have followed the club's fortunes for several years have learned at least two important

things about it that they love: one is that, with East Devonport, the unexpected is almost always just around the corner; the other is that, whatever the obstacles or challenges that confront it, those associated with the club, whether as players or behind the scenes, are unlikely ever to take a backward step. Consequently, if success fails to re-emerge for the Swans in the near future, it will not be for the want of trying.

Footnote

1 *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979* by Ken Pinchin.

EATON, DARREL: Popularly known as 'Dasher', Darrel Eaton was one of North Hobart's greatest post-war identities. After spending the 1946 season in the club's seconds he made his senior debut the following year when he was good enough to achieve selection in Tasmania's Hobart carnival team. Eaton, who was a regular member of interstate teams for much of his career, also represented the Apple Isle at the carnivals of 1950 in Brisbane and 1953 in Adelaide. In 1952 and '53 he served as captain-coach of NWFU side Wynyard, masterminding a premiership in his first season, and winning the league's best and fairest award, the Wander Medal, in his second. After spending the 1954 season with Devonport he returned home to North Hobart for his last three seasons of top level footy, culminating in a premiership - his second with the club - in 1957.

After a couple of seasons as a league umpire Darrel Eaton returned to the Robins as non-playing coach in 1960 and enjoyed the satisfaction of overseeing the enviable 'double' of local and state titles in both 1961 and 1962. Midway through the 1964 season, however, he resigned as coach after the committee endorsed the selection of a player that Eaton, as well as the club's captain Peter Marquis and vice-captain Ray Bailey, did not believe warranted a place in the team.

Esk Deloraine Football Association:

Formed in 1984 through the merger of the Esk and Deloraine Associations the EDFA continued until 1997 before going into what will probably be a permanent recess. Senior grade premierships during the competition's fourteen year life went to Perth Rovers (6), Bracknell (3), Evandale (2), Cressy, Hagley and Westbury (1 each).

Esk Football Association: The EFA ran between 1921 and 1983, after which the competition merged with the Deloraine Football Association to form the Esk Deloraine Football Association. Noteworthy achievements in the EFA's history included Bracknell's run of ten premierships in eleven seasons from 1956 and hagley's five flags in succession between 1950 and 1954.

EVANDALE

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA)

Home Ground: Morven Park

Formed: Early 1900s

Colours: Blue and gold

Emblem: Eels

Senior Grade Premierships: Esk Football Association (EFA) - 1933, 1955, 1958, 1970, 1974, 1977 (6 total); Esk-Deloraine Football Association (EDFA) - 1992-3 (2 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: EFA Best and Fairest - Doug Sing 1973 (1 total - records incomplete)

Most Games: 342 by Kevin Lewis

Current Northern Tasmanian Football Association Division Two club Evandale has a proud and successful history stretching back more than a century. Roughly half of that history was spent competing in the Esk Football Association where the club won its first ever premiership in 1933, beating Bracknell in the grand final by 15 points. The 1950s brought another couple of flags from

three grand final appearances, and after struggling for most of the ensuing decade the Eels recovered to produce the most sustained period of success in their history to date. During the eight seasons from 1970 to 1977 they qualified for the grand final five times for three premierships, beating Perth by 22 points in 1970, Cressy by 55 points in 1974, and Bracknell by 7 points in 1977.

In 1984 the Esk and Deloraine Football Associations merged and the Eels struggled for a few seasons to cope with the marginally higher standard of competition. They reached their first EDFA grand final in 1989, but lost to Perth Rovers. Another losing grand final followed in 1991 against Hagley before Evandale broke through to claim successive flags in 1992 and 1993.

Since crossing to the NTFA Evandale has failed to add to its premiership haul, but it did reach a Division Two grand final in 1998, only to fall short against Campbell Town by 52 points.

EVANS, TIM: After playing junior football in Tasmania's North West Football Union with Penguin, Tim Evans was lured to the mainland by Geelong in 1971. In four seasons with the Cats, playing mainly on the half back line, he notched up 59 games, and impressed with his strong marking and robust ground play. However, it was only after transferring to Port Adelaide in 1975 that his career truly began to blossom. Transferred to the goalfront by coach John Cahill when regular spearhead Randall Gerlach was indisposed, Evans proved a revelation, going on to become one of the greatest goalkickers in Australian football history. In 248 games for the Magpies between 1975 and 1986 Evans accumulated 1,041 goals, topping the league list on six occasions, and Port's no fewer than ten times. He also booted 25 goals in 7 appearances for South Australia. Seldom spectacular, Evans was the archetypal

'goal machine'. As the late John Wood, writing in 'Magpie News' in August 1986 at the time of Evans' retirement, put it, "He was an ideal amalgam of finesse and raw strength. If the players ahead of him delivered it, Tim was a certainty to mark it. If they blasted it in high he (more often than not with two flying against him) was a fifty-fifty go. Either way you could get your pen ready to mark down another one."

F

FEBEY, STEPHEN: The only Melbourne player to appear in both of that club's most recent grand finals (1988 and 2000), Stephen Febey gave excellent service to the Demons in 258 senior games, many alongside his twin brother Matthew. Originally from Devonport, Febey at one stage appeared more likely to succeed at basketball than football but ultimately it was the oval-shaped ball which provided the greater allure. Not the most highly skilled of players Febey nevertheless gave greater value than most because of his courage, determination and immense discipline.

Fingal Football Association: The FFF was established in 1884 and disbanded after the 1992 season although it did not run continuously throughout that time. Records of the competition are patchy until the late 1930s. After world war two the most successful member clubs were Avoca (7 premierships), Campbell Town (6), Fingal (12), Rossarden (7, including 5 in a row between 1961 and 1965), St Helens (6), St Marys 7).

FINGAL VALLEY

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) since 2002

Home Ground: Fingal Football Ground

Formed: 1884; disbanded 1996; reformed 1997; disbanded 2000; reformed 2002

Colours: Blue and white

Emblem: Kangaroos

Senior Grade Premierships: 1927-8, 1931, 1945, 1948-9, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1971, 1975, 1988, 1998, 2007-8 (16 total)

The Kangaroos have had something of a chequered history which has seen them endure a number of periods in recess but which has also spawned some noteworthy

achievements. Since reforming after its most recent period in mothballs in 2002 the club has gone from strength to strength, with the seniors capturing the last two Northern Tasmanian Football Association division two premierships. In 2007 the 'Roos went into their grand final clash with University Mowbray as underdogs, but won convincingly, while in 2008 they scored a slashing 25.13 (163) to 10.12 (72) grand final triumph over Tamar Cats.

FITZROY

Affiliated: NTFA 1895-8 and intermittently thereafter until at least 1902

Formed: circa 1895

Premierships: 1896 (1 total)

Association Top Goalkickers:

C.Waddingham (26) 1897 & (9) 1902 (2 total)

Details of the history of the Fitzroy Football Club are sketchy. It is believed that the club was formed around 1895, and it is known that it participated in the Northern Tasmanian Football Association between that year and 1898. It won a premiership in 1896.

FLETCHER, ADRIAN: Arguably one of the modern era's most underrated players (at least as far as the media and general public are concerned; less so in the case of field umpires awarding Brownlow votes), Adrian Fletcher's ability to rack up effective possessions remained a noteworthy feature of his game right to the end. Recognised as an outstanding talent right from his early days at Glenorchy (where, in 1988, he won a club best and fairest award and shared the William Leitch Medal), Fletcher went on to give commendable service to five different AFL/VFL clubs. His early years at Geelong (23 games between 1989 and 1991) and



Adrian Fletcher

St Kilda (22 games in 1992) represented a solid apprenticeship but it was after his move to Brisbane in 1993 that his career truly began to blossom. Tough and resilient, Fletcher's best work sometimes eluded notice but was nevertheless critical to team success. His effectiveness is readily illustrated by the high numbers of accurate handballs he regularly accumulated (he topped the league in this stats category in 1995), while his 'in and under' propensities frequently saw him winning more than his fair share of free kicks (he led the AFL in this category in 1999, a season after moving to Fremantle).

Following four seasons with the Dockers, during which he won a club champion award and was co-captain in 2000 and 2001, Fletcher returned to Victoria in 2002 as a member of the support team, as well as a player, at the Collingwood-aligned VFL club Williamstown. After winning consecutive best and fairest awards with the Seagulls, he retired as a player, and in 2004 he returned to his former club, Geelong, as a scout.

FRIENDS

Affiliation History: Public School Old Boys Football Association (PSOBFA) - 1932-9; Tasmanian Amateur Football Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1946-86; Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) - 1987-2006

Formed: 1932

Disbanded: 2006

Colours: Red and blue

Emblem: Bulldogs

Senior Grade Premierships: PSOBFA - 1937, 1939 (2 total); TAFLSD - 1955-6, 1958-9-60, 1962 (6 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1955-6, 1958-9, 1962 (5 total); OSFA - 1989-90-1, 1997 (4 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: PSOBFA Best and Fairest - G. Gibson 1933, 1934 & 1936 (1 Medallist/3 Medals); Walter Howard Medal - John Brown 1952; John Robertson 1963 (2 total); Peter Fitzgerald Medal - Gary McCann 1990 (1 total)

Most Games: 261 by Greg Smith

Friends Football Club was formed in 1932, and was an inaugural member the same year of the Public School Old Boys Football Association. The club reached its first grand final in 1937 when it overcame Hutchins by 19 points. After losing the following year's grand final to Hutchins, Friends added a second PSOBFA premiership in 1939, once again at Hutchins' expense.

In 1946 the PSOBFA was renamed the Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division. Friends had a disappointing time for several years, but a losing grand final clash with St Virgil's in 1954 was a prelude to almost a decade of consistent success which, in addition to half a dozen local premierships, saw the side claim the state amateur title five times.

After defeating Olgivie Tech Old Scholars by 2 goals in the 1962 grand final Friends did not again go top until 1989, by which

time they were competing in the Old Scholars Football Association. Further premierships in this competition followed in 1990, 1991 and 1997. However, early in the 2006 season, after struggling badly for some years, Friends was forced to withdraw from the competition owing to a lack of players.

Full Points Footy's

TASMANIAN TEAM OF THE CENTURY

Selected January 2002

B	Stephen Febey	Verdun Howell	Bob 'Tassie' Johnson
HB	Matthew Armstrong	Barry Lawrence	Rodney Eade
C	Darrin Pritchard	Ian Stewart	Adrian Fletcher
HF	Darrel Baldock (c)	Royce Hart	Brent Crosswell
F	Matthew Richardson	Peter Hudson	Horrie Gorringe
1R	Jack Rough	John Leedham (v-c)	Terry Cashion
IC	Colin Robertson Brendon Gale	Alastair Lynch Daryn Cresswell	Tim Evans Garry Lyon
Coach	Bruce Carter		

The principal difference between this team and the official Tasmanian Team of the Century is that the **Full Points Footy** team is exclusively comprised of players who were born in Tasmania, thus rendering ineligible for selection the likes of Laurie Nash, Ivor Warne-Smith and Arthur Hodgson. The profiles of the members of the above team which appear on the **Full Points Footy** website, as well as in this book, were supplied as reference material to the panel charged with selecting AFL Tasmania's official Team of the Century in 2004.

G

GALE, BRENDON: A vigorous and hard-working ruckman/forward, Brendon Gale performed consistently for Richmond throughout the 1990s and into the early years of the new decade. He was equally effective leading the ruck or holding down a key forward position, his aerial prowess and physical strength making him a match for almost any opponent. Never the most spectacular of players - a fact which doubtless prevented his entering the discussions all that often when Brownlow votes were allocated - his impact on games was nevertheless often considerable. Between 1990 and 2001 he played a total of 244 AFL games for the Tigers, kicking 209 goals. Brother Michael also appeared for the Tigers having earlier played for Fitzroy, while father Don was a star in Tasmania in the '50s and '60s.

GALE, DON: After showing great promise as a schoolboy footballer, Don Gale was signed by Wynyard in 1953. His early form was magnificent, and he was wooed by South Melbourne, but was prevented from transferring by the TFL. In 1956, he sought a clearance again, and even re-located across the Bass Strait, but the TFL would not budge. After a season spent playing Sunday League football in Melbourne he returned to Tasmania and signed for Hobart, but after just 12 months in the TFL he was enticed back home to Wynyard.

The 1958 season proved to be one of Gale's best as he was selected to represent Tasmania at the centenary carnival in Melbourne and, after a series of superb performances in a back pocket, became the first ever NWFU footballer selected in an All Australian team. (Three years later, at Brisbane, Latrobe's Darrel Baldock would emulate the feat.)

Gale was again selected for his state in 1959 when he played against the Vics in Devonport. Later that same year, however, he was forced to withdraw from the side which met West Australia at Hobart owing to injury.

In 1960 Gale was a prominent contributor

to arguably the most auspicious achievement in Tasmanian football history as the state side overcame a supposedly invincible VFL combination at York Park, Launceston.

Tasmania led at every change en route to a 7 point success, with most newspapers listing either Stuart Spencer or Don Gale as best afield.

The only remaining ambition for Don Gale at this stage in his career was to play in a premiership team, and a couple of seasons later, having crossed to Burnie as captain-coach, he finally achieved it. In 1961, Gale's first season at Burnie, the side had come agonisingly close, losing to arch rivals Cooebe by 5 points, but in 1962 everything came together and Devonport was vanquished by 10 points. The only disappointment was losing the state premiership final against North Hobart.

Having now achieved his main outstanding ambition, Don Gale chose to retire, despite being just twenty-seven years of age. In later years, sons Brendon and Michael would keep the Gale name alive both at home and in Victoria.

GALE, MICHAEL was a consistently solid performer, initially with Penguin, and then in the V/AFL with Fitzroy (105 games 1986-93) and Richmond (91 games, 1994-8). He overcame numerous injury worries including a badly damaged shoulder and a knee problem requiring a reconstruction to perform effectively in a variety of roles, although it was as a half back flanker that he perhaps seemed most at home.

GARDINER, JACK: Jack Gardiner's involvement in football lasted over half a century and took in stints as a player, coach, umpire and administrator. The son of a prominent Carlton player of the 1870s, he commenced his own senior playing career with the Blues in 1900, but after just 16 games in two seasons he crossed to Melbourne. Slight of build, he nevertheless

had the courage and skill necessary to succeed, and during five and a half seasons and 69 games with the Redlegs he established a reputation as one of the premier rovers in the league.

In 1908, Gardiner accepted the position of coach of the Tasmanian Football League, a role he combined with umpiring. After serving as Tasmania's coach at the inaugural interstate carnival in Melbourne he finished the 1908 season with his old club Melbourne, but the following year saw him back in Tasmania where he threw in his lot with Cananore. With Bruce Carter as playing-coach, and Gardiner as captain, the Canaries enjoyed unprecedented success over the next few seasons, winning premierships in 1909-10-11, and again in 1913. Gardiner's playing form was excellent, and he was a member of Tasmania's carnival team at Adelaide in 1911, helping the state to a commendable third place courtesy to a large extent of a hard fought 5 point win over Western Australia.

After the Great War, Jack Gardiner resumed at Cananore, this time as captain-coach, leading the team to further premierships in 1921 and 1922. In 1924 he transferred to North Hobart as captain-coach, before finally retiring as a player, aged forty-two, at the end of the following season.

Remaining in Tasmania, Gardiner continued to be heavily involved in football in a variety of administrative roles for most of the next thirty years. He died in Hobart in 1967 at the age of eighty-four.

GARWOOD, REX: One of only two triple winners of the TANFL's best and fairest award (the other being Len 'Apples' Pye), Rex Garwood began his senior football career with New Town as a 20 year old in 1950. Playing as either a half forward or in the ruck, his talent was evident right from the start, and in 1951 he not only won the first of his Leitch Medals but also landed 'The Mercury' newspaper's Player of the Year Award, played representative football for the first time both the TFL and



Rex Garwood

Tasmania, tied for the Wander Medal for the best player in intrastate matches, was New Town's leading goal kicker with 37 goals, and was close to best afield in his club's 71 point grand final annihilation of North Hobart. So much for second season blues!

Two seasons later, the Magpies appointed Garwood as captain and he promptly led them to their second premiership in three seasons, with Garwood himself best afield in the grand final. Earlier in the year he had represented Tasmania at the 1953 Adelaide carnival.

The 1954 season saw Garwood transfer to New Norfolk, who appointed him as captain-coach. The following year he captained Tasmania on its victorious tour of New South Wales and Canberra, while back at home he secured a second Leitch Medal. In 1956 he was again appointed captain of his state, this time for the interstate carnival in Perth.

Garwood's tenure as New Norfolk coach ended in 1957, but he continued to give excellent service as a player, winning his third and final Leitch Medal in 1958. Somewhat surprisingly, he never won a club best and fairest award. He was, however, selected in both the Glenorchy/New Town, New Norfolk and official Tasmanian 'Teams of the Century'.

GEORGE TOWN

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and precursors since 1990

Home Ground: Blue Gum Park

Formed: 1927

Colours: Red, white and black

Emblem: Saints

Senior Grade Premierships: East Tamar Football Association (ETFA) - 1957-8, 1963, 1965 (4 total); Kerrison Shield - 1956 (1 total); Tamar Football Association (TFA) - 1971-2-3, 1977, 1979, 1982 (6 total); NTFA Division One - 2002-3-4-5-6-7-8 (7 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: ETFA Best and Fairest - D.Harris 1947; Colin Bartlett 1956 & 1958; Trevor Geale 1963; Geoff Downie 1964 (4 winners/5 wins - records incomplete); W.C. Curran Medal - Chris Jones 2001 (1 total - records incomplete)

Most Games: 334 by Dale Crane

Since the turn of the century George Town has enjoyed consistent success, but such was not always the case. Formed in 1927, the club did not claim a senior grade premiership until thirty years later. Mind you, as breakthrough premierships go, George Town's of 1957 was pretty emphatic, as its 7.5 (47) to 4.4 (28) grand final defeat of Lilydale came as the culmination to an unbeaten season, the only one ever achieved in the entire history of the East Tamar Football Association. Not long after the grand final, George Town met and defeated West Tamar Football Association premiers Beauty Point in the Kerrison Shield play-off to determine the premier team of the whole Tamar Valley.

Over the ensuing quarter of a century, George Town amassed an impressive collection of senior flags in both the ETFA and the Tamar Football Association, which was formed in 1970 when the East and West Tamar competitions merged. On commencing in the TFA, George Town adopted the Saints emblem it still uses today. Prior to 1970, the club had been known for many years as the Seagulls.

The TFA was only in existence for fifteen seasons, and the Saint contested the senior grand final in ten of them. Their final tally of six senior premierships made them easily the competition's most successful club.

In 1984, as the TFA was embarking on its last ever season, George Town commenced a three year stint in the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, followed by three years in the Northern Tasmanian Football League. In 1990 the club transferred to the Northern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League, the competition which in due course would metamorphose into today's NTFA (not to be confused with the former competition of that name which had disbanded in 1986).

After reaching grand finals in their third and fourth seasons in the amateurs, the Saints' fortunes dipped, and they did not

re-emerge as a force until after the turn of the century. Since 2001, they have contested every senior division one grand final, and emerged victorious from the last seven, a record-breaking achievement that shows no signs yet of running out of momentum.

GLENORCHY (New Town)

Current Affiliation: Tasmanian Football League (TFL) since 2009

Club Address: 1a Anfield Street, Glenorchy 7010, Tasmania

Postal Address: P.O. Box 156, Glenorchy 7010, Tasmania

Website: <http://glenorchyfootballclub.com.au/index.php?page=home>

Email: glenfc@bigpond.com.au

Home Ground: King George V Football Park

Formed: 1919 (as New Town); name changed to Glenorchy District Football Club in 1957 following a merger with Glenorchy FC

Colours: Black and white (originally green and gold)

Emblem: Magpies

Premierships: 1935, 1948-9, 1951, 1953, 1955-6, 1958, 1965, 1975, 1983, 1985-6, 1999, 2007-8 (16 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1948, 1956, 1958, 1965, 1975 (5 total)

Wilson Bailey Trophy Winners: K.Roberts 1927; G.Cole 1928; A.Leitch 1929 (3 total)

William Leitch Medallists: E.Hanlon 1933; R.Garwood 1951; T.Sprigg 1975; P.Hudson 1978 & 1979; G.Linton 1980; A.Fletcher 1988; B.Atkin 1999; D.Newett 2005; J.Crouch 2006; S.Piuselli 2008 (10 Medallists/11 Medals)

All Australians: Barry Strange 1956 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: H.Smith (46) 1928; D.Kenna (55) 1933; A.Cook (58) 1946; A.Park (73) 1949; D.Sutton (73) 1972; F.Ogle (55) 1974; P.Hudson (76) 1975, (133) 1976, (153) 1978 & (179) 1979; S.Fell

(114) 1989 (11 total)

SthFL Top Goalkickers: S.Salter (65) 2004 (1 total)

Highest Score: 34.21 (225) vs. Hobart at KGV Football Park in round 20 1983

Most Games: 312 by Kevin Baker

Record Home Attendance: 6,520 in round 14 1966: Clarence 7.8 (50); Glenorchy 5.12 (42)

Record Finals Attendance: 24,968 for 1979 grand final at North Hobart Oval: Clarence 12.11 (83); Glenorchy 11.14 (80)

The first club bearing the name of the Hobart district of New Town was actually formed as early as 1878, but it was not until 1919 that a club of that name participated in the TFL, albeit only at junior level. After achieving outstanding success at this level, the club was admitted to senior ranks in 1921, but once there it found success much harder to come by. Indeed it was not until 1935 that New Town broke through to record its first senior premiership with an 18.9 (117) to 15.13 (103) win over North Hobart in front of a crowd of 6,021. One of the stars of the win was New Town's captain-coach, the legendary Roy Cazaly,¹ who was ably supported by Langford (7 goals), the Rooke brothers, and Ferguson.

The 1935 triumph was to be New Town's only success prior to the TANFL's introduction of district football in 1944. Since then, however, the club has enjoyed regular premiership success. Officially reconstituted as the New Town District Football Club when the district system was implemented in 1945, the club also discarded its old green and gold playing uniforms in favour of black and white. The side's first post war grand final appearance came in 1946, but Sandy Bay were comfortable winners by 42 points, 12.16 (88) to 5.16 (46).

In 1948 Roy Cazaly returned to the club as non-playing coach and he reaped immediate success. In the grand final that year New Town defeated North Hobart by

16 points in a hard, slogging game of poor standard in which numerous injuries were sustained. Final scores were 11.15 (81) to 9.11 (65), with Fox, Smith (5 goals), Kelly, Tonks and Conway among New Town's best. The team then went on to claim the state premiership thanks to a 2 point defeat of NTFL premier North Launceston at North Hobart Oval.

The 1949 season brought back to back flags after a 10.8 (68) to 4.12 (36) grand final win over Hobart. Kelly, Rough, Witzerman and Loring were the best players. In the state premiership play off, however, North Launceston achieved revenge for the 1948 result with an emphatic victory at York Park.

A 2 point grand final defeat against Hobart in 1950 was followed a year later by a 20.14 (134) to 9.9 (63) annihilation of North Hobart for the club's most convincing premiership victory to date. New Town were particularly well served on this occasion by Fox, Garwood, Scott, Chick, Conway and Lewis (7 goals). The state premiership was not contested in 1951, but New Town would surely have been hard to beat if their form in the grand final was anything to go on.

Bill Fox took over from Cazaly as coach in 1952 but he lasted only a year as the side slumped to third. The following season, however, under Fox's replacement, Jack Rough, the side returned to the top with an 11 point triumph over a resilient Sandy Bay combination. The Magpies' best in their 16.18 (114) to 15.13 (103) triumph included Garwood, Strange, Lewis, Conlan and Robson.

Hobart took the honours by 10 points in the 1954 grand final but this proved to be just a temporary hiatus as New Town roared back to claim successive flags in 1955 and 1956. The 1955 grand final was a 'revenge' mission with Hobart the victims by 35 points, 15.11 (101) to 8.18 (66). Best players for New Town included Stockell, Strange, Rough, Johnston and Shadbolt. A year later New Town and North Hobart

treated a 12,000 crowd to a nail-biting tussle in which New Town led by less than a goal at every change before squeezing home by just 3 points, 8.7 (55) to 7.10 (52). Despite inclement weather conditions it was a high standard game with Webster, Eade, Griffiths, Lewis and Rough shining for New Town. The side went on to win its second state premiership this year, making up for a disappointing failure in 1955. Another highlight of the 1956 season was Barry Strange's selection in the All Australian team selected after the Perth carnival; Strange remains - and is likely ever to remain - the only New Town/Glenorchy player to be so honoured.

The 1957 season was a seminal one in the club's development as it saw a relocation to the King George V Oval in Glenorchy and, following an ostensible amalgamation with the club already based there, a re-christening as the Glenorchy District Football Club. On the field the team continued to do well, losing the 1957 grand final by 2 goals against North Hobart before, in 1958, annexing another premiership with a 15.15 (105) to 11.11 (77) defeat of Sandy Bay. Conlan, Johnston, Eade, Siely and Churchill were among the best players in a side which went on to lift the state premiership with wins over Longford in Hobart and Burnie at Devonport.

A plethora of injuries saw the Magpies slump to the unaccustomed indignity of last place (of six) in 1959, and when this performance was repeated after a comparatively injury free 1960 season the club hierarchy decided to ring the changes. Former player John Chick returned as senior coach in 1961 after a 119 game, 29 goal VFL career with Carlton and under his astute guidance the Magpies played off in the grand final, losing by 36 points to North Hobart. This proved to be something of a false dawn, however, as the side slipped down the

ladder to fifth in 1962 before collecting another wooden spoon a year later.

Bob Parsons succeeded Chick as coach in 1964 and after a season of re-building the side broke through for a premiership in 1965 thanks to a 10.15 (75) to 6.8 (44) victory over North Hobart. Best players were Marney, McMahon, Kingston, Johnston and Baker. A win in the state premiership at the expense of Scottsdale followed.

Parsons guided Glenorchy to another grand final a year later but the result was a soul-destroying 1 point loss to Hobart. However, Parsons commented that "all things considered 1966 was a happy and successful year for the club and to reach the grand final was indeed an achievement."²

The 1967 season brought a second successive grand final loss, this time against North Hobart by 14 points, and thereafter it gradually became clear that the team was on the slide. Fourth place in 1968 was followed by a drop to fifth in 1969 under new coach Graeme Gahan. When this result was repeated in 1970 Gahan departed to be replaced by experienced East Fremantle player and Western Australian interstate representative Trevor Sprigg, but in four seasons as coach he was unable to lift the side above third position.

The big news prior to the start of the 1975 season was the appointment of Tasmania's and one of Australia's greatest ever goalkickers, Peter Hudson, as senior coach. Hudson was to have a pronounced impact on the team's fortunes, both as coach and player. In the latter capacity he kicked 81 goals for the year to top the league list, while in the former he steered the Magpies to their first grand final in eight years and their first premiership in ten. Glenorchy's victims on grand final day were Sandy Bay. Hudson kicked 7 goals to be one of his side's best players, while others to do well included 1975 Leitch Medallist

Sprigg, obviously revelling in his new found freedom from the burdens of coaching, Parish, Linton and Johannsen.

After adding the state premiership to that of the TFL the Magpies journeyed to Adelaide for the Australian Club Championships where they performed creditably in sustaining only narrow losses to Norwood and West Perth.

With Hudson still at the helm a year later there seemed good reason for optimism but the side floundered badly on grand final day against Sandy Bay, going down by 97 points. It was a similar story in 1977 under Jack Rough, with the Seagulls' grand final winning margin on that occasion being 91 points. The 1978 grand final was a much more evenly contested affair, but not even the return of the mighty Peter Hudson to the Glenorchy camp could prevent Sandy Bay from registering an 11 point triumph.

The 1979 season brought a fifth successive grand final appearance and a change of opponent in Clarence. However, there was no change in fortune as the Roos won by 3 points thereby consigning Glenorchy to a fourth consecutive grand final defeat. Peter Hudson officially retired after the grand final although he was to make a brief three game come back two seasons later. All told, Hudson played a total of 289 senior games for New Norfolk, Hawthorn and Glenorchy between 1963 and 1981, netting 1,721 goals at an average of 5.95 goals per game. He also kicked a further 317 goals in other games such as interstate matches for Tasmania and Victoria, intra-state football for the TFL, night games, state and Australian championship matches, and so forth, for an Australian record career total of 2,038 senior goals.

Colin Tully replaced Jack Rough as senior coach in 1980, but once again the team was bested on grand final day, this time by Hobart. In addition, the Magpies took part in a prototype Statewide competition involving TFL, NTFA and

NWFU clubs and got as far as the semi finals before losing to Hobart.

Peter Hudson was back as coach a year later, ostensibly in a non playing capacity, but as mentioned above he did make a brief come back at full forward late in the season when the team was struggling and managed 30 goals in 3 games. The side finished third.

The 1982 season saw Peter Hudson give way to Gary Davidson as coach and also saw the Magpies filling their now familiar role as bridesmaids in going down by 11 points to New Norfolk in the grand final.

A year later, however, they swept all before them in one of the most outstanding seasons in the club's history. In round 20 they kicked a club record 34.21 (225) against Hobart, and several weeks later in the grand final they gave an equally dominant performance to overturn New Norfolk by 92 points, 28.19 (187) to 14.11 (95), with Peters, Webster, Excell, Pearce (5 goals) and Stephens starring.

Glenorchy claimed the minor premiership in 1984 but then lost the grand final by 26 points against Clarence.

In 1985 the club broke with recent tradition by appointing a local, Danny Ling, as senior coach, and he met with immediate success as Glenorchy defeated Clarence by 4 points in a fiery grand final played in front of a crowd of 16,561. There were noteworthy performances from Pearce (7 goals), Curley, Coleman, Excell and Collis.

In 1986 the league expanded to include two Launceston-based teams and Glenorchy made history by securing premierships at every level. The reserves downed North Hobart by 51 points; Clarence succumbed in the thirds by the same margin; and in the fourths it was Hobart who went down by 25 points. At senior level the Magpies proved too good for Sandy Bay to the tune of 32 points, 14.20 (104) to 9.18 (72), with prominent showings from Klug, Coleman, Hay, Tovey and Gilham.

The TFL expanded still further in 1987

with the admission of two NWFU clubs in the Burnie Hawks (formerly Cooee) and the Devonport Blues. Glenorchy remained a force to be reckoned with but lost a high scoring grand final against North Hobart by 52 points. It was a similar story twelve months later under new coach Robert Groenewegen, with the Devonport Blues defeating the Magpies by 41 points, 15.7 (97) to 8.6 (48).

Danny Ling returned to the coach's hot seat in 1990 but, with the club announcing a massive financial deficit of over \$200,000, he was clearly going to be up against it from the outset. Glenorchy plummeted to ninth (out of ten) in 1990, heralding a decline in fortunes which was to continue for most of the rest of the decade. However, by 1999 the Magpies, under Paul Hamilton, were once again in a position of pre-eminence, and a 15.9 (99) to 7.11 (53) grand final victory over the Northern Bombers seemingly heralded a great future.

Sadly, however, this was not to be. In January 2001 the Tasmanian State Football League collapsed, leaving Glenorchy, Clarence, Hobart and North Hobart with nowhere to go. All were ultimately accepted into the recently formed Southern Football League, although in Glenorchy's case - as in that of New Norfolk before them - the price was distressingly high: the league ruled that, as a condition of affiliation, Glenorchy must change both its emblem and its colours. This was because both the Maggie emblem and the black and white playing uniform were already in use by Claremont Football Club (not to be confused with the Perth-based club of the same name). The Glenorchy Magpies thus became the Glenorchy Storm, supplemented the black and white in their uniform with green, and girded their loins to confront an unknown, but in all probability infinitely less auspicious, future, although a grand final appearance in their debut season in

the new competition may have afforded a minuscule glimmer of solace.

In November 2003 there was considerable rejoicing among diehard Glenorchy supporters when it was announced that the club would be reverting to its traditional nickname (Magpies) and colours (black and white) from 2004. The change was made possible by virtue of the fact that the SFL now operated a two division system, with Glenorchy in the premier division and Claremont in the regional division. As a result of this split the two clubs no longer had to play one another, and so the 'colour clash' which had forced Glenorchy to break with tradition no longer applied.

Glenorchy's first grand final appearance in the SFL had come in the club's debut season of 2001 and had resulted in a 44 point loss to Clarence. It was a similar story five years later when the same two sides confronted one another on grand final day. The Magpies stayed in touch until the long break, but during the second half the Roos added 10 goals to 6 to win with disconcerting ease. In the grand final of 2007, however, it was a vastly different story as, in front of 7,091 supporters, the Magpies comprehensively defeated their 2006 nemesis to the tune of 68 points, 14.22 (106) to 4.14 (38). Piuselli, Crouch, Curran, McIver, Newett and Kamaric were Glenorchy's best. It was a highly satisfying season all round for Glenorchy as both the reserves and colts sides also reached their respective grand finals, with the reserves emulating the seniors by going top.

Twelve months later the Magpies enjoyed back to back premierships success for the first time in over two decades when they accounted for North Hobart in the grand final by 9 goals. A fortnight earlier the Demons had won a tight, low scoring second semi final between the two sides by 14 points but there was no denying Glenorchy when it mattered most. Echoing

2007, the seniors' accomplishment was matched by the reserves who overcame Clarence in the grand final by 17 points, 10.18 (78) to 9.7 (61).

Footnotes

1 Cazaly played 99 games and kicked 39 goals for St Kilda between 1910 and 1920 and went on to play 99 games and kick 128 goals for South Melbourne from 1921-24 and 1926-27. He later coached Preston, South Melbourne, Camberwell and Hawthorn as well as New Town, and was the inspiration for both a World War Two battle cry and a 1979 chart hit, "Up There Cazaly!"

2 Quoted in *Magpie Memories: a History of the New Town Glenorchy Football Club* by David Costelloe, page 30.

GONINON, GEORGE: Full forward George Goninon began his senior career with Essendon Stars before joining Burnie in the NWFU, where his 67 goals in 1947 was good enough to top the competition's goal kicking list. Recruited by Essendon the following year he found it hard to establish himself because of the presence of John Coleman, and he managed just 9 senior VFL games (for 11 goals) in three seasons before crossing to Geelong. Given the responsibility of spearheading the Cats' attack, Goninon came into his own and, in four and a half seasons he accumulated 278 goals from 78 games. Favouring the then somewhat unfashionable drop punt when kicking for goal, he was renowned as one of the most accurate kicks in the league. He topped the VFL goal kicking list with 86 goals in 1951 and was a member of Geelong premierships teams both that year and the next.

GORRINGE, HORRIE: Highly regarded throughout Australia during his world war one-interrupted playing career, Cananore's Horrie Gorrige was the epitome of the 'text book' rover. Quick, elusive and highly skilled, he could dispose of the ball with

THE GOALPOST FINAL

1967 State Premiership Final: Wynyard vs. North Hobart



The 1967 football season was a memorable one in many respects. In the VFL, Richmond won its first premiership for twenty-four years after a thrilling, high standard tussle with Geelong. In the west, Malcolm Atwell's Perth, with 1966 Tassie Medallist Barry Cable in superlative touch, overcame the challenge of East Perth for the second season in a row to lift only the fourth flag in the club's history. Meanwhile, reigning premiers Sturt left it late against Port Adelaide, adding 4.4 to 1.3 in the final quarter to win the SANFL grand final by 11 points. On the interstate front, there was a superb match between South Australia and the VFL in Adelaide, won by the latter by a single straight kick, and a superb performance by Western Australia, whose small men such as Walker, Cable, Doncon and Jackson in particular were unstoppable, against the hapless South Australians in Perth. However, probably the two most memorable matches of the 1967 season occurred in competitions boasting somewhat lower profiles than the VFL, SANFL or WAFL. In the VFA, Dandenong and Port Melbourne contested arguably the roughest major grand final since the 1945 Bloodbath affair in the VFL, while across the Bass Strait the 1967 Tasmanian state premiership decider between Wynyard and North Hobart turned into one of the most controversial matches of all time, and spawned a story which made headline news throughout the country, even in areas where Australian football was contemptuously referred to as 'aerial ping pong'.

North Hobart qualified for the state grand final with a hard fought 11.12 (78) to 8.16 (64) defeat of Glenorchy in the TFL grand final, followed by a solid win over NTFA premiers East Launceston in the state preliminary final. Meanwhile, Wynyard's 13.7 (85) to 7.7 (49) victory over Cooe in the NWFU premiership decider propelled the team directly into the state grand final which was scheduled to be played at Burnie's home ground of West Park on Saturday 30 September 1967.

'Advocate' journalist Allan Leeson provided the following first hand account of the events leading up to one of the most dramatic, controversial and memorable finishes to a football match in the game's history:

Saturday's state grand final at Burnie had all the features of the game - brilliance, tension and drama - everything in fact, except a result. The sensational conclusion which led to the declaration of 'no game' was a pity, because it left a nasty taste after a close, tough, hard fought, entertaining clash between two talented teams. Both sides claim they won, and perhaps it would have been a fitting result if David Collins had booted a point for a draw, instead of being swamped by the crowd. As it is we will never know who should have won the game, although the outcome will be argued for years.

According to the NTFA umpire Pilgrim, North Hobart full forward David Collins marked the ball close to the opening. Collins was so close it was hard to imagine him missing the big opening, which would have given North victory by 5 points - but goals have been missed from 10 yards out before!

The reason for this sensational finish was the refusal of both sides to give in. They gave everything in a game highlighted by incidents, many of which should have been seen and dealt with by the umpire. But the play moved along at such a rate that umpire Pilgrim found it hard to keep his eyes on every corner of the ground. Many of the behind the play incidents were cowardly and spiteful and a good share were aimed at Wynyard's star rover Kevin King. How the game did not get out of control is amazing, particularly during the fierce closing stages of the third quarter.

With twenty-six minutes on the clock rugged North Hobart vice-captain Des Graham mowed down King and Stretton and the umpire appeared to take his number.

Hero for the Redlegs was captain-coach John Devine - he was all he was cracked up to be - and more! Devine was an inspiration and at times played a lone hand against the determined Cats. His ruck-rover role took him to all corners of the ground and he was dangerous wherever he went - particularly in attack. He dished out bulldozer bumps and received just as many, but always came back in his mercurial style to lift the side when he was most needed. With he and his three fiery rovers - Graham, Dwyer and Mills - in dashing form the southern Robins had a big advantage. The only problem for North was the hot-headed attitude of rover 'Harry' Dwyer - a failing which led to many free kicks and should have brought more.

Wynyard's full back, Phil Dell, centre half back David Cox and ruckman Leon Clarke were again the outstanding Cats. And with King and Neal making the best of every opportunity, and West showing a return to form with 6 goals from a flank, the home side equalled North in many phases.

The southern premiers should have sewn the game up after winning the toss, but shocking kicking for goal left them without the expected advantage. Wynyard's skipper John Coughlan made his usual move to centre half forward twenty-five minutes into the game, but the Cats were only able to break through once, when West scored from a free up the ground against Devine.

Wynyard's tremendous come back in the second term left the Redlegs stunned - 8.6 to 2.3 speaks for itself. Coughlan moved back to full forward and 20 minutes into the game North's spearhead David Collins swapped places with centre half forward Tom Woolley, neither of whom had impressed. The Cats' big man Leon Clarke levelled the score with the third goal of the quarter, only seven minutes after the start. The Cats gained confidence and their paralysing burst kept North from scoring until eighteen minutes into the term, when a point was rushed. Brilliant play by West, and cooperation by Coughlan, led to another 3 quick goals by Wynyard, while the defenders stalled North's attempts to break through the big opening until twenty-nine minutes into the quarter. Devine booted his side back into the game after the siren when he shot accurately after a mark.

The boot was on the other foot in the third term, when the Redlegs displayed their tremendous fighting spirit to recapture the lead. With the wingers taking all honours, Garry Brakey holding the defenders together and Devine and the little men doing their share, North grabbed the lead with 15 minutes on the clock. It was in this quarter that Devine was at his best, kicking 2 goals and setting up 3 of the 4 others. His hand passing, cool anticipation and uncanny knack of being in the right place at the right time, was an inspiration to the Redlegs and they answered in a body. After an early goal the Cats were kept scoreless for 14 minutes until West kicked a point twenty-three minutes into the term.

Wynyard took the scoring end in the final quarter without the advantage of a strong wind, which had dropped considerably. Brilliant cooperation down the flanks led to 2 goals in two minutes - and everyone thought the Cats were going to race away. But they had not allowed for North's never-say-die attitude and, with Devine still the master, the visitors maintained their small lead. The crowd roared when Phillip Dell was disallowed a mark on the last line, although the umpire blew his whistle, and while players stood puzzled Devine picked up the ball and blasted a goal.

Dell was still saving magnificently on the last line, together with a revitalised Edwards, and the Cats raced forward twice only to see West miss two in a row. But on the third occasion he found the opening and levelled the scores nineteen minutes into the quarter.

The Cats kept up the pressure but could not shoot straight, while North lifted itself again and tried desperately to break through the tight Cat cordon. With thirty minutes on the clock (and Wynyard 1 point to the good) Templar gave away a free for holding the man and Devine went back for his kick thirty yards out. Collins raced in from the side of a pack to mark as the siren was heard - and the rest is history.

As Collins went back to take his kick, hordes of spectators surged onto the playing arena, and several of them tore down the goal posts. Police tried desperately to clear an avenue for Collins to run up and take his shot but to no avail. In the end, Collins had no choice but to leave the playing arena, having first stuffed the match ball under his jumper (ten years later, he still had it).

The 1967 Tasmanian state premiership final was ultimately declared 'no game', with North Hobart believing that the moral victory was theirs, and that to replay the match would effectively constitute a sanctioning of 'mob rule'.

equal precision using either foot. He was also extremely tough, often taking the field carrying injuries that would have sidelined lesser men. Gorringe represented Tasmania in the interstate arena on numerous occasions, including the 1924 and 1927 carnivals. At the Hobart carnival of 1924 he was voted Tasmania's best player when he more than held his own against the very best that the mainland state sides could throw at him. A year earlier he had been one of the best players afield in the TFL's famous victory over a South Australian combination on the Adelaide Oval. Champion Collingwood goalsneak Gordon Coventry called Gorringe

"a super footballer" – rare praise indeed coming from a Victorian – while revered all round sports personality Victor Richardson was another to hold the "nippy rover" in the highest esteem.

When AFL Tasmania announced its Tasmanian 'Team of the Century' in 2004, Horrie Gorringe was included in a forward pocket. The following year saw him named as an inaugural icon in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

GOULDING, STEVEN had already played league football with both North Launceston and North Melbourne (2 games) by the time he commenced his WAFL career with

Claremont in 1982. He went on to play a total of 122 games in six seasons with the Tigers, besides earning state selection for Western Australia twice. Goulding was a hard working on baller or centremen whose delivery skills were first rate. He returned home to North Launceston in 1989 and was successful in claiming the club's best and fairest player award both that season and the next.

GRANT, DAVID: After playing briefly with City-South David Grant was snapped up by St Kilda where, after a slow start to his VFL career, he developed into a top notch utility player. A superb, one grab mark, he boasted excellent all round skills and was more often than not able to camouflage an apparent lack of pace by a combination of great anticipation and relentless will-to-win. Much of his best football was played as a defender, but he could do a job up forward or on the ball when required. A Tasmanian state of origin representative, he achieved AFL All Australian selection in 1991. Between 1984 and 1995 he played a total of 191 V/AFL games, and kicked 75 goals. In 1996 he crossed to Melbourne but his career with the Demons failed to ignite and he managed just 7 games for the season before retiring.

GREENING, JOHN: Despite being arguably one of the most sublimely gifted footballers of his generation, John Greening tends to be remembered today more for being on the receiving end of one of the most callous and cowardly on-field assaults in the game's history. The attack took place during the opening moments of Collingwood's round fourteen clash with St Kilda at Moorabbin in 1972. Greening had just taken the first mark of the match, and had kicked the ball long towards the Collingwood goal square. While most people's attention was focused on the goal mouth scramble ensuing from Greening's kick, Greening himself was lying prostrate



on the turf, having been unceremoniously decked seconds after getting rid of the ball. The perpetrator, Jim O'Dea, was not reported at the time, but was later identified after the VFL implemented an enquiry in response to an official complaint from the Magpies. That complaint arose after the full extent of the injuries sustained by Greening became clear. Comatose for a full twenty-four hours, Greening did not regain full consciousness for several days. He was diagnosed as suffering from cerebral concussion, and doctors fully expected him to be permanently disabled. Indeed, for a time, his life was in real danger. That he not only recovered, but returned to the football field, was little short of miraculous.

Meanwhile, Greening's assailant was suspended by the VFL tribunal for 10 matches, a sentence which many football lovers, and not just Collingwood fans, considered grossly inadequate. Some football supporters even ceased to follow the game in disgust.

Born in Burnie on 20 December 1950, John Greening was wooed to the mainland by Collingwood in early 1967, not long after his sixteenth birthday, and having played just a handful of senior games for Cooe. After half a dozen games for the club's under nineteens he was promoted to the reserves, where he impressed to the extent of being selected for a VFL reserves combination that defeated New South Wales. He made his senior debut the following year against Hawthorn,

and from then until the fateful clash with St Kilda he was a virtual ever present. Supremely balanced, agile and abundantly skilled, there seemed no limit to what he might have achieved. Reflecting on his injury almost two decades later, Greening ruefully declared, "If it hadn't happened I reckon I'd still be playing and would have pushed Michael Tuck aside (for most VFL games)".

As it was, Greening did return to football less than two years after the incident that came to bear his name, but after an adrenalin-fuelled comeback game in which he amassed 24 possessions to be close to best afield, his form deteriorated. Before long, he came to realise that he no longer had the intense inner hunger to succeed that was so essential at the game's highest level. His Collingwood career came to an end in 1976 after 107 VFL games and 70 goals, and although he rediscovered elements of his best form during subsequent stints with Port Melbourne, Penguin and East Devonport there can be little doubt that both John Greening, and the sport of football itself, sustained inordinate damage on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July 1972.

GRIFFITHS, MAX: A dominating key position forward who was strong overhead and a fine kicker, Max Griffiths was a major factor in New Town's (and Glenorchy's) dominance of the TANFL during the 1950s, taking part in victorious grand finals in 1953, 1955, 1956 and 1958. He was also an important player for Tasmania in interstate games, of which he played a total of 10, including appearances at both the 1956 Perth and 1958 Melbourne carnivals. Griffiths topped his club's goal kicking list in 1954 with 55 goals, 1955 (52), 1956 (42) and 1959 (28). He won its best and fairest award in 1959. A regular TFL intrastate representative, he won the Weller Arnold Medal in 1955, the first player from New Town to be so honoured.



GRIMMOND, DICK: Originally from Albury, Dick Grimmond gave Richmond highly consistent and reliable service in 102 senior VFL games between 1959 and 1964, kicking 6 goals. Most of his football was played on the wing. In 1965 he crossed to North Hobart as captain-coach where he spent two seasons, getting his charges as far as the grand final, which they lost to Glenorchy, in the first of them. During his time with Richmond he had played once for the VFL and he represented Tasmania both in 1965 and at the 1966 Hobart carnival.

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HAENEN, TONY: Best remembered for being at the centre of an unsavoury incident during the 1976 VFA grand final between Port Melbourne and Dandenong, Borough utility Tony Haenen actually began, and played most of, his senior career with South Melbourne. Beginning in 1966, Haenen played a total of 93 VFL games for the Swans, mainly as a defender, although he could also provide useful service in the ruck. He finished at South in 1971 and the following year was appointed captain-coach of North Launceston, where he remained for three seasons, representing both the NTFA and Tasmania during that time. In 1975 crossed to Port Melbourne where he added a final 76 senior games to his tally. During the infamous 1976 grand final he was charged with, but ultimately cleared of, physically assaulting a boundary umpire. The day will have had bittersweet connotations for Haenen as the Borough secured the flag with a hefty 57 point win.

Hall(s) Of Fame: The first sporting halls of fame were established in the USA. The National Baseball League Hall of Fame, for example, was inaugurated in 1936, and the country's other major sporting organisations soon followed suit. In Australia, the concept was appropriated by the AFL as part of its centenary celebrations in 1996. AFL Tasmania's Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame was launched in 2005, a year after the state's official Team of the Twentieth Century had been named. The original Hall of Fame induction consisted of 130 individuals, 15 legends, and 3 icons of the game with additional members being added every year since. In addition to the induction of individuals the Tasmanian Hall of Fame recognises legendary teams, great clubs and great matches. Legendary teams so far honoured have been Scottsdale 1973, Northern Bombers 1998, Sandy Bay 1971,

Tasmania's 1958 carnival side and Clarence 1993. Great clubs are North Hobart, North Launceston, Burnie/Cooee, Launceston and Glenorchy/New Town. Great matches chosen have been Tasmania's victory over the VFL in 1960, the 1979 TFL grand final between Clarence and Glenorchy, the 1967 state premiership decider between Wynyard and North Hobart, the 1988 statewide league grand final between Devonport and Glenorchy, and the 1955 state grand final between Ulverstone and Longford. A new category, Giant Killers of Tasmanian Football, was introduced in 2009, with Hobart's grand final defeat of Sandy Bay in 1973, East Launceston's 1967 NTFA premiership victory over North Launceston, and Penguin's upset win against Cooee in the 1977 NWFU grand final as the inaugural inductees.

HART, ROYCE: To many observers, Royce Hart was the living embodiment of the ideal centre half forward. Certainly few players in the history of the game have managed to weld supreme natural ability and resolute determination to such telling effect. The determination saw Hart - on the face of it far from the finished article as a footballer - leave Tasmania as a seventeen year old in 1965 to try his luck in the 'big time' with Richmond. At the time it was more usual for non-Victorian players to serve out apprenticeships in their own local competitions before embarking on VFL careers, but throughout his football career Royce Hart seldom did things according to accepted guidelines or standards.

Hart enjoyed a dream VFL debut season in 1967 when, playing at the goal front, he was a near unanimous choice as rookie of the year, kicking 55 goals, representing his adopted state, and playing in Richmond's first premiership

team for twenty-four years. There were to be no second season blues either: Royce Hart maintained an amazing consistency throughout most of the remainder of his 190 game league career, even in 1976 and '77 when his knees had virtually 'gone'.

In 1969, under a special lease arrangement, he played one SANFL game for Glenelg - the grand final, against Sturt. However, he was unable to prevent the Double Blues from winning comfortably. (Hart had been training with Glenelg for most of the 1969 season while undertaking National Service duties in Adelaide.)

Captain of the Tigers between 1972 and 1975, Hart played representative football for the VFL 11 times, won the Richmond best and fairest award twice, and was a member of four premiership teams. There have been few more reliable marks or dynamic all round players in the history of the game.

Hart's exploits as a coach, however, were infinitely less noteworthy: in two and a bit seasons in charge at Footscray during the early '80s he failed to steer the Bulldogs above 10th place in a 12 team competition.

In June 2004, Royce Hart was named at centre half forward in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century'. Hardly surprisingly, he occupies the same position in Richmond's equivalent team.

In 2006, he was inducted as an icon into Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

HAYES, LEN: After a highly promising junior football career Len Hayes had his progress interrupted by world war two, during which he served in the army. After leaving the army in 1944 he was courted by a number of VFL clubs but chose to remain at home, which was a farm at Sisters Creek in Tasmania's north west coastal region. As far as football was concerned, he threw in his lot with NWFU club Wynyard, whose best and fairest player award he won in 1949 and 1950. In 1946 and 1947 he won the NWFU's western division best and fairest award, adding the award for the whole competition in 1948 and

1949. The 1950 season saw him make his interstate debut at the Brisbane carnival. In 1951 Hayes transferred to Cooeee as captain. He stayed for six seasons with the Bulldogs whom he coached for part of the 1953 season and the whole of 1954. Just as with Wynyard he won a couple of club best and fairest awards, and he also represented the state against the VFL in 1951. Strength and power were the fulcrums of his game, and he played the majority of his football at either centre half forward or centre half back.

HILLWOOD

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and precursors since 1985

Home Ground: Hillwood Recreation Reserve

Formed: 1927; disbanded 1970; reformed 1980

Colours: Light blue and maroon

Emblem: Sharks

Senior Grade Post-War Premierships: East Tamar Football Association (ETFA) - 1955, 1959-60-1, 1964, 1966-7-8 (8 total); Tasmanian Amateur Football League Northern Division (TAFLND) - 1990, 1992 (2 total); NTFA Division One - 1999, 2000 (2 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: ETFA Best and Fairest - Keith Scolyer 1959, 1960 & 1962 (1 Medallist/3 Medals - records incomplete); W.C. Curran Medal - Todd Miller 1988; Graham Jarman 1989; Shane Bransden 1997; Justin Smith 2000 (4 total - records incomplete); TAFLND Division One Best and Fairest - Brendan McGee 1994 & 1996 (1 Medallist/2 Medals)

Most Games: 315 by Mark Donnelly

Once colourfully known as the Apple Snatchers, Hillwood nowadays boasts a less distinctive emblem, but is nevertheless still building on a proud tradition stretching

back eight decades. For many years, the club was a highly successful member of the East Tamar Football Association, contesting ten grand finals between 1955 and 1969, for eight wins. However, when the ETFA merged with its West Tamar counterpart to form the Tamar Football Association in 1970 Hillwood found itself unable to continue, and spent the next ten seasons in recess. In 1980, the club finally took its bows in the TFA - and promptly lost 38 games straight, 25 of them by margins in excess of 100 points, before finally breaking through for a win in 1982. Two years later, in what was the EFA's last season, Hillwood reached the grand final, but lost to Bridgenorth by 39 points.

In 1985, Hillwood commenced in the Northern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League, reaching a grand final three seasons later, and winning a premiership in 1990 with a 12.14 (86) to 10.10 (70) defeat of Longford. When the competition split into two divisions in 1992 the Sharks won the inaugural division one flag, downing George Town in the grand final by 13 points.

The northern amateur competition was replaced by the Northern Tasmanian Football Association in 1997. The Sharks won the division one premiership in the new competition in 1999 when they thrashed Longford by 97 points, 26.14 (170) to 10.13 (73). They then went back to back thanks to an 8.12 (60) to 2.8 (20) defeat of Scottsdale the next year.

Hillwood continues to compete in division one of the NTFA.

HOBART

Affiliated: Tasmanian Football League since 2009

Club Address: P.O. Box 56, Hobart 7001, Tasmania

Website: www.hobartfc.com

Home Grounds: TCA Ground 1945-82 and 1998-present; King George V Park 1983-86; North Hobart Oval 1987-97

Colours: Maroon, gold and blue (formerly

black and gold)

Emblem: Lions (formerly Tigers)

Premierships: TFL - 1950, 1954, 1959-60, 1963, 1966, 1973, 1980, 1990 (9 total); SFL - 1999 (1 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1959 (1 total) OTHER PREMIERSHIPS - TFL Statewide Cup 1980 (1 total - only time the competition was conducted)

William Leitch Medallists: J.D.Sullivan 1947; T.J.Leo 1957; M.Pascoe 1959; D.Sullivan 1964; B.Payne 1965 & 1966; S.Wade 1984 (6 Medallists/7 Medals)

Horrie Gorringe Medallists: Nil

TFL Top Goalkickers: B.Waldron (47) 1953; M.Pascoe (75) 1959 & (57) 1960; C.Smith (49) 1977; P.Courto (86) 1980; W.Fox (110) 1988; K.Robinson (76) 1993 (7 total)

SthFL Top Goalkickers: D.Hall (88) 1999 (1 total)

Highest Score: TFL - 31.17 (203) vs. South Launceston 15.21 (111) on 22 August 1990 at York Park; SFL - 36.14 (230) vs. Channel 10.6 (66) on 7 April 2000 at TCA Ground

Most Games: 287 by D.K. 'Kerry' Wilson

Record Home Attendance: 8,760 on 14 June 1949 vs. New Town at TCA Ground

Record Finals Attendance: 17,111 for 1980 grand final at North Hobart Oval: Hobart 14.9 (93); Glenorchy 7.16 (58)

Hobart may have only spent fifty-three seasons in the TFL but its success in winning nine premierships from fifteen grand finals during that time represents the commendable return of a flag every 5.9 years, a record which few clubs anywhere can match. Sadly, however, by the mid to late 1990s the club was finding itself unable to cope with the increasing economic demands which life in the expanded TFL involved. At the end of the 1997 season Hobart was expelled from the competition.

Hobart's first season in the TFL in 1945 coincided with the re-organisation of the league along district lines. Hobart and

Sandy Bay replaced Cananore and Lefroy and joined established clubs New Town and North Hobart in forming a four team competition which expanded to six clubs with the admission of Clarence and New Norfolk two seasons later.

Given the small number of opposition clubs it was perhaps not all that difficult to make an impact. The Tigers reached the grand final for the first time in 1947, losing to North Hobart by 10 points. Two years later they were again on the wrong side of the ledger, this time against New Town, but the following year they turned the tables on the Eagles with a nerve-racking 3 point triumph.

Hobart played off for the flag on average every other season during the 1950s, winning three times and losing twice. The 1959 season was particularly noteworthy in that the Tigers held TFL grand final opponents New Norfolk to the miserly total of 2.9 (21) before going on to win the state flag for the first and only time. The following season saw back to back premierships being procured for the only time in the club's history, but the state flag went north to NTFA side City-South.

Hobart's 1960 premiership victory was emulated on each of the club's next four grand final appearances, the last of which, in 1980, coincided with a memorable victory over Clarence in the grand final of the first ever statewide premiership, which was played as an adjunct to the TFL's, NTFA's and NWFU's regular competitions. When the TFL itself embarked on the road toward becoming a statewide competition in 1986 Hobart's involvement was taken for granted. The side reached a grand final in 1989, losing to North Hobart, but won comfortably in 1990 against North Launceston. The Tigers were still a force as late as 1992, reaching the grand final of that year only to succumb once more to Mark Yeates' all conquering North Hobart combination. Five seasons later Hobart's TFL career was all over.

For season 1998 Hobart took its place in the Southern Football League, which had been formed as recently as 1996. Because league founder members Kingston had already laid claim to the 'Tigers' emblem Hobart elected to adopt a simple 'HFC' logo whilst retaining the club's traditional colours of black and gold.

Success under the new guise was not long in coming: in 1999, with Dale Hall bagging 88 majors for the season to top the league list, Hobart scored a comfortable grand final victory over Brighton. Hobart won 20.9 (129) to 11.12 (78), a margin of 51 points. The Hobart candle might, of necessity, have dimmed somewhat, but it still burned.

In January 2001 the news emerged that the statewide TFL was no more. Consequently, for season 2001 Hobart would be joined in the SFL by four former TFL opponents: New Norfolk (which had joined in 2000), Clarence, Glenorchy and North Hobart. Meanwhile a composite Tasmanian team was granted probationary admission to the VFL, thereby further diminishing the profile of the Southern Football League and its member clubs.

Hobart reached the SFL grand final in 2003, but suffered a cataclysmic 110 point loss to North Hobart. At the end of the following season the club entered into a controversial alignment with AFL powerhouse Brisbane which saw many long-term supporters walk away in disgust. From 2005, Hobart took to the field in maroon, gold and blue playing uniforms, and became known as the Lions. Presumably the financial benefits to the club of such an arrangement are considerable, but there are costs involved as well, not least in terms of yet more compromise and dilution to the identity and tradition that so many had worked so hard to establish over the preceding half a century and more.

In 2009 Hobart will be one of ten inaugural member clubs of a revamped Tasmanian Football League.

HODGSON, ARTHUR: Born in Sydney, Arthur Hodgson moved to the mining settlement of Queenstown in west Tasmania at the age of nine and quickly acquired a prowess at the 'foreign' sport of Australian football. A best on ground performance for the Queenstown Football Association representative side against a TFL second 18 in 1947 earned him a crack at the 'big time' as part of the NTFA combination which took on, and lost narrowly to, the TFL in Hobart. His stellar performance at centre half back in that game was rewarded with inclusion in Tasmania's 1947 carnival team, making him the first QFA player since 1904 to be so honoured.

Hodgson's meteoric rise continued when his displays in the carnival attracted the attention of recruiting officers from the mainland. In 1948 he began a five season, 76 game association with Carlton which included an appearance in that club's losing 1949 grand final side, a club best and fairest award in 1950, and VFL representation in the Brisbane carnival of that same year. Returning home in 1953 Hodgson took over as coach of Ulverstone whom he steered to four NWFU premierships in seven seasons in charge, as well as the 1955 state flag (Ulverstone's first). His prowess as a player had not diminished either as he won a Wander Medal in 1955 and represented Tasmania in 11 more interstate matches, including involvement in the 1953, 1956 and 1958 carnivals. Hodgson's record of five interstate carnival appearances is matched only by another Sydney-born player in William 'Nipper' Truscott of Western Australia, plus South Australia's Fos Williams. Throughout his career Hodgson's speed, safe ball handling, and exquisite disposal skills made him one of Australia's finest centreline players.

In June 2004, Arthur Hodgson was selected as a wingman in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century', and two years later he was inducted as a legend into Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

HOLEBROOK

Affiliated: TFA 1880-86; STFA 1887-94

Home Ground: John Fisher's Paddock

Formed: 1880

Colours: Blue and red

Premierships: 1885, 1890-91 (3 total)

Association Top Goalkickers: A.Stuart (6) 1882; T.Barlow (6) 1888; S.Howe (9) 1891 & (9) 1892 (4 total)

Formed in 1880, Holebrook Football Club spent fifteen seasons in southern Tasmania's premier football competition, where it enjoyed intermittent success. The club disbanded at the end of the 1894 season.

HOWELL, VERDUN: A half forward during the bulk of the Tasmanian phase of his career with City-South, Verdun Howell was transformed by St Kilda into a prototype of the modern attacking full back. He played 159 games for the Saints between 1958 and 1968 and was second on a countback for the Brownlow in only his second season. Thirty years later the VFL saw fit to award him a medal retrospectively.

Despite his venturesome spirit which manifested itself in a tendency to leave his man in order to embark on dashing runs upfield Howell seldom conceded many goals for the simple reason that whenever he pursued the ball he normally got it. In short, he transformed the backing of one's judgement into an art form.

As Howell's VFL career progressed he made a gradual journey back to the forward lines. He was on a half back flank when St Kilda won its only senior flag in 1966 and, as vice captain, combined with skipper Darrel Baldock to provide the Saints with a unique, all Tasmanian on field leadership team.

As his career drew to a close Howell frequently played on the forward lines and was highly effective; in one game against Hawthorn he booted 9 goals. However, it was



Verdun Howell

as a defender that he rose to his greatest heights, winning St Kilda's best and fairest award in 1959, representing the Big V on 9 occasions, and, to all intents and purposes, re-writing the chapter in the manual of footy entitled "How to Play Full Back".

After his retirement as a player, Howell coached Claremont from 1972 to 1974, steering the Tigers to a losing grand final against East Perth in his first season only to see them plummet to a wooden spoon the following year. When the 1974 season brought scant improvement he was replaced as coach by Mal Brown.

In 2004, AFL Tasmania announced its Tasmanian 'Team of the Century', which included Verdun Howell in a back pocket.

HUDSON, PETER: Statistically the most prolific full forward in the history of the game,

Peter Hudson can also lay strong claims to having been the best. All told, Hudson played a total of 289 senior games for New Norfolk, Hawthorn and Glenorchy between 1963 and 1981, netting 1,721 goals at an average of 5.95 goals per game. He also kicked a further 317 goals in other games such as interstate matches for Tasmania and Victoria, intrastate football for the TFL, night games, state and Australian championship matches, and so forth, for an Australian record career total of 2,038 senior goals. The key to Hudson's success was an indefatigable desire to gain possession of the football, which he did repeatedly by virtue of his strength, vigorous, pacy leading, and excellent handling and marking skills. Topping this off, he was a meticulously accurate kick for goal, albeit relying, almost exclusively, on an old fashioned tumble punt which would have scored no points whatsoever for 'artistic merit', and which seemed outmoded even in Hudson's era. Not that 'artistic merit' ever contributed measurably to a premiership, of course.

As a coach, Hudson took charge of Hobart in 1986 and remained at the helm for two years, steering the side to consecutive unsuccessful finals campaigns.

When the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century' was announced in June 2004, no one was surprised to find Peter Hudson named as full forward. He was inducted as an inaugural icon of the Tasmanian game the following year.

Huon Football Association: The HFA was formed in 1887, and disbanded after the 1997 season. Member clubs over the years included Channel, Cygnet, Franklin, Huonville and Kermandie.

HUONVILLE

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 1998

Home Ground: Huonville Oval

Formed: 1888 as Picnic Football Club; merged with Franklin in 1998

Club Address: P.O. Box 14, Huonville, Tasmania 7109

Colours: Red, white, blue and gold

Emblem: Lions

Senior Grade Premierships: Huon Football Association (HFA) - 1904, 1933, 1953, 1973, 1989, 1992 (6 total) [Franklin won HFA premierships in 1895, 1903, 1906-7, 1917-18, 1921, 1932, 1958-9, 1963, 1982, 1987, 1997 - 14 total]; SthFL Regional Division - 2008 (1 total)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: J.Philp 1999; N.Doyle 2006 (2 total)

Most Games: 400 by Lee Paul

Currently a member of Tasmania's Southern Football League, Huonville has enjoyed a long history in various competitions which has so far yielded a total of seven senior premierships, the most recent of which was in 2008 in the Southern Football League's regional division.

In 2005, the Lions qualified for the finals in fifth place, before overcoming Sorell and Dodges Ferry in successive weeks. However, eventual premier Kermandie proved too strong in the preliminary final, winning 14.13 (97) to 12.6 (78).

The 2006 season again brought finals qualification in fifth position, but elimination final opponents Lindisfarne on this occasion proved too marginally strong, winning a hard fought game by 9 points.

The Lions qualified for their first Regional League grand final in 2007, but lost a hard fought game against Kermandie by 10 points.

Twelve months later they broke through for their first Regional League flag following an unexpected but highly meritorious grand final defeat of Lindisfarne. The Two Blues went into the grand final in seemingly unstoppable form having won their previous 19 matches but when it mattered most they could not cope with the Lions' ferocity in close, nor their indomitable team spirit. At three quarter time in the grand final scores

were level but Huonville then made light of an arduous four match finals campaign to run all over their much vaunted opponents, adding 7 last term goals to 1 to win by 37 points, 16.9 (105) to 9.14 (68). The match attracted a respectable attendance of 4,397.

HUTCHINS

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 1987

Formed: 1932

Colours: Magenta and black

Senior Grade Premierships: Public School Old Boys Football Association (PSOBFA) - 1932, 1935-6, 1938, 1940, 1946 (6 total); Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1961, 1963-4, 1983 (4 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1935-6, 1946, 1961, 1963, 1983 (6 total); TAFLSD Old Scholars Division - 1981, 1983 (2 total); OSFA - 2000, 2002-3, 2006-7 (5 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Awards: PSOBFA Best and Fairest - A.Walsh 1932; B.Chesterman 1934; J.Page 1935; N.Swan 1939 (4 total); Walter Howard Medal - Emerson Rodwell 1948 & 1949; Ken Cossum 1950; Brent Palfreyman 1964; Michael Cook 1983 (4 Medallists/5 Medals); Peter Fitzgerald Medal - Adam Palfreyman 1999 & 2006; Grant Joyce 2000; Jamie Harris 2003 & 2007 (4 Medallists/5 Medals)

Hutchins Football Club began life in 1932 as a member of the newly formed Old Scholars Football Association and reached the grand final on debut, beating St Virgil's by 41 points, 11.14 (80) to 5.9 (39). Between 1934 and 1947 the club contested every OSFA grand final, a total of nine in succession allowing for a five year break for the war. Five of those grand finals were won, and three were backed up with state titles. However, after scoring a 3 point win over St Virgil's in the 1946 grand final Hutchins would have to

endure a fifteen season premiership drought, broken in 1961 by means of a 13.9 (87) to 8.14 (62) grand final defeat of Friends. The club went on to add the state championship with a 20.18 (138) to 13.17 (95) defeat of northern amateur premier Brooks Old Boys. Two years later, Hutchins again achieved the 'double' with victories over Lindisfarne (TAFSLD) and Brooks Old Boys (state title). In 1964, the club won the local premiership by a bare point from Tasmanian University, but lost to Old Launcestonians in the state final.

After enduring another extended premiership drought the club returned as a force in the early eighties when it contested the first five grand finals of the decade, for wins in 1981 against Ogilvie Tech Old Scholars and 1983 against Old Hobartians Association. In 1983 Hutchins went on to claim the Southern Division premiership by downing Districts premier Sorell 16.21 (117) to 13.13 (91), and the state title with a 21.17 (143) to 10.14 (74) mauling of Old Scotch Collegians.

Hutchins has enjoyed considerable success since the turn of the century, winning five senior flags in the last nine seasons. The most recent of these came in 2007 courtesy of a 17.19 (121) to 9.10 (64) grand final defeat of DOSA.

HUXTABLE, ERIC: Dashing, elegant, and, from the perspective of at least one Australian newspaper during the 1930s "untouchable", Eric Huxtable began his senior football career with New Town aged just fifteen, demonstrating right from the outset that he was a rare star in the making. In 1928 he was the first ever recorded winner of New Town's best and fairest award, and two years later he succumbed to intense pressure from a number of VFL clubs by venturing across the Bass Strait and joining Carlton.

Affectionately known as 'Huxie', Huxtable was a firm favourite among the Carlton fans because of his stylish play and superb kicking. In 1937 he took part in a strange international kicking competition featuring Australian footballers and gridiron players, winning the



Eric Huxtable

drop kick section with kicks of 67 yards with an Australian football and 65 yards with an American ball.

A regular VFL representative player, Huxtable was almost universally regarded as one of the finest defenders going around, and was one of very few players who could regularly be expected to outpoint Fitzroy's Haydn Bunton. His career with Carlton lasted nine seasons, during which time he played 127 VFL games. Somewhat tragically, however, he sustained a thumb injury during his final season with the Blues which kept him out of the team's winning grand final against Collingwood.

After leaving Carlton, Huxtable spent two years in the RAAF before resurfacing in league football at South Melbourne, which was being coached by his former Blues team mate Joe Kelly. In 1941-2 Huxtable added a further 21 VFL games to his tally before retiring.

TASMANIA'S COMPLETE INTERSTATE MATCH RECORD 1887 TO 2007

KEY TO MATCH CATEGORIES: IL - inter-league; ILC - inter-league carnival; SO - state of origin; SOC - state of origin carnival; EC - Escort Cup

TEAM ABBREVIATIONS: AA - Australian Amateurs; ACT - Australian Capital Territory; Can - Canberra; NSW - New South Wales; NT - Northern Territory; NZ - New Zealand; Qld - Queensland; SA - South Australia; Vic - Victoria; VFA - Victorian Football Association; VFL - Victoria Football League; WA - Western Australia

Year	Cat.	Venue		G	B	Pts		G	B	Pts
1887	IL	Melbourne	VFA	7	15	N/A	Tas	4	6	N/A
1889	IL	Melbourne	VFA	6	9	N/A	Tas	1	6	N/A
1890	IL	Sydney	Tas	8	18	N/A	NSW	2	4	N/A
1890	IL	Sydney	Tas	17	39	N/A	NSW	4	5	N/A
1893	IL	Hobart	Tas	6	11	N/A	VFA	6	8	N/A
1893	IL	Hobart	Tas	5	7	N/A	VFA	5	5	N/A
1908	ILC	Melbourne	Tas	22	22	154	Qld	2	2	14
1908	ILC	Melbourne	Tas	8	14	62	NSW	4	11	35
1908	ILC	Melbourne	SA	16	20	116	Tas	7	7	49
1908	ILC	Melbourne	Tas	11	18	84	NZ	1	12	18
1911	ILC	Adelaide	VFL	8	22	70	Tas	6	3	39
1911	ILC	Adelaide	SA	13	13	91	Tas	3	6	24
1911	ILC	Adelaide	Tas	15	11	101	NSW	3	9	27
1911	ILC	Adelaide	Tas	8	14	62	WA	8	9	57
1914	ILC	Sydney	VFL	28	20	188	Tas	8	9	57
1914	ILC	Sydney	Tas	15	17	107	Qld	4	5	29
1914	ILC	Sydney	SA	18	23	131	Tas	5	7	37
1914	ILC	Sydney	WA	30	14	194	Tas	12	8	80
1914	ILC	Sydney	NSW	15	14	104	Tas	5	13	43
1921	IL	Albury	Tas	13	16	94	NSW	12	11	83
1924	ILC	Hobart	VFL	13	16	94	Tas	7	13	55
1924	ILC	Hobart	Tas	22	12	144	NSW	10	13	73
1924	ILC	Hobart	Tas	33	25	223	Qld	3	7	25
1924	ILC	Hobart	SA	11	10	76	Tas	3	10	28

Year	Cat.	Venue		G	B	Pts		G	B	Pts
1924	ILC	Hobart	WA	13	5	83	Tas	5	14	44
1925	IL	Adelaide	SA	27	16	178	Tas	6	7	43
1926	IL	Melbourne	VFL	15	13	103	Tas	5	11	41
1927	ILC	Melbourne	NSW	13	11	89	Tas	12	14	86
1927	ILC	Melbourne	WA	12	16	88	Tas	12	15	87
1927	ILC	Melbourne	SA	20	23	143	Tas	14	24	108
1927	ILC	Melbourne	VFL	24	11	155	Tas	13	12	90
1930	ILC	Adelaide	SA	15	22	112	Tas	5	11	41
1930	ILC	Adelaide	VFL	22	20	152	Tas	7	8	50
1930	ILC	Adelaide	NSW	18	15	123	Tas	6	12	48
1930	ILC	Adelaide	WA	20	6	126	Tas	10	7	67
1930	ILC	Adelaide	Tas	18	13	121	Qld	10	16	76
1932	IL	Hobart	VFL	20	16	136	Tas	16	6	102
1933	ILC	Sydney	Tas	31	29	215	Qld	12	5	77
1933	ILC	Sydney	VFL	24	16	160	Tas	15	10	100
1933	ILC	Sydney	NSW	20	12	132	Tas	15	17	107
1933	ILC	Sydney	Tas	21	11	137	Qld	7	14	56
1947	ILC	Hobart	Tas	22	26	158	Qld	6	8	44
1947	ILC	Hobart	Tas	21	10	136	Can	9	6	60
1947	ILC	Hobart	Tas	16	10	106	NSW	13	18	96
1947	ILC	Hobart	WA	17	24	126	Tas	11	12	78
1950	IL	Sydney	Tas	23	16	154	NSW	13	17	95
1950	ILC	Brisbane	Tas	14	7	91	VFA	9	15	69
1950	ILC	Brisbane	SA	13	14	92	Tas	8	11	59
1950	ILC	Brisbane	VFL	16	11	107	Tas	8	7	55
1950	ILC	Brisbane	WA	11	12	78	Tas	11	5	71
1951	IL	Hobart	VFA	26	15	171	Tas	12	11	83
1953	ILC	Adelaide	VFA	11	18	84	Tas	5	11	41
1953	ILC	Adelaide	VFL	22	20	152	Tas	2	8	20
1953	ILC	Adelaide	SA	19	13	127	Tas	17	15	117
1953	ILC	Adelaide	WA	12	19	91	Tas	5	7	37
1954	ILC	Hobart	Tas	16	21	117	AA	11	10	76
1955	IL	Sydney	Tas	21	18	144	NSW	7	12	54
1955	IL	Canberra	Tas	20	19	139	ACT	9	7	61
1956	ILC	Perth	WA	14	19	103	Tas	11	14	80
1956	ILC	Perth	Tas	27	22	184	VFA	12	12	84
1956	ILC	Perth	VFL	22	19	151	Tas	14	6	90
1956	ILC	Perth	Tas	10	20	80	SA	8	19	67
1957	IL	Hobart	SA	19	13	127	Tas	17	10	112

Year	Cat.	Venue		G	B	Pts		G	B	Pts
1957	IL	Hobart	VFL	15	17	107	Tas	13	14	92
1958	ILC	Melbourne	VFA	15	12	102	Tas	13	16	94
1958	ILC	Melbourne	Tas	13	16	94	WA	11	12	78
1958	ILC	Melbourne	Tas	11	18	84	SA	11	16	82
1958	ILC	Melbourne	VFL	25	14	164	Tas	8	14	62
1959	IL	Devonport	VFL	17	17	119	Tas	9	10	64
1959	IL	Hobart	WA	25	15	165	Tas	13	16	94
1960	IL	Launceston	Tas	13	13	91	VFL	12	12	84
1960	IL	Adelaide	SA	22	16	148	Tas	12	11	83
1961	IL	Hobart	Tas	17	12	114	VFA	11	25	91
1961	ILC	Brisbane	VFL	20	30	150	Tas	12	17	89
1961	ILC	Brisbane	WA	24	23	167	Tas	10	6	66
1961	ILC	Brisbane	SA	15	17	107	Tas	14	16	100
1962	IL	Devonport	VFA	12	15	87	Tas	12	9	81
1962	IL	Hobart	VFL	11	19	85	Tas	5	13	43
1963	IL	Perth	Tas	9	10	64	WA	6	13	49
1963	IL	Adelaide	SA	18	29	137	Tas	5	1	31
1964	IL	Launceston	VFA	14	11	95	Tas	10	8	68
1964	IL	Hobart	WA	24	15	159	Tas	5	7	37
1965	IL	Devonport	SA	16	26	122	Tas	7	12	54
1965	IL	Hobart	SA	14	24	108	Tas	16	6	102
1965	IL	Melbourne	VFA	12	11	83	Tas	11	10	76
1966	ILC	Hobart	VFL	26	24	180	Tas	11	13	79
1966	ILC	Hobart	Tas	19	27	141	VFA	7	11	53
1966	ILC	Hobart	WA	17	13	115	Tas	16	10	106
1966	ILC	Hobart	SA	14	7	91	Tas	9	13	67
1967	IL	Hobart	VFL	13	16	94	Tas	11	11	77
1968	IL	Launceston	VFA	19	15	129	Tas	18	8	116
1969	ILC	Adelaide	VFL	23	21	159	Tas	10	26	86
1969	ILC	Adelaide	SA	21	22	148	Tas	12	18	90
1969	ILC	Adelaide	WA	28	24	192	Tas	12	7	79
1970	IL	Hobart	Tas	18	10	118	WA	17	14	116
1971	IL	Hobart	SA	17	14	116	Tas	12	12	84
1972	ILC	Perth	VFL	32	22	214	Tas	4	8	32
1972	ILC	Perth	WA	17	22	124	Tas	12	7	79
1972	ILC	Perth	SA	22	24	156	Tas	9	12	66
1973	IL	Hobart	VFL	11	23	89	Tas	8	6	54
1975	ILC	Melbourne	SA	17	16	118	Tas	8	11	59
1975	IL	Brisbane	Qld	16	29	125	Tas	16	7	103

Year	Cat.	Venue		G	B	Pts		G	B	Pts
1976	IL	Sydney	NSW	18	23	131	Tas	18	13	121
1976	IL	Hobart	Tas	21	19	145	Qld	14	15	99
1977	IL	Hobart	VFL	24	28	172	Tas	9	9	63
1978	IL	Brisbane	Qld	16	9	105	Tas	12	11	83
1978	IL	Canberra	ACT	17	7	109	Tas	16	9	105
1978	IL	Hobart	VFL	25	11	161	Tas	18	6	114
1979	IL	Hobart	VFL	26	21	177	Tas	8	14	62
1979	SOC	Perth	Tas	17	20	122	Qld	13	12	90
1979	SOC	Perth	WA	23	23	161	Tas	9	10	64
1979	SOC	Perth	SA	22	20	152	Tas	17	11	113
1980	IL	Ulverstone	Qld	15	17	107	Tas	9	13	67
1980	SOC	Adelaide	SA	22	18	150	Tas	8	13	61
1980	SOC	Adelaide	WA	17	23	125	Tas	12	18	90
1981	EC	Hobart	ACT	17	4	106	Tas	11	12	78
1981	IL	Hobart	VFL	31	20	206	Tas	16	12	108
1982	ILC	Hobart	Tas	17	14	116	ACT	11	13	79
1982	ILC	Hobart	Tas	20	10	130	NSW	11	19	85
1982	ILC	Hobart	Tas	18	10	118	Qld	14	19	103
1983	ILC	Hobart	Tas	26	21	177	NSW	13	9	87
1983	ILC	Hobart	Qld	13	23	101	Tas	12	24	96
1983	ILC	Canberra	Tas	15	24	114	ACT	15	9	99
1984	ILC	Sydney	Tas	15	9	99	NSW	11	7	73
1984	ILC	Hobart	Qld	16	15	111	Tas	13	12	90
1984	ILC	Hobart	Tas	24	12	156	ACT	14	6	90
1985	ILC	Hobart	Tas	24	16	160	ACT	16	16	112
1985	ILC	Hobart	Tas	22	11	143	NSW	19	14	128
1985	ILC	Brisbane	Qld	23	17	155	Tas	9	5	59
1986	ILC	Canberra	ACT	19	15	129	Tas	14	10	94
1986	ILC	Hobart	Tas	28	15	183	NSW	18	6	114
1986	ILC	Hobart	Tas	28	12	180	Qld	9	14	68
1987	ILC	Hobart	Tas	16	30	126	Qld	9	13	67
1987	ILC	Hobart	Tas	14	8	92	ACT	11	16	82
1987	ILC	Melbourne	VFA	19	18	132	Tas	16	7	103
1988	SOC	Adelaide	NT	19	20	134	Tas	11	8	74
1988	SOC	Adelaide	Tas	11	16	82	Qld	10	10	70
1988	IL	Hobart	Tas	11	12	78	VFA	7	16	58
1988	IL	Hobart	Qld	13	16	94	Tas	11	9	75
1989	SO	Hobart	Vic	25	13	163	Tas	15	17	107
1989	ILC	Burnie	ACT	12	2	74	Tas	8	12	60

Year	Cat.	Venue		G	B	Pts		G	B	Pts
1989	ILC	Launceston	AA	11	7	73	Tas	11	2	68
1989	ILC	Hobart	Tas	17	11	113	NSW	8	16	64
1990	SO	Hobart	Tas	20	14	134	Vic	14	17	101
1991	SO	Hobart	Vic	17	14	116	Tas	14	20	104
1993	SO	Hobart	Qld/ NT	16	14	110	Tas	10	16	76
1994	IL	Brisbane	Qld	18	18	126	Tas	10	10	70
1995	IL	Hobart	Tas	14	15	99	SA	12	12	84
1996	IL	Melbourne	VFL	15	18	108	Tas	13	8	86
1997	IL	Hobart	Tas	19	6	120	WA	10	13	73
1998	IL	Hobart	Tas	13	10	88	VFL	6	17	53
1999	IL	Kalgoorlie	WA	20	12	132	Tas	10	14	74
2007	IL	Hobart	Qld	13	7	85	Tas	10	14	74

Intrastate Championships: Regional rivalry is probably more intense in Tasmania than in any other Australian state. The first North versus South match took place as early as 1883, before the North even had its own Controlling Body. Matches between the two regions continued almost annually until 1950, with the northern team comprising players from the Launceston-based Northern Tasmanian Football Association, and the southerners hailing from the Hobart-based Southern Tasmanian Football Association (later renamed the Tasmanian Football League, and later still the Tasmanian Australian National Football League). Meanwhile, football was rapidly gaining in strength in the north-west of Tasmania. As early as 1907, a North-West combination defeated the NTFA both home and away, and the establishment in 1910 of the North-West Football Union effectively gave Tasmania three top level competitions of broadly equivalent strength. Intrastate clashes involving the NTFA, NWFU and TFL rapidly became eagerly anticipated highlights of each football season, as the size of the crowds which typically attended them proved. In 1921, for example, an NTFA record attendance of 9,000 turned up at York Park to see the home side lose a nail-biting affair

against the TFL by 5 points. The following year, in Hobart, a state record crowd of 11,000 witnessed the TFL's 10.19 (79) to 7.10 (52) defeat of the NTFA, but two years later a new high of 12,000 was registered at Burnie as the NWFU saw off the challenge of the southern city slickers to the tune of 16 points.

Despite the continuing popularity of these matches through the 1930s and 1940s, it was not until 1951, and the introduction of the Commonwealth Jubilee Cup, that the participating teams could be said to be competing for anything other than pride. Formalising the competition only served to heighten and intensify the rivalry, and during the 1950s and '60s in particular the intrastate championship series regularly gave rise to some of the season's most stirring and emotion-charged encounters. Moreover, the matches provided the Tasmanian interstate selectors with an ideal barometer of players' ability to perform at a level of football approximating to state standard. It may be entirely coincidental, and even if not there were undoubtedly other factors at work, but it is worth noting that Tasmania's post-war heyday as a football power coincided almost exactly with the peak years of its intrastate championship series. (If performances in

interstate matches are taken as a convenient yardstick of a state's standing in the game it is clear that Tasmania's was at an all time high between the mid-1950s and early 1970s, a period in which the intrastate series provided an undoubted highlight of each football season. During this decade and a half the Tasmanian state team enjoyed many noteworthy successes, including a first ever win over the VFL, three defeats of Western Australia, including one in Perth, and two carnival victories against South Australia.) When the series was finally abandoned in the mid-1980s an extremely significant, indeed unique, feature of the Tasmanian football landscape was demolished, and the sport of Australian football was all the poorer for it.

Championship winners:

1951	TANFL
1952	TANFL
1953	NWFU
1954	NWFU
1955	NWFU
1956	TANFL
1957	<i>Not held</i>
1958	TANFL
1959	NWFU
1960	NWFU
1961	TANFL
1962	NWFU
1963	NWFU
1964	NTFA
1965	TANFL
1966	NTFA
1967	TANFL
1968	NWFU
1969	TANFL
1970	TANFL
1971	TANFL
1972	<i>Not held</i>
1973	NWFU
1974	<i>Not held</i>
1975	TANFL
1976	TANFL
1977	NWFU
1978	TANFL

1979	TANFL
1980	<i>Not held</i>
1981	<i>Not held</i>
1982	<i>Not held</i>
1983	<i>Not held</i>
1984	TANFL

Summary Of Wins: 15 TANFL; 10 NWFU; 2 NTFA

J

JOHNSON, BOB 'TASSIE': After two seasons in the NTFA with North Launceston, where he played mostly as a forward, Bob Johnson was forced to stand out of football for the whole of 1958 while seeking a clearance to VFL club Melbourne. Once the clearance formalities were out of the way Johnson was swiftly re-moulded by the Demons into one of the VFL's top defenders. At full back in Melbourne's 1959 and 1960 premiership teams, 'Tassie' (as he was called to distinguish him from the other two Johnsons at the club, 'Big Bob' and Trevor) had moved to the back pocket by the time of the 1964 flag win. His coolness under pressure, strength, good judgement and superb drop kicking made him equally successful in either position. A regular VFL representative between 1960 and 1967, Johnson showed his versatility later in his career when, with Melbourne's fortunes in decline, he embarked on frequent stints on the ball or in the forward lines in bids to lift his teammates by example. In his final VFL season, 1969, this inspirational quality to his play was formally recognised when he was appointed club captain, only for the Demons to suffer the rare indignity of a wooden spoon, their first since 1951. 'Tassie' Johnson's VFL career thus came to a somewhat ignominious end, but he had accomplished more than enough in earlier seasons to be remembered with affection and esteem as one of Tasmanian football's greatest exports.

Johnson ended his playing career as captain-coach of VFA second division side Box Hill in 1971.

In 2004 he was selected at full back in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century'.

JONES, PETER 'PERCY': Invariably known as 'Percy' rather than by his given name of Peter, Jones was an indefatigably exuberant footballer who became something of a folk hero at Carlton, where he spent

no fewer than fifteen seasons as player and coach. Originally from Tasmania, he crossed to the mainland after an excellent 1965 season which saw him represent his state against the VFA in Melbourne, and put in a near best afield performance for his club, North Hobart, in a losing grand final against Glenorchy. Jones's VFL debut with Carlton was delayed until round 16 the following year after he was seriously injured in a car accident, but once he had secured his place there was no looking back. For much of his 249 game league career he was the Blues' second ruckman, spending the majority of his time in a forward pocket where his uninhibited displays of exhilaration after kicking a goal became something of a trademark. Jones played his best football between 1972 and 1974 when given the responsibility of leading the team's rucks. He was one of Carlton's best in its 1972 grand final defeat of Richmond, and the following year saw him voted the club's best and fairest player. Jones also played in premiership sides in 1968, 1970 and 1979, as well as in the grand final losses of 1969 and 1973. In 1977 he had the satisfaction of helping a VFL representative side to a 24.28 (172) to 9.9 (63) massacre of his home state in Hobart. His last league game was the 1979 grand final victory over Collingwood, and the following season saw him assume the coaching reins at the club. He lasted just one year in the role, however, as the Blues' capitulation in the finals after a strong home and away series was not well received by the club's committee, which replaced him with David Parkin. As if to demonstrate that there were no hard feelings, 'Percy' Jones later became a Carlton committee member himself.

Despite playing only very briefly with the club, in August 2000 Jones was included in North Hobart's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

K

KELLEHER, DENNIS: Popularly known as 'Dinny', Kelleher was a solidly built, hard-as-nails follower who relished the heavy going. He began with Carlton in 1927 and played 55 VFL games over the next six years before crossing to South Melbourne. In his first season there he combined with Jack Bissett and Terry Brain to give the southerners arguably the best first ruck combination in the league. In any case, it was good enough to help secure a premierships in 1933, and to keep the club at the forefront of the game for the ensuing three seasons, in all of which Kelleher featured strongly. He left South at the end of the 1936 season having added another 59 VFL games to his tally. Between 1939 and 1941, he captain-coached City in the NTFA, steering the club to premierships in 1939 and 1940. His final involvement in top level football came in 1946 when served as non-playing coach of North Hobart.

KERMANDIE (Liverpool)

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 1998

Home Ground: Kermandie Oval

Club Address: P.O. Box 80, Geeveston , Tasmania 7116

Formed: 1887 as Liverpool Football Club

Colours: Navy blue and red (initially black and red, then, at various times, red, blue and gold, and royal blue and white)

Emblem: Robins (formerly, at various times, Crows, Bushrangers and Kangaroos)

Senior Grade Premierships: Huon Football Association (HFA) - 1897, 1905, 1910-11, 1916, 1919-20, 1924, 1927, 1929-30, 1934, 1936-7, 1939, 1946, 1949, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1961, 1965, 1969, 1993, 1995-6 (26 total); SthFL - 2000 (1 total); Regional League - 2005, 2007 (2 total)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: Andrew Nash 2007 (1 total)

Most Games: 400 by Shane O'Neil

Formed in March 1887 as the Liverpool Football Club, Kermandie went on to enjoy a long and fruitful membership of the Huon Football Association, earning the first of a total of twenty-six premierships in its debut season, and ultimately vying with Cygnet as the competition's most successful side. The club's second known premierships (records for the early years are incomplete) arrived in 1905, and its twenty-sixth came by means of a 7 point grand final win over Franklin in 1996. Kermandie entered the Southern Football League in 1998, but endured a quite horrendous time at first, winning just 1 of 18 matches in its debut season en route to the ignominy of a wooden spoon. There was marginal improvement in 1999, but the side still finished a long way off the pace with just 4 wins for the year. However, the 2000 season saw the Bushrangers, as they were then known, shocking everyone by surging up the ladder to qualify for the finals in second place, just a win behind minor premier and former Statewide Football League club Hobart. Once the finals got underway, Kermandie struck a rich vein of form that culminated in a convincing 13.11 (89) to 8.11 (59) grand final defeat of another former Statewide club in New Norfolk.

After the SthFL split into two divisions in 2002 Kermandie competed in the Regional League, breaking through for a flag in its fourth season with a thrilling 6 point grand final win over arch rival, and reigning premier, Cygnet. In 2006 the side bowed out at the preliminary final stage against Sorrell. It then returned to the winners' enclosure with a hard fought 16.13 (109) to 15.9 (99) grand final defeat of Huonville in 2007.

From 2009 Kermandie will be competing in a newly constituted single division SthFL.

King Island Football Association: The KIFA was formed in 1910 and has seen a total of seven clubs competing at various stages. However, it currently comprises just three clubs: Currie, Grassy and North.



Fred Langford

LANGFORD, FREDERICK: Combining coolness with considerable assurance and skill, Fred Langford - invariably known as 'Dickie' - commenced his senior career with Hobart club Railway, where his prowess quickly came to the attention of a number of mainland clubs. In 1894, he was enticed to cross the Bass Strait by Collingwood, with whom he immediately impressed as a player of the highest calibre. However, after a game against Port Melbourne midway through the year he was suspected of having accepted a bribe to 'play dead', and amidst a welter of acrimony on the part of the club's supporters, he was told to pack his bags and return home, partly at least for his own safety.

The following season saw Langford resuming his football career, which was to

last for another eighteen seasons without any further controversy, with his original club, Railway. He later spent time with Glenorchy (Not to be confused with the later club of the same name which emerged from the New Town Football Club), Wellington, where he oversaw premierships in 1903-4, and North Hobart, which won a flag during his first season in 1908. Langford's peak years as a player were the early 1900s, and in 1903 he was voted the best all round player in the STFA.

LATROBE

Affiliated: Junior competitions, notably the NWFL, between 1881 and 1909; NWFU 1910-86; NTFL 1987-present

Club Address: P.O. Box 80, Latrobe 7307, Tasmania

Home Ground: Darrel Baldock Oval

Formed: 1881

Colours: Navy blue and red (formerly royal blue and red)

Emblem: Demons (formerly Diehards)

Premierships: 1891-2, 1907, 1913, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1930-1, 1933, 1969-70-1-2 (15 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1970 (1 total)

Cheel Medallists: Nil

Royal Medallists: Nil

Wander Medallists: Dave Jeffrey 1948; Peter Gillam 1952; Joe Murphy 1956; Darrel Baldock 1959 & 1969; Wally Clark 1964; Len Lawson 1965; Bob Hickman 1966 & 1967; Brian Waters 1968; John Jillard 1970-71 (9 Medallists/10 Medals)

All Australians: Darrel Baldock 1961 (1 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: H.Hicks (N/A) 1920, (N/A) 1921 & (39) 1922; N.Horne (71) 1937, (61) 1938 & (84) 1939; A.Cole (97) 1965; R.Gilham (83) 1970; T.Honner (85) 1986 (9 total)

NFL Top Goalkickers: M.Williams (132) 1989; T.Keays (117) 1994; S.French (42) 2000 (3 total)

Highest Score: 38.22 (250) vs. Penguin 9.6 (60) in round 8 2004

Most Games: 324 by Rod Butler

Its population may only be in the region of 2,500, but on a per capita basis Latrobe's contribution to the sport of Australian football is second to none. A total of fifteen senior premierships plus one state flag is creditable enough, but when one peruses a list of some of the illustrious names to have taken the field over the years wearing the Diehards' navy and red jumper one's admiration increases still further. Along with regular Tasmanian interstate representatives like Joe Murphy, Len Lawson and Vin Waite, and dual Wander Medallists in Bob Hickman and John Jillard, Latrobe has been home to three champions who would have to be accorded legendary status regardless of either the era or the company. Of these, Ivor Warne-Smith and Darrel Baldock have both acquired Australia-wide reputations, but the third member of the trio, Harry Coventry, despite being less well known, loses nothing in comparison, and might lay some claim to being Latrobe's favourite son.

Born in 1884, Harry Coventry was an all round sportsman of prodigious excellence, accomplishing noteworthy feats in cycling, boxing, tennis, cricket, athletics, snooker and billiards in addition to football. However, it is for his exploits with the leather that he is best remembered. Aged just thirteen when he made his debut for Latrobe, he was still making sporadic appearances for the club some thirty years later. "Although of small build his ability to kick either feet, turn both ways and pass accurately made him a champion"¹ and it was not long before his talent began to attract notice from across the Bass Strait. However, despite receiving a number of offers, notably

from Collingwood, St Kilda and South Melbourne, he remained loyal to coastal football throughout his career, playing briefly for Mersey and Launceston as well as his home town club. He was also a prominent and regular member of both coastal and northern representative teams, although sadly the bulk of his career took place at a time when coastal footballers were not normally considered for interstate selection.

Formed on 19 June 1881, the Latrobe Football Club had already firmly established itself on the north west coastal football scene when Harry Coventry began his career. By the time that career was over, the Diehards were arguably the strongest team in the region.

After spending most of its formative phase in the NWFL, in 1910 Latrobe, along with Mersey, Wesley Vale, Ulverstone and Penguin, became a founder member of the NWFU, where it was to remain until the competition was disbanded at the end of the 1986 season. The club contested its first NWFU grand final in 1911, losing heavily to Mersey, before breaking through for its first flag two years later.

Coastal football went into recess because of World War One in 1916 and did not resume until after the devastating influenza outbreak of 1919. When it did resume, Latrobe was very much to the fore, contesting all five grand finals between 1920 and 1924 for three premierships, and adding another flag in 1926. It was similarly prominent during the first four years of the 1930s, winning pennants in 1930, 1931 and 1933, and finishing second in 1932.² A further losing grand final followed in 1939, but the quarter of a century or so following the resumption of football after the second world war in 1945 proved to be an unusually dismal time for Latrobe. Not even the arrival from East Devonport in 1959 of a new captain-coach by the name of Darrel John Baldock could spark an improvement in fortunes.

It would not be until Baldock's return from a seven season stint with St Kilda in 1969 that the Diehards would, at long last, return to pre-eminence. That the club already possessed a nucleus of highly accomplished players was not in doubt - indeed, Latrobe players would, incredibly, win every Wander Medal on offer between 1964 and 1971 - but such talent was worthless unless it could be properly harnessed. With 119 VFL games under his belt, many of them as the Saints' captain, Darrel Baldock was perfectly equipped and qualified to mould talented individuals like John Jillard, Bob Hickman, Denis 'Mary' Smith, Ken Luxmoore and Rod Butler into a consistently winning combination. Between 1969 and 1972 Latrobe established an all time league record by winning four premierships in succession.³ The only real disappointment during this period was the club's failure to perform better in contests for the state premiership; given the abundance of talent available, a record of just one state flag from four attempts has to be regarded as disappointing.

When the structure of Tasmanian football underwent a drastic overhaul at the end of the 1986 season, Latrobe found itself in the newly formed Northern Tasmanian Football League where, after a somewhat inglorious start (a success rate of just 29.3% in its first six seasons), it has established itself as a key member of the competition, albeit without, as yet, a premiership.⁴

Whatever the future holds, Latrobe Football Club's legacy is already unique, significant, and worthy of much greater attention and celebration than it is likely to receive.

Footnotes

1 *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979* by Ken Pinchin, page 166.

2 In 1931, after Devonport's withdrawal left the

competition with just three participating clubs, Latrobe fielded two separate teams - Latrobe Town and Latrobe Country - during roster matches, only to combine once again for the finals.

3 The record had previously been held jointly by Ulverstone (3 wins between 1955 and 1957) and Burnie (3 wins 1958-60).

4 The Demons, as they are now known, have twice reached the grand final, losing on both occasions to Ulverstone, by 24 points in 1994, and by 34 points in 2000.

LAUDERDALE

Current Affiliation: Tasmanian Football League (TFL) since 2009

Club Address: Lauderdale Oval, 10 Donna Street, Lauderdale

Formed: c. 1948

Home Ground: Lauderdale Oval

Colours: Black and red

Emblem: Bombers (formerly Cats)

Senior Grade Premierships: TAFLSD - 1991 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Walter Howard Medal - Leigh Franklin 1994 (1 total)

Most Games: 464 by Matthew Coulson

A founder member of the Southern Football League in 1996, Lauderdale's early years in that competition were scarcely memorable. In the six years between 1996 and 2001 the side managed a success rate of just 30.2%, but in 2002, following the reorganisation of the competition into two divisions, Lauderdale began to show signs of improvement. In 2003 the team reached the grand final, and although beaten by Cygnet it was successful in its application to join the SFL's premier division.

If the team perhaps lacks the talent to succeed in the short term, over the longer term it would be foolhardy to bet against it. With a full complement of junior teams from under eight to under fifteen competing in

the Southern Tasmanian Junior Football League, the Bombers are meticulously preparing for the future, as indeed they have been doing for some time. For example, in 1998 the club upgraded the lighting at Lauderdale Oval to enable it to play roster matches at home, the first SFL club to do so. If ambition and foresight count for anything, the Bombers will soon be making their mark on the Tasmanian football scene.

Lauderdale's only senior grade premiership to date was won in 1991 in the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League.

LAUNCESTON

Current Affiliation: Tasmanian Football League (TFL) since 2009

Club Address: P.O. Box 1277, Launceston 7250, Tasmania

Home Ground: Windsor Park, Riverside

Formed: 1875 (merged with Tamar Rowing Club in 1888)

Colours: Navy blue and white

Emblem: Blues

Premierships: 1888-9, 1892-3-4, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1909, 1913, 1920, 1924, 1926, 1929, 1933-4-5-6-7-8, 1940, 1945, 1951, 1969, 1976, 1985, 2006-7-8 (29 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1933-4-5, 1937-8 (5 total)

Tasman Shield Trophy winners: Neil Edwards 1928; Jim Milbourne 1929; K.W. 'Bill' Cahill 1933 & 1936; Tom Ryan 1939; Lance Crosswell 1946 & 1947; Darrell Crosswell 1951; R. 'Bob' Bye 1959 & 1960 (7 winners/10 wins)

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: Alby Dunn 1968; Paul Ellis 1976; Grant Alford 1980; Darren Cook 1986 (4 total)

Baldock Medallists: A.Sanders 2003; A.Taylor 2004; B.Finch 2005 (3 total)

All Australians: Graeme 'Gypsy' Lee 1966 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: H.Murray (9) 1889; P.Tabart (9) 1892; R.Lawrence

(11) 1893 & (12) 1894; J.Gorman (16) 1896; P.Bird (15) 1900; S.Willett (8) 1905; V.Valentine (12) 1906; A.Ramsay (6) & R.Thomas (6) 1911; B.Freeland (25) 1925; J.Foley (70) 1930 & (52) 1931; H.Ranson (62) 1933; A.Waddle (44) 1935; L.Smith (59) 1937 & (73) 1938; M.Flood (71) 1945; R.McCrimmon (102) 1948, (83) 1949, (76) 1950 & (55) 1951; C.Tabe (67) 1955; D.Seen (50) 1967; A.West (65) 1969 & (50) 1970; R.Smith (94) 1976 & (63) 1977; I.Donnachy (63) 1978 & (78) 1982 (30 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: A.Derbyshire (93) 2005, (133) 2006 & (135) 2008 (3 total)

Highest Score: 29.20 (194) vs. Burnie Tigers 15.8 (98) in 1991

Most Games: 252 by Paul Ellis from 1973 to 1985

The history of Australian football in Tasmania dates back to the 1860s. In 1867 a committee was established in Launceston to oversee the Victorian code in that city, but initially at least it would seem that the sport was only played on a social basis.

The Launceston Football Club was formed in 1875, making it the oldest club in Tasmania, but it was not until 1882, and the establishment of the Northern Football Association, that organised football can genuinely be said to have commenced.¹ This inaugural Association only lasted four years before being replaced in 1886 by the Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA), which would endure until the inception of a Tasmanian statewide competition precisely a hundred years later.

Launceston was one of three senior clubs to participate in the NTFA in its initial year, but one of the other clubs, Longford, was involved in a dispute with the association which eventually led to its withdrawal from the competition in July. This left Launceston to compete - unsuccessfully as it transpired - with City

for the inaugural NTFA flag; Launceston thus achieved the rare 'double' of a wooden spoon and a runners-up berth in the same year.

In 1887 the competition expanded to four clubs with the admission of South Launceston² and Tamar Rowing Club, and the following year Launceston and Tamar Rowing Club combined forces, winning the first of two consecutive premierships.

The 1890s was a depressed period economically, and this inevitably had an inimical effect on football. By the middle of the decade the NTFA was in dire straits, and only two clubs - Launceston and Fitzroy - contested the 1896 season. In 1900 the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association stepped in and undertook control of the competition, an arrangement which lasted until 1914.

Launceston provided a number of players for each of Tasmania's teams at the three pre-World War One Australian Football carnivals, and at Adelaide in 1911 it supplied two of the very best in the shape of Gordon Challis, who was awarded the Senator Keating Medal as Tasmania's outstanding player of the carnival, and A.D. ('Algy') Tynan, who was named at full back in an unofficial 'All Australian' side selected at the conclusion of championships.

Launceston was intermittently successful during the pre-war period, contesting eight grand finals between 1900 and 1914 for three flags. After winning the 1909 premiership, Launceston was involved in the first ever official play off to determine the Tasmanian state premiers, but lost to Cananore by 30 points in Hobart. Four years later it again qualified to meet Cananore in the state premiership decider but, dissatisfied with the umpire appointed to take charge of the game, refused to take the field. The state title was awarded to Cananore, and the TFL, as the official controlling body for football throughout the state of Tasmania,

suspended Launceston. It was not until midway through the 1914 season that this disqualification was finally lifted, by which time Launceston's fellow NTFA clubs, City and North Launceston, had effectively also undergone suspension (at least as far as the TFL was concerned) for agreeing to play against Launceston in roster matches. The entire affair left something of a bitter after taste, but by the time it was resolved events in Europe had begun to supplant mere sporting considerations in most people's minds.

During the early post-World War One phase the NTFA comprised three evenly matched clubs, Launceston, City and North Launceston, each of which secured two flags apiece between 1920 and 1925. In 1926 Longford re-entered the association after a forty year break but the other three clubs would continue to dominate for some time yet. Launceston won its thirteenth premiership that year and, in the state premiership play off against Cananore, was desperately unlucky to lose by 2 points after amassing 25 scoring shots to 17.

The Launceston teams of the 1930s were some of the finest ever to grace Tasmanian football ovals. With players like 'Bill' Cahill, Roy Cooper, Tom Ryan and Doug Wheeler to the fore, the side won six consecutive flags between 1933 and 1938. Only North Hobart in 1936 prevented what would have been an identical sequence of wins in the Tasmanian State premiership.

Success since the 1930s has proved considerably harder to achieve. The NTFA expanded to six clubs in 1948 with the admission of Cornwall (later East Launceston) and Scottsdale, and the balance of power tended to rest more heavily with the second of these newcomers, together with North Launceston and City/City-South, than it did with Tasmania's oldest club.

Launceston continued to provide a football home to a large number of accomplished players, such as the club's only official All Australian, Graeme 'Gypsy' Lee, Alby Dunn, Paul Vinar, Grant Alford, Paul Ellis and Wim Vaessan.

In 1994 the Blues entered the TFL statewide competition but in four seasons in what was by that stage a declining concern failed to make much of an impression, finishing last without a win in their debut season, last again with just 1 win in 1995, before improving marginally in 1996 (seventh out of eleven clubs) and 1997 (ninth out of eleven).

Since 1998 Launceston has participated in the NTFL. After a twenty-one year wait, the side finally broke through to record its twenty-seventh senior premiership victory in 2006 after impressively downing Devonport in the grand final. In front of a crowd of 5,192 at Latrobe, the final scoreboard showed Launceston 22.14 (146) defeated Devonport 13.11 (89).

A year later it was Ulverstone on the receiving end as the Blues claimed their first back to back premiership triumphs since the 1930s. Watched by a respectable crowd of almost 5,500 at Latrobe, Launceston had to battle hard for victory, with the Robins getting to within 4 points at one stage during the last term. However, the Blues were able to steady and pull away to record a 15 point triumph, 19.9 (123) to 16.12 (108).

Launceston made it a hat trick of flags in 2008 courtesy of a hard fought 13 point grand final defeat of Burnie Dockers. The Blues seemed wholly in control early but Burnie rallied and late in the final term managed to get within a couple of points. However, Launceston's professionalism and experience then came to the fore and a couple of quick goals made the game safe.

With Tasmania increasingly being treated as little better than a backwater by the powers which control the game it would seem that the best that can be hoped for in future by the Apple Island's oldest club is continued existence, interspersed with occasional high points like the 2006 and 2007 grand finals. However, once the current generation has disappeared, will anyone be left watching such events?

Footnotes

1 The Hobart-based Tasmanian Football Association, precursor of the T(AN)FL, was formed in 1879.

2 This was a short-lived club, not to be confused with the twentieth century outfit of the same name which was formed after a merger between City-South and East Launceston in 1986.

LAWRENCE, BARRY is widely remembered as one of the best VFL defenders of the late 1960s and early 1970s, but he actually began his career with Longford as a forward, and was selected as centre half forward in that club's official 'Team of the Century'. A member of Tasmania's carnival squad in 1966 Lawrence won the Hec Smith Memorial Medal the same year before leaving for the mainland, and an eight season career in the 'big time' with St Kilda, two years later.

Late in his first season with the Saints, after failing to perform at the expected standard as a forward, coach Allan Jeans tried him on the backlines, and a star was born. Lawrence was later again used in an attacking role - this time with success - on intermittent occasions.

In the 1971 VFL grand final Barry Lawrence put in one of the performances for which he is best remembered when, faced by fellow Taswegian Peter Hudson of Hawthorn, he barely made a mistake all

day in restricting the champion goalsneak to just 3 goals when 4 would have seen him break Bob Pratt's all time record of 150 VFL goals in a season. Sadly, Hudson had the last laugh, however, as the Hawks won the premiership.

After 128 games with St Kilda Lawrence returned to Longford in 1977 and continued to perform to a high standard. In 1978 and 1979 he captained Tasmania, taking his total number of Tasmanian interstate appearances to 14 in the process. He had also earlier represented the VFL in representative football. Sadly, however, when he finally retired from football it was without a senior premiership to his name.

In 2004, Barry Lawrence was named on a half back flank in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century'.

LEE, GRAEME: Best remembered as a wingman, but capable of playing in a variety of positions, including half forward flank and even full forward, Graeme 'Gypsy' Lee commenced his senior career with Wynyard towards the end of the 1956 season, shortly after his seventeenth birthday. He had played 43 games for the club by the time he crossed to the mainland in 1960 in order to join St Kilda where he added 19 senior games in an injury affected three season spell. He returned to Tasmania in 1963 and joined Launceston as captain-coach. Between that year and 1967 he kept the Blues among the leading clubs in the NTFA, albeit without securing a premiership. A regular Tasmanian interstate representative during this phase of his career, Lee captained the state in 1965 as well as at the 1966 Hobart carnival. It was at that carnival that he produced some of the best football of his career, earning plaudits as Tasmania's best player of the series, finishing joint third in the Tassie Medal voting, and gaining selection in the All Australian team. Pacy, clever and

a superb drop kick, he proved beyond doubt that, when fit, he could match it with the very best footballers from Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. In 1968, after 90 games for Launceston, Lee transferred to East Devonport as captain-coach, where he was immediately successful in steering the club to its first flag in twenty years. He remained with the Swans until 1975, playing a total of 127 NWFU games, and serving as captain-coach from 1968 to 1970 as well as in his last two seasons. In addition to his 279 senior club appearances, Lee represented Tasmania a total of 11 times, and played representative football for both the NTFA and the NWFU. In March 2001 he was selected on a half forward flank in Launceston's official 'Team of the Century'.

LEEDHAM, JOHN was the epitome of the socks down, no holds barred style of footballer whose every gesture seems to make a tangible contribution to the team effort. Known affectionately as 'John L.' Leedham represented Tasmania in the 1947, 1953 and 1958 carnivals, performing particularly creditably at Adelaide in 1953 when, despite a disastrous winless series, he was chosen as the sole Tasmanian representative in the inaugural All Australian team.

Throughout his career Leedham tended to save his best performances for games against top class opposition or when the pressure was at its highest. He captain-coached Tasmania to wins over both South Australia and Western Australia at the 1958 Melbourne carnival, and invariably outplayed his direct opponent whenever Tasmania clashed with the 'Big V'. Too outspoken to attract many votes from umpires, his contribution to his team was arguably more telling than that of many so called 'superstars'. In the classic style of Ron Barassi, Mal Brown, Neil Kerley and Ted Whitten,

Leedham was a 'stirrer', pre-eminently capable of unsettling an opponent by the use of psychological as much as physical methods of intimidation. Added to this he was a superbly gifted footballer who more than made up for what he lacked in grace and smoothness of movement with an innate, untutored knack of finding the ball and using it effectively.

In June 2004, John Leedham was named as vice-captain and first ruck-rover in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century'. The following year saw his induction as an inaugural legend in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

LEFROY

Affiliated: STFA 1898-1905; TANFL/TFL 1906-1944

Home Ground: Tasmanian Cricket Association Ground and North Hobart Oval

Formed: 1896

Colours: Dark and light blue

Emblem: Blues

Premierships: 1898-99, 1901, 1907, 1912, 1915, 1924, 1930, 1937 (9 total)
Tasmanian State Premierships - 1912 & 1924 (2 total)

W.R. Gill Memorial Trophy Winner:
E.R.Smith 1925 (1 total)

William Leitch Medallists: Nil

George Watt Memorial Medallists: Eric Zschech 1936, 1937* & 1939 (1 Medallist/3 Medals)

TFL Top Goalkickers: W.Abel (11) 1898; W.Facy (16) 1899; R.Hawson (18) 1901; A.Jones (17) 1912; A.Ringrose (18) 1915; R.Manson (42) 1921 & (41) 1922; T.Heathorn (101) 1934 (8 total)

Highest Score: 34.18 (222) vs. Cananore in 1934

Most Games: 212 by Gavin Luttrell

** the 1937 Medal was awarded retrospectively after Zschech was initially placed second on a countback*

Formed in 1898, at a time when interest in football in the Hobart area was at a low ebb, and the very continuation of the STFA was in doubt, Lefroy went on to become one of Tasmania's most successful football clubs until the emergence of district football in 1945 forced its demise.

Lefroy's success began at once, as it won all but 1 of its 9 games in 1898 to secure the premiership ahead of established club North Hobart. Playing an exciting brand of football, Lefroy was instrumental in enticing spectators back to the code, and it continued its dominance in 1899 when it again lost only 1 match en route to the premiership. In an unofficial state premiership clash with Launceston, Lefroy won easily, 10.12 (72) to 1.6 (12).

Lefroy's bid for three premierships in a row faltered at the last hurdle in 1900 when it lost to Wellington by 14 points in the season's decisive match. A year later it achieved revenge in conclusive style with a 52 point grand final annihilation of its 1900 conquerors, following this up with an unofficial state premiership win over Launceston, but the rapid improvement in the standard of Tasmanian football - brought about in large part by Lefroy's influence - was leading to a tougher, more evenly contested competition. Lefroy's losing grand final appearance against North Hobart was the closest the club would come to a premiership for five years.

In 1907, as record crowds flocked to games, Lefroy re-emerged as a power, narrowly overcoming North Hobart in the race for the flag, which was decided on total premiership points achieved, rather than by means of a finals system. In an unofficial state premiership encounter in Launceston, however, the Blues went under to City by 27 points.

With North Hobart and Lefroy finishing level on points at the end of the 1908 season a play off was necessary in order to determine the premiers. After a nail-biting confrontation, the scoreboard showed

Lefroy 4.6 (30) having tied with North Hobart 3.12 (30). The game captured the imagination of the football public, and when the replay took place it attracted a record crowd of 8,000, who were treated to another absorbing tussle which the Robins eventually won by 4 points.

Lefroy finished second again in 1909, losing the grand final against newcomers Cananore by 23 points. The TFL competition¹ at this period in time was contested by just three clubs - Lefroy, North Hobart and Cananore - but such was the evenness in standard between them that matches were well attended, and football's popularity was at an all time high.

Lefroy next broke through for a flag in 1912 when it overcame North Hobart 6.12 (48) to 3.12 (30) before securing its first official state premiership after "showing an excellent combination of pace and brilliance, with every member of the team working with clock-like precision and unbounded enthusiasm"² against NTFA premier North Launceston in Launceston. Lefroy won 8.9 (57) to the northerners' 4.10 (34).

With sides depleted because of the loss of players to the armed forces, Lefroy won its seventh premiership in 1915 after a closely contested season. In the grand final, it overcame Cananore 6.12 (48) to 3.5 (23).

Following New Town's admission in 1921, the TFL became a four club competition, and it would probably be fair to suggest that Lefroy's days as a pre-eminent league power were over. Nevertheless, it would still win a further three premierships before its eventual demise. The first of these came in 1924 when, on grand final day, it overcame both the opposition in the shape of Cananore and incessant, lashing rain in what, in spite of the atrocious weather, was described as "one of the most spectacular games in years".³ With the two sides having, earlier in the season, produced

a high scoring classic (won by Lefroy by 12 points), on this occasion it was a completely different brand of - equally exhilarating - football which had the crowd at fever pitch:

A heavy fall of rain greeted the first bounce of the ball and continued for an hour. Lefroy attacked vigorously and so systematically that 5 goals were scored before the attackers eased off. Cananore retaliated with a succession of attacks that gave it 2.3. A dribbled goal by Lefroy opened the 2nd quarter, then Cananore took a hand and fought like Britons. The Canaries lost many good positions owing to defective forward work and their shooting for goal was in marked contrast to the Lefroyites. The play was even, as the half time scores showed - Lefroy 6.2 to Cananore 3.6. The 3rd belonged to Cananore which attacked with remarkable determination. But the defence was too solid to do much damage. It was the best quarter of the day and both skippers were on the alert for weak spots. The scores bear out the solid nature of the play, for Lefroy scored 1 point to Cananore's 4. With a deficit of 11 points, Cananore faced a big task. Scores were: Lefroy 5.1, 6.2, 6.3, 8.3 (51); Cananore 2.3, 3.6, 3.10, 4.11 (35).⁴

A week after the grand final the Blues met visiting SANFL premier, West Torrens, losing an absorbing, high quality encounter by 19 points, before later going on to down NTFA premier Launceston by 4 points for the state title.

The remainder of the 1920s were dominated by Cananore and North Hobart, but in 1930 the Blues prevented what would have been a sequence of three consecutive premierships by the Robins when they won a gripping grand final by 18 points, 14.11 (95) to 10.17 (77). It was a vastly different story in the state grand final, however, as NTFA premier City, which boasted a youthful Laurie Nash in its line up, overwhelmed the Blues by 58 points, 14.10 (94) to 5.6 (36).

North Hobart was very much the pre-eminent force in the TFL for most of the 1930s, but Lefroy did manage one moment of glory, winning the Coronation year premiership in 1937. The Blues were clearly the strongest side in the competition that year, winning 11 and drawing 1 of their 15 roster matches before trouncing North Hobart 17.12 (114) to 9.15 (69) in the grand final. Once again, however, the state title proved elusive, with North Launceston playing the steadier football to win in the end by 21 points, 16.9 (105) to 12.12 (84).

Another highlight for Lefroy during the 1930s was a challenge match in 1935 against touring VFL club, Fitzroy, for whom the great Haydn Bunton senior booted 7 goals in a 16.11 (105) to 10.4 (64) win.

Lefroy again qualified for the TFL grand final in 1938 after a high standard 17.17 (119) to 15.19 (109) semi final defeat of Cananore. However, on grand final day North Hobart proved able to resist everything the Blues threw at them, ultimately edging home in a thriller by 12 points. Little could the spectators who watched the match have realised, first, that the TFL as they had known it since the early years of the twentieth century was on its last legs, and secondly that Lefroy was not only playing in its last ever senior grand final, but, within three years, would effectively no longer exist.

When world war two commenced in 1939 the TFL, in common with other major leagues around Australia, spluttered on for another couple of seasons, but from 1942 to 1944 it went into mothballs, along with its four constituent clubs. When the league re-opened for business in 1945 it was with a re-vamped, district-based structure that had no room for old style clubs like Lefroy and Cananore, which were replaced by Hobart and Sandy Bay. Applications for admission to the new competition from Bellerive (later Clarence) and New Norfolk were temporarily shelved, but later accepted.

Over the years, Lefroy provided an outlet for the talents of many excellent footballers, none of whom made a greater all round impact than games played record holder, Gavin Luttrell, winner of the club's last four best and fairest awards in succession, between 1937 and 1940. During the 1930s he was rated the best wingman in Tasmania. After Lefroy folded, he went on to play with both Longford and North Launceston, ultimately taking his career tally of games to more than 350.

All told, the Lefroy Football Club existed for less than half a century, and yet its impact on, and contribution to, Tasmanian football was significant, and deserves to be recalled with admiration and respect. In a sense, it helped lay the foundation for what might be described as Tasmanian football's 'golden era' of the 1950s and '60s, as well as providing a sobering reminder that, in football as in life, no amount of success can ever guarantee survival.

Footnotes

- 1 The STFA became known as the TFL in 1906.
- 2 *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979* by Ken Pinchin, page 55.
- 3 *Ibid.*, page 62.
- 4 *Ibid.*, pages 62-3.

LEITCH, ALLAN was the son of William Leitch, in whose honour the TANFL re-named its annual best and fairest player award in 1930. Somewhat ironically, Allan Leitch won the league's best and fairest trophy the very year before the name change. Two years later he finished runner-up to former Collingwood champion Albert Collier. There is little doubt that he would have won a number of club best and fairest awards had they been regularly on offer during his career.

Leitch's senior career began in 1922 with New Town, which was in only its second season in the TFL. He went on to

play 135 league games with the black and whites culminating in that runners-up spot in the 1931 Leitch Medal. In between, he embarked on two brief stints in the VFL: in 1925 he played 17 games with Carlton, primarily as a defender, and was also selected to represent the VFL on a couple of occasions; three years later he added another 4 VFL games with Hawthorn.

Allan Leitch's main virtue was his consistency; he could be relied on seldom to put in a bad game, whilst simultaneously ensuring that his direct opponent did. As such, he was invariably one of the first players selected in both state and TANFL representative teams. He played a total of 13 interstate matches for Tasmania, including the 1924 Hobart and 1930 Adelaide carnivals; that tally would have been even greater had he been able to travel to the Melbourne carnival in 1927, for which he was also selected. He also represented the league on 24 occasions, including the noteworthy win over a South Australian combination in Adelaide in 1923.

In the year 2000 Allan Leitch gained a berth in the back pocket in the official Glenorchy (formerly known as New Town) 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

LEO, TREVOR: One of the best of the many superb rovers to have graced Tasmanian football since world war two, Trevor Leo gave distinguished service to three clubs as well as representing Tasmania in the interstate arena 18 times, including games at the 1956, 1958 and 1961 carnivals. He began his career with Cooe in 1953, where he gave immediate evidence of his prowess by winning the club's best and fairest award. The following season saw him at Hobart, where he was a member of premiership teams in 1954, 1959 and 1960, won the 1957 William Leitch Medal, and was a dual winner of the club's best and fairest award. After 124 games for the Tigers he crossed to New Norfolk as captain-coach where, five years

later, he made history by steering the side to its first ever TANFL premiership courtesy of a 14.13 (97) to 9.14 (68) grand final defeat of North Hobart. The Eagles later downed Scottsdale to win their first and only Tasmanian state premiership, after which Leo retired as a player. He continued as non-playing coach of New Norfolk for one further season, and also coached the Tasmanian team at the 1969 Adelaide carnival. His last involvement in league football came as non-playing coach of his original club, Hobart, in 1974, but it proved to be an unsavoury finale as the Tigers, who were reigning premiers, missed the finals.

Trevor Leo, who away from football established a reputation as one of Tasmania's leading mathematicians, earned inclusion in both Hobart's official 'Greatest Team 1947 to 2002' and New Norfolk's equivalent combination for the period from 1947 to 2001.

Leven Football Association: Based in and around Ulverstone the LFA was established in 1924 and, eighty-five years later, it is still going strong. More than twenty different clubs have participated in the competition at some stage, with the most notable in terms of recurrent premiership success being Castra, Motton Rovers, Railton, Sprent and Turners Beach.

LINDISFARNE

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 1996

Home Ground: Anzac Park

Formed: 1911

Colours: Dark and light blue

Emblem: Two Blues

Senior Grade Premierships: Clarence Football Association (CFA) - 1924 (1 total); TAFLSD - 1957, 1982, 1989 (3 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1957,

1989 (2 total); TAFLSD Districts - 1982 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Walter Howard Medal - Ron Marney 1956-7; Phil Molineaux 1977-8; John Kulpers 1983; Paul Arnol 1993 (4 Medallists/6 Medals)

Peter Hodgman Medallists: T.Blanden 1997 (1 total)

Most Games: 320 by Bill Marney

The Lindisfarne Football Club was a founder member in 1996 of the SthFL. After showing promise by reaching the finals in its first couple of seasons, however, the club has found life difficult. Indeed, in 1999 and 2000 the Two Blues failed to win a single match. Nevertheless, the club boasts excellent facilities, as well as a strong membership base, and these two factors combined with a strong sense of tradition could well help bolster the team's level of performance in the near future.

In 2006 the Two Blues suggested that they were beginning to flex their muscles when they qualified for the finals, ultimately finishing fourth. However, they proved unable to build on this, and a 10-8 record in 2007 was only good enough for sixth place.

The 2008 season ought really to have produced the club's first ever Regional League flag but despite dominating the competition almost all year there was an inexplicable sting in the tail as Huonville defeated them in the grand final by 37 points. The Two Blues entered the grand final as almost unbackable favourites having won their previous 19 matches, but they wilted under pressure in the final term and a season's hard and impressive work was ruined.

Lindisfarne's pre-SthFL existence stretched back to before the first world war and the club won its first senior grade premiership in 1924 in the Clarence Football Association, where it competed for several seasons in the 1920s. Most of the Two Blues' success arrived after world war two,

however. In 1957 they procured the coveted 'double' of southern and state amateur premierships, beating Ogilvenians by 42 points to clinch the former, and overcoming northern premier Old Launcestonians by 9 points in the play-off for the latter.

The 1980s proved to be a particularly productive decade for Lindisfarne. In 1982 the TAFLSD was divided into Districts and Old Scholars sections, with the two section winners playing off for the Divisional premiership. The Two Blues duly won the Districts grand final against Claremont, and then beat Old Hobartians for the Southern Division flag. They went under to Old Launcestonians in the state title decider, however.

In 1989 they again claimed the double, scraping home by 4 points against Claremont in the local grand final before trouncing Longford by 61 points for the state title. Lindisfarne's most recent senior grade grand final appearance prior to 2008 came in 1992, but resulted in defeat against Claremont by 34 points.

LITTLER, HAROLD 'JOE': When 'Joe' Littler played his last game with Wynyard in 1932 he was fifty-one years of age, making him one of the oldest senior footballers ever. He commenced his career as a sixteen year old with Launceston in 1897, playing in a premiership team in his first season. Two years later, having relocated to Devonport, he captained Mersey to a flag - quite a remarkable feat considering he was still just eighteen years of age.

Further flags with Mersey followed in 1901 and 1902 before Littler spent the 1903 season with South Melbourne, playing 10 VFL games. He returned to Mersey the next year, and was a member of another flag-winning team in 1905.

In 1908, Littler moved back to Launceston, this time as captain, and was selected in Tasmania's team for the Melbourne carnival. Somewhat strangely, he elected to spend the following season as an

umpire before resuming as a player, this time with City, in 1910. City won the premierships that season, but Littler was on the move again at the end of the year, this time to Wynyard, where he would enjoy his longest stint in senior football. That stint elicited three further premierships, and was broken only by a season with Yeoman, as captain, in 1924. During his two decades with Wynyard, Littler served the club as captain, secretary and league delegate. When he retired it was claimed that he had played in excess of 500 games, but this figure has never been substantiated, and is almost certainly an exaggeration. Two years after his retirement he became non-playing coach of the club.

LONG, GEOFF gave excellent service to City/City-South over 224 senior games, winning the club's best and fairest award in 1953. He also represented the NTFA in 29 intrastate representative games, and played a dozen times for Tasmania. His state performances were almost invariably of the highest order, and he won the Lefroy Medal for best Tasmanian player for the season in 1955, and an All Australian blazer after the following year's Perth carnival. Long also represented Tasmania at the 1953 and 1958 carnivals in Adelaide and Melbourne respectively. In 2005 he was inducted as an inaugural legend into Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

LONGFORD

Affiliated: NTFA 1886; various junior and country associations 1887-1925; NTFA 1926-86; NTFL 1987; Tasmanian Amateur League Northern Division 1988-96; NTFA 1997-present

Formed: 1878

Colours: Black and gold

Emblem: Tigers

Premierships: Esk Football Association - 1921, 1924 (2 total); NTFA - 1955, 1957, 1958, 1989 (4 total) Tasmanian State

Premierships - 1957 (1 total) Country Champions (as South Esk) - 1890-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9, 1904-5-6 (13 total)

Tasman Shield Trophy: Len Gaffney 1926 & 1927; 'Leo' Wescott 1930; Lloyd Bennett 1940; Terry Cashion 1948, 1950 & 1951; Charlie Dennis 1955; John Fitzallen 1957; N.Wilson 1965 (7 Trophy winners/10 Trophies)

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: Barry Lawrence 1966; John Davis 1970; David Berne 1974 (3 total)

Division One Northern Amateurs Best and Fairest: Sasha Atkins 1992 (1 total)

Tassie Medallists: Terry Cashion 1950 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: C.Stokes (52) 1926, (78) 1928 & (74) 1929; R.Dixon (51) 1936; C.Eyles (84) 1940; R.Ringrose (60) 1953 & (54) 1954; W.Youd (55) 1961; J.Barnes (45) 1962; C.Johnstone (69) 1971 & (65) 1974; L.Prewer (60) 1986 (12 total)

Highest Score: 31.21 (207) vs. East Launceston in 1977

Most Games: 328 by Len Pitt

Originally settled by Europeans as early as 1813, making it one of the oldest towns in Tasmania, Longford has been home to an Australian football club since 1878. Initially contesting matches against the likes of Launceston and Cornwall on a somewhat informal basis, the club became a founder member in 1886 of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association but failed to complete the season, withdrawing from the competition in July after a disagreement with Association authorities. Thereafter, under the name South Esk, it enjoyed outstanding success in the local country championships, which it won thirteen times between 1890 and 1906.

Longford's first premierships proper arrived in 1921 when it defeated Cressy in the inaugural grand final of the Esk Football Association.¹ Another flag

followed three years later before, in 1926, the club returned to its original home, the NTFA, bringing the total number of teams in the Association to four. Despite fielding a number of outstanding players, notably 'Hec' Eyles who won five consecutive club best and fairest awards between 1928 and 1932, dual Tasman Shield Trophy winner Len Gaffney, prolific goalsneak Col Stokes, Bernard Taylor, 'Ted' Pickett and Lin Bricknell, Longford did not initially find life easy in a competition that tended to be dominated by the three long term members, City, Launceston and North Launceston. Indeed, prior to breaking through for a first ever NTFA flag in 1955 the Tigers only managed to contest the grand final on three occasions, losing to North Launceston in 1931, Launceston in 1940, and City in 1953. To call the premiership when it finally arrived long overdue would therefore be something of an understatement. Charlie Dennis' victory in the Tasman Shield Trophy provided the club with even more reason to celebrate.

Prior to the arrival of the first NTFA premiership the undoubted high point in Longford's history came in 1950 when the club's then captain-coach Terry Cashion was awarded the Eric Tassie Medal while representing Tasmania at the 1950 Brisbane carnival. Cashion remains the only Tasmanian representative ever to win what, until comparatively recent times, was arguably Australian football's most prestigious individual honour.

Football is essentially a team game, however, and the greatest year in the history of the Longford Football Club as a whole was undoubtedly 1957. Not only did the side thrash Launceston to win the NTFA premiership, it also provided the Tasman Shield Trophy winner in the person of John Fitzallen, and went on to procure its only ever state title after overcoming the challenges, first, of NWFU premier Ulverstone by 28 points, and then of TFL premier North Hobart 14.16

(100) to 12.7 (79) in "a game that was described as one of the best spectacles ever seen at York Park, before a record crowd of 12,546".² In addition to the aforementioned Dennis and Fitzallen, players like Ivan 'Ike' Hayes and Tom Courto combined to make the Longford sides of this era among the strongest seen in Tasmanian football up to that point. A second consecutive premiership in 1958 following a hard fought 6 point grand final victory over North Launceston emphasised this pre-eminence, but hopes of a third flag in a row were scuppered by City-South in the grand final of 1959.

By the 1960s Tasmanian clubs were finding it increasingly difficult to hang on to their best players in the face of ever more persistent depredating raids from the mainland. In some cases, such as those of Hobart's Ian Stewart and Clarence's Royce Hart, players left the local football scene before they had even served a decent apprenticeship, and over time the negative impact both on the quality of play in Tasmania's three major leagues and on the degree of competitiveness which could be mustered by Tasmanian interstate teams was considerable. As far as Longford was concerned, the main loss to Victoria during the 1960s was 1966 Hec Smith Memorial Medallist Barry Lawrence, but at least the club was able to obtain several solid years of service from him both before and after his eight year stint with St Kilda. Nevertheless, there is little doubt that, in common with ever increasing numbers of his compatriots, Lawrence's heyday as a player was spent away from the Apple Isle.

The 1970s proved to be a barren decade for Longford as far as premierships were concerned, although players like Bruce Armstrong, Stephen Theodore, Mick Prewer, David Berne and Barry Lawrence on his return from the mainland ensured that the club's supporters were well entertained. Berne, who won three club best and fairest

awards during the 1970s as well as a Hec Smith Memorial Medal, added a couple more club champion awards in the early 1980s as the team's on field performances began to improve. In 1983 the Tigers contested their first grand final for twenty years but went down to North Launceston by 28 points. Three years later, Scottsdale proved Longford's superior by 21 points in what proved to be the last ever NTFA grand final. From 1987, the NTFA and NWFU joined forces to create the Northern Tasmanian Football League, but after just one season in this new competition Longford, which won only 3 of 22 roster matches to claim the wooden spoon, opted to hone down its operations by competing as an amateur side in the Northern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur League.

Initially, the Tigers found life in their new surroundings very much to their liking. In 1989 they won the premiership with an impressive 17.17 (119) to 11.12 (78) grand final victory over Rocherlea, while the club also contested the grand finals of 1990 and 1991, albeit without success.

In 1997 the amateurs competition gave way to the non-amateur NTFA, a two division competition in which Longford have competed ever since. In 1997, '98, '99, 2006 and 2007 the side contested division one grand finals but lost on each occasion.

Footnotes

1 The Esk Football Association remained in existence until the end of the 1983 season. In 1984 the competition merged with the Deloraine Football Association to form the Esk-Deloraine Football Association.

2 *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979* by Ken Pinchin, page 96.

LUTTRELL, GAVIN: As a player, Gavin Luttrell was tenacious and hard-hitting. From 1932 to 1940 he played a club record 212 games for Lefroy, mainly as a wingman, winning the club's best and

fairest award on four consecutive occasions between 1937 and 1940. He was also a regular representative player. In 1941 he joined Longford, where he played until war brought the suspension of league football the following year. On the resumption of full scale football in 1945 Luttrell was appointed captain-coach of North Launceston, where he enjoyed considerable success, steering the side to five consecutive NTFA flags from 1946 to 1950, plus the 1947, 1929 and 1950 state titles. His last game, at the age of thirty-eight, was the 1950 state final in which the Robins downed TFL premier Hobart by 35 points in Hobart.

As a non-playing coach, Gavin Luttrell led the NTFA representative side to an 8-3 record in the four seasons from 1957 to 1960. He became a selector for both NTFA and state teams, as well as working as a football reporter for 'The Mercury'.

In 1999 he was selected as coach of North Launceston's official 'Best Team 1945 to 1999'.

LYNCH, ALASTAIR was one of the most consistent and dominating key forwards of the last decade and a half. However, his career was not devoid of difficulty. In 1995 for example he was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and spent the vast majority of the season on the sidelines. That he not only recovered, but went on to become, if anything, an even better player than before, starring in Brisbane's historic 2001 grand final defeat of Essendon, and 'leading from the front' as co-captain (with Michael Voss) between 1997 and 2000, is testimony to his determination and courage. A quick lead, Lynch was also one of the AFL's finest exponents of what some purists regard as a dying art - the contested mark. In his later years his kicking for goal also improved and by the end of his career he had snared 663 goals in 306 games over seventeen seasons. He continued to perform with distinction throughout Brisbane's ultimately successful

quest for a trifecta of premiership honours between 2001 and 2003, and only in his final league season of 2004 were there any real signs that the rigours of the game were becoming a tad too much for his aging body.

Just two years after his retirement as a player, Alastair Lynch was inducted as a legend into the official Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame.



Allan Lynch

LYNCH, ALLAN began his senior career at Launceston, but it was with Fitzroy that he established himself as a truly first rate performer. Tall and strong, he proved adept at virtually any position, although it was at either full back or in the ruck that he tended to be used most. He played a total of 98 VFL games for the Lions between 1959 and 1966.

LYON, GARRY: Since winning its last premiership in 1964 the Melbourne Football Club has been home to many great players, but few if any as noteworthy or influential as Devonport-born Garry Lyon whom the Demons plucked from Goulburn Valley Football League club Kyabram's Thirds team.

Statistically, and in terms of honours and awards, Lyon's career was impressive enough, but the qualities which elevated him among many of his peers into the arena of the truly great were mostly intangible. During the fraught times of the mid 1990s, when the club's continued existence as an autonomous entity was often under threat, it was Garry Lyon who somehow epitomised the fight for survival, indeed the Melbourne Football Club's very essence.

In a frequently injury impeded career spanning fourteen seasons and 226 games Garry Lyon booted 426 goals and was twice voted Melbourne's club champion. Tall (193 cm), hefty (101kg) and powerful, Lyon was a potent force on the Demons' forward line throughout his career, even towards the end when he needed to rely more on intelligence and brute force than on the perhaps surprising turn of pace he possessed during his early years.

Selected in three consecutive AFL All Australian teams during his peak years of 1993 to 1995, Lyon was also a natural leader, both on and off the field, and captained the Demons between 1991 and 1997. In 1994 he was chosen as skipper of Victoria for a state of origin game against South Australia. Twice Melbourne's leading goal kicker, Lyon probably provided team mates with at least as many goals as he procured himself.

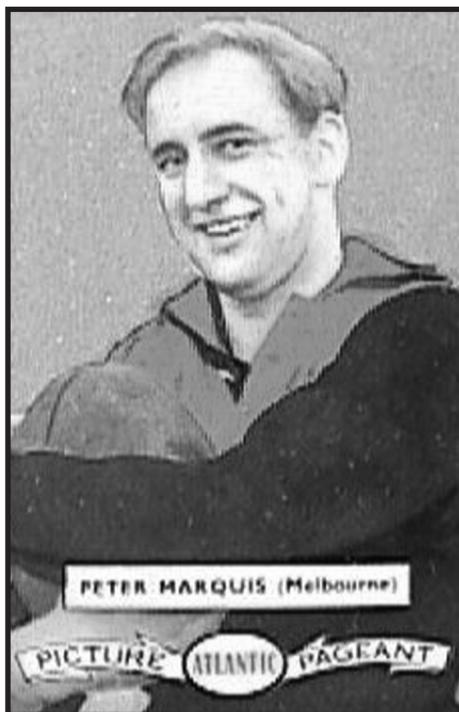
A chronic back injury limited Lyon's appearances during his later years and he was finally forced to retire in 1999.

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MARNEY, RON was a tough, durable and feisty rover who also boasted considerable flair. He first played senior football with Lindisfarne in the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League, winning a couple of club best and fairest awards, and playing in the 1957 premiership team. Marney joined Glenorchy in 1959, and went on to enjoy a sparkling twelve season, 208 game league career, highlights of which included three club best and fairest awards, and captaincy of the victorious 1965 local and state premiership sides. A Tasmanian interstate representative on 14 occasions, Marney showed his courage by helping the Apple Islanders to a noteworthy victory over Western Australia in Perth in 1963 while suffering from a depressed fracture of the cheekbone. He played carnival football in both 1961 in Brisbane and 1966 in Hobart, and was state captain against the Vics in Hobart in 1967 when Tasmania got to within 17 points. Marney played 12 games of intrastate football for the TFL, winning the Weller Arnold Medal in 1967. In 1969-70 he captain-coached Kermandie, winning a competition best and fairest award, and steering the side to a flag. Ron Marney is a member of both Lindisfarne's and Glenorchy's official 'Teams of the Century'.

MARQUIS, PETER: A powerful and resolute defender, Peter Marquis was something of a hero among Melbourne supporters during his VFL career because of his penchant for smashing his way through packs with little apparent regard for his (or anyone else's) safety. He was a key figure on the last line of defence in three Melbourne premiership teams, and played the last of his 99 VFL games in the losing 1958 grand final against Collingwood.

Originally from Devonport, Marquis won that club's best and fairest award in 1951. Popularly known as 'Trunk', he played a total



of 36 games for the Magpies, and was also chosen to represent the NWFU. After his six season stint with Melbourne he returned to Tasmania and joined North Hobart, where he rounded off his career with a further 92 league games, plus membership of the 1961-2 premiership teams. He was one of the most highly regarded TANFL players of his era, finishing as a runner-up in the Leitch Medal voting on no fewer than three occasions.

Peter Marquis played interstate football for both Tasmania and the VFL, and in August 2000 was selected in the unplaced official North Hobart 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

MARTIN, GEOFFREY 'PADDY' enjoyed an illustrious and varied football career with five different Tasmanian clubs. He made his senior debut with Launceston in 1946, and was selected in the NTFA's intrastate

team the same year. In 1947 he lined up with Sandy Bay in the TFL, but the following year saw him back at Launceston, where he remained until 1955, representing Tasmania in 1951 and at the Adelaide carnival of 1953. A three year stint at Ulverstone between 1955 and 1957 coincided with that club's most auspicious era up to that point, eliciting successive grand final wins over Burnie, Cooebe and Latrobe. 'Paddy' Martin's final stint as a player was with Burnie where he took his final tally of league games to 312. He was also successful in coaching the side to consecutive flags in 1958-9-60. From 1960 to 1965, Martin was non-playing coach of the NWFU's intrastate representative side, before having one final stab at club coaching at Devonport in 1970 and '71. He remains without doubt one of northern Tasmanian football's most noteworthy products. He was selected on a half back flank in Launceston's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century' and, in 2005, was included as a coaching legend in Tasmanian Football's inaugural Hall of Fame.

MASON, ANGUS 'HORRIE': Christened Angus, but invariably answering to the name of 'Horrie', Mason began his senior league career with North Hobart, and played in that club's 1920 local and state premiership sides. He also played the following year when North lost the local grand final to Cananore, before embarking on a ten season, 137 game VFL career with St Kilda.

A slimly built wingman when he first arrived in Melbourne, he eventually bulked up so much that by the end of his career he was playing as a ruckman. He also gave good service, at various times, as a centreman and half forward flanker, where his superb disposal skills came to the fore. Regarded by many as one of the finest exponents of the stab pass in the league, he could also drop kick the ball prodigious distances.

A joint winner of St Kilda's top individual award in 1926, Mason also represented

the Big V against South Australia that year, and went on to make a total of half a dozen appearances for his adopted state.

At the end of a 1931 season which had seen him skippering the Saints for part of the year, Mason crossed to Camberwell, which had just finished in last place in the VFA, as captain-coach. His arrival sparked the emergence of the Tricolours as a VFA force for the first time, but a runner-up spot to Yarraville in 1935 was the closest they could get to a flag.

During his time with Camberwell (and with Kyneton, where he spent part of the 1934 season), Mason continued to display some excellent form. When the VFA met the VFL in a charity match at Princes Park in 1932, 'Horrie' Mason gave an inspirational performance as captain of the VFA which was almost enough to secure a famous win; as it was, the VFL just managed to hold on to secure an 8 point win.

When Camberwell selected its official 'Team of the 20th Century' in August 2003, Mason was given the prestigious coaching position.

MAYMAN, BILL had the unique distinction of playing carnival football with three different states. He commenced his senior football career in 1906 with West Australian Goldfields Football Association side Mines Rovers which won the flag in his first season there. In 1911 he was one of twelve goldfields-based players chosen in Western Australia's twenty-four man squad for the Adelaide carnival where he ended up playing in three of the state's four matches.

In 1913, Bill Mayman returned to Adelaide on a more permanent basis when he was signed by an ambitious Sturt side anxious to break its premiership duck. Playing at centre half forward, he attracted rave reviews, as well as the admiration and respect of his team mates. In 1914 he took over from Murray Brannigan as club captain, and later in the year was skipper of South Australia's team at the Sydney carnival. After

playing superbly for most of the season he was rewarded with Sturt's best and fairest award.

The 1915 season brought the long awaited breakthrough for the Blues as they overcame a supposedly near invincible Port Adelaide side to clinch their first SAFL flag. Sturt won a tough and bruising challenge final against the Magpies by 2 goals, with Mayman best afield, but the intervention of war meant that it would be four years before the title could be defended.

With Mayman still captaining the side, Sturt successfully retained the premiership in 1919 with a 3.5 (23) to 2.6 (18) defeat of North Adelaide in a replayed challenge final. Once again, Bill Mayman's contribution was unsurpassed.

Despite this triumph, however, there were some at Unley who did not find Mayman's style of captaincy to their liking, and the following season saw him ousted as skipper in favour of Vic Richardson. After playing out the year, he decided to cut his losses, and promptly packed his bags and headed for Tasmania, where he linked up with TFL newcomers New Town. In 1923 and 1924 he served as coach of the side before coaching Burnie in 1925 in his last season of senior football.

One of Bill Mayman's proudest moments in football occurred in 1923 when he skippered a TFL combination to a famous victory over a South Australian XVIII on the Adelaide Oval (click here for a match review). The following season saw him selected as skipper of Tasmania's Hobart carnival side, thereby procuring the unique record alluded to above. Under Mayman's captaincy, Tasmania enjoyed a satisfactory carnival, thrashing New South Wales and Queensland, and performing creditably against the major states.

In all, Bill Mayman is said to have made a total of 315 senior appearances during his career, a quite incredible total for the time. He also played 28 interstate games, and was a member of three premiership sides.

MCCARTHY, JOHN: Welsh-born John McCarthy is one of an illustrious band of elite footballers produced by North Hobart over the years. Powerfully built, McCarthy was a strong marking player equally capable of providing an imposing focal point at centre half forward, or nullifying a key opposition attacking player at centre half back. After overcoming an injury interrupted start to his V/AFL career he went on to provide sterling service to both North Melbourne (92 games, 101 goals in 1986 and from 1988 to 1992) and Fitzroy (71 games and 77 goals between 1992 and 1996) before playing out his twilight years with Woodville-West Torrens in the SANFL.

An automatic choice in Tasmania's state of origin sides between 1989 and 1993, McCarthy, with 3 goals, was a key contributor to the 20.14 (134) to 14.17 (101) defeat of the 'Big V' at North Hobart Oval in 1990.

Sadly, John McCarthy never played in a senior premiership side; the nearest he came was in the 2000 season when he was a member of the Eagles' losing grand final team against Central District.

MCCLEMENTS, LES: The highlight of ruckman Les McClements' much decorated, 244 game senior football career came during the 1947 Australian championships when, on a North Hobart Oval turned into a veritable quagmire by incessant rain, he "threw a stout heart and a strong body into the fray"¹ in helping propel his Western Australian team mates to a famous 4 point victory over the VFL. Having earlier displayed superlative form against both South Australia and New South Wales, McClements was considered a 'shoe-in' for the Tassie Medal as best player in the carnival, an honour he eventually shared with Canberra's Bob Furler.

Les McClements began his senior football career with Claremont in 1941, the year after the third of the Tigers' inaugural three premierships in a row. In 108 games with Claremont the closest he came to a flag was playing in a losing first semi final team

in his debut season. On the individual front, however, honours flooded his way, with no fewer than five successive Claremont fairest and best awards between 1946 and 1950, followed by a couple more with Clarence where he moved in 1951. Besides representing Western Australia in both the 1947 Hobart and 1950 Brisbane carnivals, McClements went to Adelaide in 1953 in the colours of his adopted state of Tasmania. Despite conceding up to 5 inches to many of his opponents in the ruck, McClements managed to be more than competitive owing to his "magnificent build and an ability to lift his powerful frame high".²

1 *The Tigers' Tale: The Origins And History Of The Claremont Football Club* by Kevin Casey, page 62.

2 *Ibid*, page 72.

MCDONALD, HENRY 'HARRY' was an imposing and highly consistent defender whose playing career spanned almost twenty-one seasons. He made his debut with Ulverstone in 1903 and played his last, and 292nd match in 1928. He also played a total of 54 representative games for a final career tally of 346.

MCGINIS, FRED: Hobart-born Fred McGinis commenced his senior football career with local club City, but before long he ventured across the Bass Strait to try his luck in the 'big time' with Melbourne. Still aged only seventeen, he made his debut with the Redlegs in 1894, and it was immediately obvious that here was a rare champion in the making. By the time the VFL came into existence in 1897 he was, in the view of many, the finest exponent of the game in Victoria at the time, as his "splendid drop kicking, pertinacity in redeeming a mistake, determination in getting the ball, and coolness and quickness in passing it on to a team mate placed him in a class above his contemporaries".¹

Playing as a rover, McGinis continued to perform at a consistently high level for the next four years, with his only major weakness being that he was somewhat injury prone.

In 1900, McGinis' partnership with ruckmen 'Vic' Cumberland and George Moodie was a major factor in Melbourne's unexpected surge up the premiership ladder to take out the flag. The same trio also represented the VFL in intercolonial matches.

Tragically, in 1902 McGinis' sight began to deteriorate alarmingly, and he was forced to quit the game and return home to Tasmania.

1 *100 Years Of Football: The Story Of The Melbourne Football Club 1858-1958* by E.C.H.Taylor, pages 30-1.

MCGOWAN, RON: Defender Ron McGowan commenced his senior career in the NTFA with Longford, with his last game for the club coming in the 2 point grand final loss to North Launceston in 1963. He then crossed to reigning TFL premier Hobart, but was unable to help them repeat their success as they bowed out of flag contention at the preliminary final stage against Sandy Bay. McGowan crossed the Bass Strait in 1965 to embark on a VFL career with Footscray, and over the ensuing eight seasons he proved himself a solid, even stolid defender who seldom gave his direct opponent an inch. He played a total of 92 senior games and kicked 2 goals for the Bulldogs, before rounding off his career with 21 SANFL games for South Adelaide in 1973-4.

MCMURRAY JUNIOR, JACK was a former VFL umpire who was instrumental in raising the standard of umpiring in Tasmania during a sixteen year stint as a field umpires coach. He is a member of both the AFL and Tasmanian football Halls of Fame.

MERSEY

Affiliated: NWFA 1894-1909; NWFU 1910-15; various junior competitions after World War One

Home Ground: Devonport Oval

Formed: 1894

NWFU Premierships: 1911-12 (2 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: G.Foley (51) 1911; R.Webb (43) 1913 (2 total)

Formed in 1894, the Mersey Football Club competed with success (seven premierships) in the North West Football Association prior to becoming a founder member of the North West Football Union in 1910. The club reached a grand final in its debut season, but lost to Ulverstone. It then beat Latrobe 7.8 (50) to 1.9 (15) in the 1911 grand final, and Ulverstone 2.8 (20) to 1.7 (15) in the following year's premiership decider. Its final season in the NWFU was 1915.

METHERELL, JACK: The name Jack Metherell continues to resonate powerfully in the minds of Tasmanian football supporters of a certain age four and a half decades and more after his greatest exploits. Named in August 2000 as coach of North Hobart's official 'Team of the Century', Metherell oversaw premierships in 1938-9-40-41, 1945 and 1947, as well as state flags on four occasions. Arguably his most auspicious achievement, however, was masterminding, at Launceston in 1960, the first ever win by a Tasmanian state side against the VFL. Metherell's achievement appears all the more noteworthy when you consider that he had been away from coaching for several years prior to the game.

Originally from Perth, Metherell played initially for Subiaco juniors before heading to Victoria in 1932 where he joined his brother Len at Geelong. Quick and agile despite his solid build - a Tasmanian journalist later remarked that he "handles his thirteen stone



Jack Metherell

like an acrobat" - he gave the Cats excellent service, mainly as a half forward, in 65 VFL games over the next six seasons. During that time he topped Geelong's goal kicking list on three occasions, and amassed the impressive tally, for a half forward specialist, of 221 goals. His last game in the VFL was the 1937 grand final in which Geelong beat Collingwood, and in which Metherell, with 4 goals from a forward pocket, was one of the best players afield.

In 1938, Metherell was appointed captain-coach of North Hobart, but despite the best efforts on his behalf of Albert Ogilvie, the then Tasmanian premier, Geelong refused to clear him, and he was forced to coach from the sidelines. As noted above, he did this with consummate success, and when he was able to take the field himself in 1939 the team's stocks rose still higher. With 61 goals for the season, Metherell topped the TANFL's goal kicking list in 1939, a feat he duplicated in 1940-41.

The league went into mothballs because of the war in 1942, and when it resumed in 1945 it had been radically reorganised along district lines. North Hobart was still there, however, as was Jack Metherell, who continued as both player and coach. In 1946 he ventured north to take on the captain-coaching role at Cooe, but after just one season he was back 'home' at North Hobart, where he enjoyed one last year as a player

before continuing as coach in an off-field capacity.

The lack of activity clearly bothered Metherell, however, for after just one season as non-playing coach he resigned in order to resume playing, albeit at a lower level, in the Southern Districts Football Association. After that, and prior to his appointment as Tasmanian coach in 1960, he enjoyed a stint as a central umpire, which included officiating at several TANFL roster games.

As coach of Tasmania, he oversaw a total of five games, including those at the 1961 Brisbane carnival, for just one win. However, it is doubtful if any win in the history of Tasmanian football has been so important, or so widely heralded, and as long as football is played the name of Jack Metherell should serve as a reminder that the most noteworthy exploits in the game do not uniquely manifest themselves at the so-called 'highest level'.



Jack Metherell

MITCHELL, MERVYN enjoyed a comparatively brief but noteworthy playing

career with North Launceston, playing 142 NTFA games between 1945 and 1953, including membership of five consecutive grand final teams. He joined the Robins from the Railway Football Club in the Patriotic Association, and quickly stamped himself as a centre half forward of the highest quality. A regular NTFA representative player, he played for Tasmania at the 1950 Brisbane carnival. His best season was probably 1947, when he won his club's best and fairest award, and topped the NTFA goal kicking list with 87 goals. He won a second best and fairest trophy in 1949, a season which also saw him boot 14 goals in a roster match against Longford. Never one to take a backward step, Mitchell was once suspended for six months after an altercation with former Carlton strongman Bob Chitty, who was then playing for Scottsdale.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Current Affiliation: Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA) since 1953

Home Ground: Mount Pleasant Football Ground

Formed: 1920 as York Plains Football Club; renamed Mt Pleasant in 1926

Colours: Dark and light blue

Emblem: Mounties

Senior ODFA Premierships: 1953-4-5, 1964, 1971-2-3-4, 1977, 1979-80, 1987, 2003, 2006 (14 total)

The Mounties were established in 1920 as York Plains Football Club. They assumed their current name of Mount Pleasant in 1926, and enjoyed a fair amount of success during the 1930s, claiming senior flags in 1931, 1938 and 1939.

In 1953, Mt Pleasant entered the Oatlands District Football competition, which had been formed the previous year. The club enjoyed immediate success, downing Tunbridge by 24 points

in that year's grand final. Further premierships were claimed in 1954, at the expense of Woodsdale, and 1955 against Parattah.

To date, the Mounties have won fourteen senior ODFA flags, a tally bettered only by Woodsdale. Their greatest decade was the 1970s when they contested all ten grand finals, emerging victorious from six.

Among the many fine players to have represented the club perhaps the most noteworthy was Roger Barwick who was named as the Association's best and fairest player in 1962, 1963 and 1972, and topped its goal kicking list on three occasions as well.



TOP: Action from the 2002 Southern Football League grand final in which Clarence (light jumpers) defeated North Hobart by 21 points.

BOTTOM: A section of the crowd of 6,132 at the 2004 Southern Football League grand final in which Clarence downed New Norfolk. (Both photos courtesy of Dan Garlick, OzVox Media.)

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NASH, LAURIE: If self-confidence is the primary fuel on which most sporting champions run then Laurie Nash's many accomplishments are easy to explain. When asked who was the greatest footballer he had ever seen Nash famously replied "I see him in the mirror every morning when I shave". Many of Nash's opponents would be inclined to agree with this assessment. Despite being a mere 175 centimetres in height there have been few better high marking centre half forwards in the history of the game. Added to his aerial prowess were pace, excellent ball control, and the ability to kick long and accurately with either foot. Champion Collingwood goalsneak Gordon Coventry opined that Nash would have been the most prolific full forward of all time had he been stationed permanently at the goalfont. The 18 goals which he managed against South Australia on one occasion appeared to endorse this opinion. (However, the widely propounded myth that Nash achieved this feat in less than three quarters of football is precisely that - a myth. Contemporary reports, such as that published in 'The Melbourne Herald' on the evening of the match, confirm that Nash booted 2 of the VFL's 9 opening quarter goals plus 2 more in the second term.)

Nash's VFL career comprised 99 games with South Melbourne between 1933 and 1937 as well as in 1945. He booted a total of 246 goals. In his debut season he was best afield as the red and whites surged to a 42 point grand final victory over Richmond. Perhaps surprisingly, he never won South's best and fairest trophy, although he did captain the club in 1937, and was its top goal kicker both that year and in 1945.

Prior to his VFL stint, Nash achieved considerable notoriety with NTFA club City, playing a total of 45 senior games between 1930 and 1932, including the winning local and state grand finals of both 1930 and 1932.

He won the Tasman Shield Trophy as the competition's best and fairest player in 1931 and 1932, and was a regular representative player, appearing 10 times for Northern Tasmanian combinations, as well as in all 5 of Tasmania's matches at the 1930 Adelaide carnival.

Arguably Nash's best years as a footballer were spent with Camberwell where he kicked 418 goals in just 74 games over four seasons.

In 2004, Laurie Nash's immense contribution to Tasmanian football was recognised with his selection at centre half back in the official 'Team of the Century' for that state. A year earlier he had been placed at centre half forward in both South Melbourne's and Camberwell's equivalent teams. In the City/City-South 'Team of the Century', named in 2002, he was chosen at centre half back, the position he filled during most of his Tasmanian sojourn. More recently, in 2006, he was named as a legend in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

NEAL, ROBERT: After commencing his career in Tasmania with the Wynyard Football Club where his impact was sufficient for him to earn inclusion in the club's official 'Best Team 1965 to 1995', Robert Neal was recruited by Geelong whom he served with great distinction for in excess of a decade. Nicknamed 'Scratcher' (an arch reference to his background as a potato farmer), Neal made his senior VFL debut for the Cats in 1974 and quickly developed into one of the foremost wingman of his generation, boasting explosive pace coupled with elusiveness, smooth ball handling skills and a fine temperament as well as excellent defensive qualities. In thirteen seasons with Geelong he played precisely 200 VFL games and kicked 51 goals. In 1987 he transferred to St Kilda and added a final 20 games and 1 goal over two seasons.

NEITZ, DAVID came from humble beginnings at Parkmore to break all kinds of records with Melbourne, including those for the most senior games (305) and the most goals (631). He earned a Coleman Medal plus AFL All Australian selection in 2002 having also achieved the latter honour seven years earlier whilst playing mainly at centre half back. A strong mark and fine kick, he was also extraordinarily adept at ground level for such a big (193cm, 101kg) man, and after making his AFL debut in 1993 aged eighteen he was never dropped, although he did miss a fair number of games through injury. Neitz was captain of the Dees from 2000 until his retirement in 2008, and he won the club's 2002 best and fairest award.

NEW NORFOLK

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 2000

Club Address: P.O. Box 457, New Norfolk 7140, Tasmania

Email: newnorfolkfc@hotmail.com

Home Ground: Boyer Oval

Formed: 1947

Colours: Black, white and red

Emblem: Eagles

Premierships: 1968, 1982, 2005 (3 total)
Tasmanian State Premierships -1968 (1 total)

William Leitch Medallists: J.Brown 1948; R.Garwood 1955 & 1958; C.Busch 1952; B.Roe 1954; R.Browning 1961 & 1962; R.Graham 1972; T.Browning 1974; R.Dykes 1981; G.Hunnibell 1985; R.Hanlon 1990; R.Peters 1993; B.Ackerley 2004; R.Belcher 2004; B.Carver 2007 (14 Medallists/16 Medals)

Horrie Goringe Medallists: Matthew Jones 2002 (1 total)

All Australians: Peter Hudson 1966 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: P.Hudson (79) 1963, (86) 1964, (110) 1965 & (103) 1966; W.Fox (135) 1983, (93) 1984, (130) 1985 & (105) 1986; P.Dac (80) 1987, (103) 1990 & (133)

1991 (11 total)

SthFL Top Goalkickers: M.Smith (67) 2003; S.Salter (72) 2005 (2 total)

Highest Score: 29.27 (201) vs. Clarence in 1966

Most Games: 300 by Hedley Thompson

Record Home Attendance: 4,710 on 1 May 1965: Clarence 8.11 (59); New Norfolk 6.8 (44)

Record Finals Attendance: 24,413 for 1970 grand final at North Hobart Oval: Clarence 19.16 (130); New Norfolk 10.15 (75)

New Norfolk entered the TANFL in 1947 along with South East Football Association rivals Clarence, bringing the total number of clubs in the competition to six. Although they have always found the winning of premierships to be a difficult proposition they have nevertheless made a telling contribution to Tasmanian football, as is evidenced, for example, by their having produced more William Leitch Medallists than any other club, including league heavyweights Glenorchy and North Hobart.

New Norfolk had to wait until 1959 for a first ever grand final appearance but would almost certainly have been prepared to wait even longer had it guaranteed a less ignominious result. The Eagles lost by 47 points, but it was not the margin which was so deflating, rather their consummate inability to trouble the scorers. Final scores were Hobart 9.14 (68) to New Norfolk 2.9 (21) with the Eagles' total being the lowest in a post war TFL grand final.

Sandy Bay provided the opposition on New Norfolk's next appearance in a grand final in 1964 but, although the Eagles put in a much improved performance, the ultimate result was the same, with the Seagulls winning by 2 straight kicks. Not even the presence in the New Norfolk side of the great Peter Hudson could enable the Eagles to bridge the gap.

Hudson had departed to the mainland by the time New Norfolk next appeared

in a grand final in 1968 when, thankfully, it was a case of 'third time lucky'. The Eagles won by 29 points, 14.13 (97) to North Hobart's 9.14 (68), before overcoming Scottsdale by 13 points in the state grand final to claim their first and only state premiership.

After dropping to third in 1969 the Eagles again made the grand final in 1970 when they came up against a Clarence side in irrepressible form and bidding for its first ever TFL flag. The Eagles were underdogs but confident, given that they had beaten the Roos in the final roster match of the season despite being forced to play the entire last quarter with just seventeen men. A grand final record crowd of 24,413 were in attendance, but sadly this failed to inspire the Eagles who trailed throughout en route to a 55 point loss.

New Norfolk's next grand final appearance in 1972 was equally disappointing, Sandy Bay winning 18.9 (117) to 10.14 (74). The remainder of the 1970s yielded only disappointment and frustration.

The early 1980s proved to be the Eagles' best period since entering the League. Runners up slots in 1981 and 1983 were sandwiched around the club's second premiership which came after a hard fought 11 point defeat of Glenorchy.

New Norfolk's only other TFL grand final appearance came in 1994 when they were favoured by many to upset reigning premiers Clarence. The Roos had other ideas, however, ultimately winning somewhat easier than the final margin of 38 points would suggest.

In 1997 when the TFL decided to apply the scalpel to itself with apparently ruthless abandon there were some who believed the Eagles a trifle fortunate to escape unscathed. Certainly the club has achieved less on field success than either Hobart or Sandy Bay, both of which were unceremoniously shown the door.

New Norfolk's escape was to be short-lived, however. Just two seasons later they joined their erstwhile TFL compatriots in the recently formed Southern Football League, losing both their nickname and official playing colours in the process. Under the name of the New Norfolk 'Derwent Hawks' the club reached a grand final in its debut season, but lost by 30 points to Kernandie. With the TFL itself collapsing after the 2000 season the future of clubs like New Norfolk, not to mention that of Tasmanian football as a whole, hung precariously in the balance for a time. However, the news, disclosed in November 2003, that the club would be reverting to its traditional nickname (Eagles) and colours (black, white and red) from 2004 represented a major shot in the arm for everyone associated with New Norfolk, not least the players, who responded by securing the minor premiership and warm favouritism ahead of a grand final clash with Clarence. Unfortunately, however, that was where the fairytale ended, as the 'Roos proved too accomplished when it counted, and won with some comfort by 33 points.

Fortunately, New Norfolk supporters did not have to wait long to witness their team taking out a long overdue third flag. In 2005 the Eagles swept all before them, losing only 1 of 18 roster matches to head the ladder going into the finals, and then securing the premiership on the strength of 'straight sets' wins over Clarence in both the second semi final and the grand final.

The side continued to produce some fine football in 2006, but ultimately had to be satisfied with third place after losing to Clarence and Glenorchy in the finals. A year later the Eagles bowed out of premiership contention in the first semi final at the hands of North Hobart, but in 2008 they not only failed to qualify for the finals but it was revealed that the club's financial situation was poor, so poor in

fact that when a revamped statewide competition was inaugurated in 2009 there was no place in it for New Norfolk.

North Eastern Football Union: The NEFU was formed in 1937 and currently comprises seven clubs: Branxholm, Bridport, Lilydale, Ringarooma, St Helens, Scottsdale Crows and Winnaleah.

Premiers 1937 to 2008 were:

1937	Alberton
1938	Branxholm
1939	Scottsdale
1940	Winnaleah
1945	Winnaleah
1946	Scottsdale
1947	Scottsdale
1948	Branxholm
1949	Derby
1950	Derby
1951	Branxholm
1952	Legerwood
1953	Derby
1954	Derby
1955	Ringarooma
1956	Branxholm
1957	Derby
1958	Branxholm
1959	Branxholm
1960	Derby
1961	Branxholm
1962	Branxholm
1963	Branxholm
1964	Branxholm
1965	Winnaleah
1966	Branxholm
1967	Pioneer
1968	Ringarooma
1969	Ringarooma
1970	Branxholm
1971	Ringarooma
1972	Winnaleah
1973	Bridport
1974	Winnaleah
1975	Ringarooma
1976	Pioneer
1977	Pioneer

1978	Pioneer
1979	Branxholm
1980	Ringarooma
1981	Ringarooma
1982	Bridport
1983	Ringarooma
1984	Ringarooma
1985	Winnaleah
1986	Lilydale
1987	Branxholm
1988	Branxholm
1989	Scottsdale Crows
1990	Scottsdale Crows
1991	Ringarooma
1992	Lilydale
1993	Bridport
1994	Lilydale
1995	Branxholm
1996	Branxholm
1997	St Helens
1998	Fingal
1999	Bridport
2000	St Helens
2001	Bridport
2002	Bridport
2003	Winnaleah
2004	Winnaleah
2005	Winnaleah
2006	Scottsdale Crows
2007	Lilydale
2008	Ringarooma

Summary Of Wins: 17 Branxholm; 11 Ringarooma; 9 Winnaleah; 6 Bridport, Derby; 4 Lilydale, Pioneer; 3 Scottsdale, Scottsdale Crows; 2 St Helens; 1 Alberton, Fingal, Legerwood

NORTH HOBART

Current Affiliation: Tasmanian Football League (TFL) since 2009

Club Address: P.O. Box 38, North Hobart 7002, Tasmania

Website: www.nhfc.com.au

Email: info@nhfc.com.au

Home Ground: North Hobart Oval

Formed: 1881

Colours: Navy blue and red

Emblem: Demons (formerly Robins)

Premierships: 1902, 1905, 1908, 1914, 1920, 1923, 1928-9, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938-9-40-1, 1945, 1947, 1957, 1961-2, 1967, 1969, 1974, 1987, 1989, 1991-2, 2003 (28 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1914, 1920, 1923, 1929, 1936, 1939-40-1, 1945, 1961-2, 1969 (12 total)

William Leitch Medallists: L.Pye 1932; S.Sproule 1934; E.Reid 1945; M.Hawkins 1977; D.Perry 1993; M.Maple 1994 (6 total)

George Watt Memorial Medallists: L.Powell 1935; L.Pye 1937 & 1938; M.Abbott 1941 (3 Medallists/4 Medals)

Horrie Gorringe Medallists: Brendan Bolton 2003 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: G.Somers (13) 1896; A.Walton (18) 1903; T.Mills (15) 1905 & (13) 1906; W.Lee (14) 1907; G.Cook (24) 1908; S.Russell (26) 1914; W.Jack (25) 1920; L.Stevens (26) 1923; A.Rait (92) 1929, (112) 1930, (85) 1931, (102) 1932, (84) 1935, (98) 1936 & (62) 1937; T.Richardson (75) 1938; J.Metherell (61) 1939, (69) 1940 & (64) 1941; E.Collis (54) 1945; N.Clark (51) 1956, (69) 1957 & (74) 1961; P.Cooper (45) 1958; D.Collins (77) 1962 & (58) 1967; B.Stephens (92) 1982; B.Howard (90) 1992, (104) 1995 & (70) 1997 (31 total)

SthFL Top Goalkickers: R.Devine (102) 2001, (60) 2002 & (82) 2008 (3 total)

Highest Score: 37.24 (246) vs. South Launceston 2.5 (17) in 1991

Most Games: 265 by Don McLeod

Record Finals Attendance: 19,425 for 1969 grand final at North Hobart Oval: North Hobart 19.15 (129); Clarence 17.15 (117)

On 14 May 1881 a couple of dozen of the more energetic male inhabitants of the district of North Hobart took part in a twelve a side scratch football match. So impressed were the participants by their prowess that they immediately decided to

form a club, to be named after the district in which they resided, and to apply for admission, as a junior member, to the Southern Tasmanian Football Association.

Matters proceeded apace and the fledgling team, adorned in the red and blue colours which were to become its trademark, took to the field for the first time on 4 July 1881 against City, the game ending in a 2-2 draw.¹

North Hobart remained a junior club for fifteen seasons before finally gaining admission to the senior competition in 1895.

North Hobart's first senior premiership came in 1902 as the side won 6 out of 8 matches for the year. This was followed by a 6.9 (45) to 5.7 (37) defeat of Launceston in a match billed as being for the state premiership. (Albeit unofficially; the first official Tasmanian state premiership was not contested until 1904.) A second STFA premiership was won in 1905, and the following year the name of the competition was changed to the Tasmanian Football League to bring Hobart into line with other Australian capital cities. North Hobart was one of three founder members of the TFL along with Lefroy and Derwent.

North Hobart's first TFL premiership in 1908 was won in controversial circumstances. The premiership deciding match between North Hobart and Lefroy ended in a draw, a result which North believed entitled them to the flag on the basis of their having won a greater number of roster games than their opponents. However, "goaded by the opposition and public talk the North Hobart club requested, as the rules were unclear, to replay the match".² In a tense, closely fought affair "North Hobart's play had a little more sparkle and dash than Lefroy's" resulting in a 2.7 (19) to 1.9 (15) win.³

In 1911 former Ballarat and St Kilda player George Morrissey was appointed the club's first official coach and, although he spent only a single season in charge, he was later looked back upon as the initiator of the Reds' (as North Hobart were then

known) renowned aggressive style of play. This style finally came to fruition three years later as the team survived a poor start to the season to go on to lift both the local and state premierships, the latter for the first official time. The twin triumphs were popularly attributed to a 'never say die spirit', an expression which the club shrewdly latched on to and translated into one of those almost indefinable building blocks which might be said to constitute a club's tradition.

With the competition going into recess because of the war from 1915-18 and being brought to a premature halt on resumption in 1919 because of an influenza epidemic it was to be six years before North Hobart would have the opportunity to defend their titles. This they eventually did in style, overcoming Lefroy by 20 points in the local grand final and Launceston by 24 points for the state premiership. The next couple of seasons saw a deterioration in on field fortunes but 1923 brought a repeat of the dual success of the 1920 season with New Town (10.9 to 7.6) and North Launceston (20.13 to 18.8) the victims. The state grand final defeat of North Launceston, which took place at North Hobart Oval, was widely regarded as one of the best matches seen in Tasmania up to that point.

North Hobart did not re-emerge as a force until towards the end of the decade but when they finally did so it heralded the onset of a golden era without parallel in the history of the TFL. For fifteen consecutive seasons the Robins (as they were by this stage known) contested each and every grand final for an overall return of ten TFL and six state flags. The full record:

Year	TFL Grand Final	State Grand Final
1928	Won premiership on points	Lost to City by 32 points
1929	Beat Lefroy by 15 points	Beat Launceston by 9 points
1930	Lost to Lefroy	-
1931	Lost to Cananore in a replay	-
1932	Beat Cananore by 52 points	Lost to City by 6 points
1933	Lost to Cananore	-
1934	Beat Lefroy by 24 points	Lost to Launceston by 17 points
1935	Lost to New Town	-
1936	Beat Lefroy by 4 points	Beat Launceston by 17 points
1937	Lost to Lefroy	-
1938	Beat Lefroy by 12 points	Lost to Launceston by 66 points
1939	Beat Cananore by 22 points	Beat City by 6 points
1940	Beat Cananore by 57 points	Beat Launceston by 56 points
1941	Beat Cananore by 24 points	Beat City by 5 points
1942-4	<i>Competition suspended owing to the war.</i>	
1945	Beat Sandy Bay by 30 points	Beat Launceston by 7 points

One of the key reasons for North Hobart's success during the 1930s was the form of Alan Rait who, until the emergence of Peter Hudson, was arguably the greatest full forward Tasmanian football had witnessed. In eight seasons as North Hobart's spearhead Rait 'topped the ton' on four occasions. At the 1930 Adelaide carnival he booted 27 goals, a total only bettered by the VFL's Bill Mohr.

In March 1944 the TFL controversially decided that, on the resumption of full scale competition after the war, Hobart would be divided into four districts, each of which would be

represented by a league club. The innovation constituted a death knell for two of the league's established clubs in Cananore and Lefroy which were replaced by Sandy Bay and Hobart. North Hobart and New Town both survived.

As the above table makes clear, the Robins initially found district football to be very much a case of 'business as usual' as they claimed the 1945 flag with some comfort. However, in 1946 their awe-inspiring sequence of grand final appearances came to an end as newcomers Sandy Bay dumped them from premiership contention in the first semi final.

In 1947 there was a temporary return to prominence as the Robins survived a second semi final loss to Hobart to clinch another flag.

Grand final defeat by New Town in 1948 was to be North Hobart's last involvement on the ultimate day of the season for eight years. The club's failure during this time was all the more surprising given the presence in its playing ranks of men of the calibre of John Noble, Ian Riley, Noel Clarke, Col Moore and, perhaps most notably of all, John Leedham.

Named Tasmania's first ever All Australian at the 1953 Adelaide carnival (when he was playing at North Launceston) Leedham is regarded by many as being the best footballer ever produced in the Apple Isle. Too outspoken to attract many votes from umpires, his contribution to his team was arguably more telling than that of many so called 'superstars'. In the classic style of Ron Barassi, Mal Brown, Neil Kerley and Ted Whitten, Leedham was a 'stirrer', pre-eminently capable of unsettling an opponent by the use of psychological as much as physical methods of intimidation. Added to this he was a superbly gifted footballer who more than made up for what he lacked in grace and smoothness of movement with an innate, untutored knack of finding the ball and using it effectively.

North Hobart's next flag did not arrive

until 1957 and this proved to be an isolated effort. It was not until the early 1960s that the side returned to the fore on a consistent basis with consecutive grand final defeats of Glenorchy and Clarence in 1961 and 1962 supplemented by state premierships on both occasions.

In 1964 a proposal to alter the club emblem from Robins to Demons (presumably in lieu of the resemblance of North Hobart's playing uniform to that of VFL power club, Melbourne) was overwhelmingly defeated in a ballot of club members.

On the field fortunes continued to fluctuate until 1967 when, under the capable guidance of former Geelong player John Devine, the Robins achieved a memorable premiership from fourth spot. A win against East Launceston in the state preliminary final followed before North Hobart proceeded to West Park, Burnie for the state premiership decider and what turned out to be one of the most dramatic and controversial matches in Australian football history. The opposition was provided by NWFU premiers Wynyard, but as events were to prove the Robins had rather more than just the twenty opposition players to worry about.

With moments of the match remaining Wynyard led by a single point when Robins' player coach John Devine was awarded a free kick on the forward line. He promptly passed to full forward David Collins who marked twenty metres from goal just seconds before the final siren sounded. He never got the chance to take his kick, however, as "in wild scenes of mob rule the crowd swooped onto (the ground) and the goal posts were removed from the North Hobart goal end."⁴

Despite the best efforts of the police to restore order the last (and in all probability decisive) kick of the game was never taken, leading to the TFL declaring the match void; Collins still has the ball. Wynyard coach John Coughlan laid down the gauntlet saying that his side would be prepared to take on North Hobart anywhere - "on the beach if we have

to" - but the Robins refused, feeling that the crowd invasion had denied them the formality of a justly earned victory.

North Hobart lost the 1968 grand final to New Norfolk but recorded another 'double' the following year at the expense of Clarence (TFL) and Latrobe and Launceston (state premiership). More controversially, the club committee decided to ignore the wishes of the membership and alter the club's nickname from Robins to Demons.

Under the new emblem the side embarked on a sustained spell of mediocrity, dropping to fourth in 1970, a slump which perhaps helped precipitate John Devine's departure, and missing the finals in each of the following three seasons.

John Devine re-assumed the coaching mantle in 1974 and the team reaped immediate dividends. Indeed, it was almost a case of *déjà vu* as the side fought its way through to a premiership from the first semi final. (There was no state premiership this year.)

The next dozen seasons proved to be unusually barren, however, as the Demons failed to add to their premiership tally under a succession of different coaches (six in all, including two separate spells from Devine).

The TFL commenced a statewide format in 1986 with the six Hobart-based clubs being joined by NTFA sides North Launceston and South Launceston. Further expansion came in 1987 with the admission of Devonport and Burnie Hawks (formerly Cooee) to the competition and North Hobart immediately enjoyed a spectacular return to winning ways. Grand final day brought an impressive 26 point defeat of Glenorchy but in the wake of the premiership a problem arose which, although comparatively new to North Hobart, was by this point in time familiar to most successful clubs in the major state competitions throughout Australia. No sooner had the dust settled after the Demons' grand final lap of honour than the recruiting nets of the VFL and other mainland leagues were seemingly replete with North

Hobart footballers, only a few of whom would be likely to make it to the top, but, more crucially, all of whom would be absent from their previous club's defence of its title in 1988. Not surprisingly in the circumstances the next twelve months were a time of consolidation for the Demons.

Recovery was quick, however, and in 1989, aided in part by the return of those of the 1987 premiership side who had failed to establish themselves on the mainland, North Hobart returned to the premiers' dais with a 30 point grand final defeat of Hobart.

Once again there was a mass exodus of players as the VFL recruiting sharks bit deep, and once again recovery was swift. After plummeting to eighth in 1990 the Demons, under new coach Mark Yeates, a veteran of 154 VFL games in eleven seasons at Geelong, finished the 1991 roster matches in second spot. A 36 point qualifying final loss to Clarence might easily have proved to be a disaster but such was the tenacity and spirit cultivated by Yeates that the team bounced straight back the following week to annihilate Burnie Hawks by 53 points, 17.23 (125) to 10.12 (72). The good form continued in the preliminary final as revenge was achieved against Clarence to the tune of 21 points, 14.19 (103) to 11.16 (82), prompting many observers to rate North Hobart the favourite going into the grand final clash with minor premiers North Launceston.

The game was closely fought for three quarters with the Demons managing to eke out a 2 point advantage by the final change. The last term, however, was one way traffic as North Hobart surged to a 26 point triumph, 12.14 (86) to 8.12 (60). Afterwards Mark Yeates conceded "At the start of the season I would have been happy if we'd just made the five".⁵

Perhaps surprisingly, on this occasion the player drain was less excessive than after either of the previous two flags, and the side remained highly competitive throughout 1992, winning 15 out of 18 roster games to enter the finals in second spot. Once

there, the Demons were irrepressible, defeating Hobart 23.12 (150) to 7.11 (53) in the qualifying final, North Launceston 15.10 (100) to 14.13 (97) in the second semi final, and Hobart again in the grand final by 35 points, 16.12 (108) to 10.13 (73). Mark Yeates resigned as coach after the game, no doubt highly satisfied at a job impeccably done.

Under new coach Andy Bennett the Demons enjoyed another solid season in 1993, finishing third, but in both 1994 and 1995 the team missed the finals. Following the demise of statewide football North Hobart (which had changed its name briefly to 'Hobart Demons' during the final few years of the TFL) joined the Southern Football League in 2001, reaching a grand final the following year, when a narrow loss to Clarence eventuated.

Two years later the Demons broke through for their first Southern Football league flag with an emphatic 110 point grand final thumping of Hobart.

Over the years, North Hobart's contributions both to Tasmanian football and the wider game have been immense, a fact which was recognised by AFL Tasmania in 2005 when the club was inducted into the official Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame. North Hobart was the first club to be so honoured, and only the most parochially purblind of rival team supporters would deny that the honour was warranted.

It was also timely, coming as it did just a year before the club would celebrate its 125th anniversary. In commemoration of this achievement, the club had a special anniversary jumper designed, which was worn by the team during what turned out to be an enormously disappointing 2006 season (just 6 wins from 18 matches - only good enough for sixth place on the nine team ladder).

The 2007 season brought a fair measure of improvement with the side getting as far as the preliminary final, where it lost to Clarence by 37 points. A year later, North Hobart

reached the grand final, only to succumb to a talented Glenorchy side by 51 points.

Although there can be no doubt that the club's status has diminished alarmingly - and, one fears, irreversibly - over the last few years of its existence, it is equally certain that Tasmanian football overall would not be in the buoyant state it is⁹ had the North Hobart Football Club not made such a vibrant, distinctive and significant contribution to the game's expansion and development over so many years. Diluted though that contribution has become, it is to be hoped that it will continue, in some form or another, for at least another 125 years.

Footnotes

- 1 Behinds were sometimes recorded prior to 1897, but never actually included as part of the score.
- 2 *Never Say Die* by W.B. Brewer (ed.), page 17.
- 3 *Ibid.*, page 17.
- 4 From 'The Examiner', and quoted in *Never Say Die*, page 75.
- 5 'Inside Football', vol. 21 No. 32, 25/9/91, page 28.
- 6 According to AFL Tasmania, in 2005 the state had the nation's highest participation rate in Australian football, with a total of 31,471 individuals of all ages involved in the game. In the age range 5-39 this involved 22% of the male population, a rate which no other state in Australia comes close to matching. If any state or territory can be said to have a legitimate claim to the oft promulgated designation 'heartland of the game' it is Tasmania.

NORTH LAUNCESTON (Essendon, Railway)

Affiliated: NTFA (juniors) 1893-95; NTFA 1896-1980; GNFL 1981-82; NTFA 1983-85; TFL Statewide 1986¹ -2000; NTFL 2001-present

Club Address: P.O. Box 1453, Launceston 7250, Tasmania

Home Ground: York Park Oval

Formed: 1893

Colours: Red and black

Emblem: Bombers (formerly Robins)

Premierships: NTFA 1898, 1901, 1904-5-6, 1911-12, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1946-7-8-9-50, 1961, 1963, 1975, 1978-9-80-1, 1983 (24 total) GNFL - 1981 (1 total); TFL - 1995, 1998 (2 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1947, 1949-50 (3 total) OTHER PREMIERSHIPS - NTFA Junior Premiership 1895 (1 total)

Tasman Shield: F.J. Odgers 1927; F. Smith 1937 & 1938; F.Horsenail 1941 & 1945; W.Byrne 1952; J.Ross 1956 & 1958; K.McLean 1963; C.Thompson 1964 (7 Medallists/10 Medals)

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: I.Marsh 1975 (1 total)

William Leitch Medallists: Jason Gibson 1992; Darren Trevena 1999; Nathan Howard 2000 (3 total)

All Australians: J.Leedham 1953; J.Ross 1958; R.Withers 1961 (3 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: A.Aherne (68) 1999 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: R.Anderson (N/A) 1914 & (N/A) 1920; C.Scott (23) 1923 & (14) 1924; O.Adams (68) 1927; F.Smith (52) 1934; F.Palliser (54) 1939; M.Mitchell (87) 1947; P.Stephens (55) 1956; J.Hawksley (70) 1963 & (48) 1964; D.Frost (78) 1975; S.Reid (69) 1979 & (53) 1981 (14 total)

Highest Score: 47.14 (296) vs. South Launceston 10.8 (68) in 1995

Most Games: 323 by Neil Maynard

Record Home Attendance: 5,625 vs. Clarence in 2000

Record Finals Attendance: 15,633 for 1990 grand final at North Hobart Oval: Hobart 19.16 (130); North Launceston 10.12 (72)

The club which would eventually become North Launceston was formed in 1893 as the Railway Football Club. The club was a junior member of the NTFA between 1893 and 1895, winning a premiership in the last of those seasons, and gaining entry to the senior competition the following year.

From the outset the club's official colours were red and black, and it was partly because of this that a new name was adopted in 1898. This new name, rather quaintly, was Essendon, and it appeared to have an immediate charm-like effect as the side promptly proceeded to win a premiership, its first at senior level. However, it was clear to almost everyone that the name was not really appropriate, and at the AGM of 1899, held just before the start of the season, members voted to re-name the club North Launceston, an appellation which, apart from a brief, rather confusing flirtation with the name 'Northern Bombers', has been retained ever since.

During the early days the NTFA consisted of only three clubs, which cynics might say made premierships almost impossible to avoid. Nevertheless, as the cliché has it, 'you have to be in it to win it', and the fact is that prior to the first World War North Launceston were premiers on six occasions, in 1901, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1911 and 1912. North was also the first northern club to win a state premiership (albeit only an unofficial one), beating North Hobart 4.8 (32) to 3.10 (28) at the Launceston Cricket Ground in 1905, an achievement that was quickly duplicated the following year.²

The NTFA went into recess towards the end of the 1915 season and its re-commencement in 1919 was cut short by an influenza epidemic, which affected the whole of Tasmania.

The 1920s proved to be a moderately successful decade for North with premierships being recorded in 1923, 1925 and 1927. As far as state premierships went, however, the club was unsuccessful, although it may have been unfortunate in that its NTFA flags were won in years when the state grand final was scheduled for Hobart, where the odds were clearly stacked against them.

If the 1920s had been mediocre then the '30s were close to disastrous, with North managing only a single premiership

(in 1931) in what since 1926, following the admission of Longford, had been a four team competition.

It was in the immediate wake of World War Two that North Launceston really came of age as a club, with their achievement in claiming five premierships in succession between 1946 and 1950 being surpassed only once in NTFA history.

In 1946 North Launceston overcame City by 25 points in a grand final watched by 6,000 spectators at York Park. Best players included Bert Chilcott, Jack Turner, Bill Hird, Merv Mitchell and John Leedham. A week later Sandy Bay defeated North by 6 points in an enthralling state premierships play off in front of 8,000 spectators at North Hobart Oval.

The 1947 season saw the black and reds in irrepressible form, with big wins over City (by 79 points) in the NTFA grand final, and North Hobart (by 61 points) in the clash for the state premierships, which this year was played at York Park.

North Launceston found things somewhat tougher the following season, which saw the NTFA expand to include two new clubs, Cornwall and Scottsdale, bringing the total to six. In the local grand final North downed Launceston by 4 points, 12.14 (86) to 13.4 (82), but then were on the receiving end by 2 points against New Town in the state premierships decider. Another memorable feature of the 1948 season was North's 13.12 (90) to 8.14 (62) victory over Collingwood in a challenge match at York Park.

A record crowd of 8,500 witnessed the 1949 NTFA grand final in which North Launceston 10.15 (75) defeated Launceston 9.14 (68). Pennicroft and Mitchell both bagged 4 goals, with 'Rattler' Summers, Max Burke, Noel Atkins and Jack Hawksley also making noteworthy contributions. A 13.17 (95) to 8.7 (55) trouncing of New Town in the state premierships play off at York Park followed,

with North being best served by Hawksley, Hird, Summers, Mitchell and Leedham.

North Launceston achieved another 'double' the next year. The NTFA grand final brought a 13.11 (89) to 8.11 (59) victory over City, watched by a crowd of 8,750 at York Park. Noel Clarke, Chilcott, Roy Ringrose (4 goals), George Huxley and Reg Castles were especially prominent. The state premierships competition was expanded this year to include the NWFU premiers, Ulverstone, which North Launceston defeated 14.16 (100) to 8.8 (64) in the state preliminary final to earn the right to confront TFL premiers North Hobart at North Hobart Oval in the state grand final. A resounding 35 point victory followed in front of 10,000 spectators to leave no doubt whatsoever as to the black and reds' pre-eminence.

It is all the more surprising therefore to note that the next ten seasons were entirely barren for the Robins, with unsuccessful grand final appearances in 1956, 1958 and 1960 representing their best efforts.

The 1961 season brought a return to the winners' dais after a hard fought 1 point defeat of Longford watched by a crowd of 10,188. Bob Withers kicked the winning goal after taking a disputed mark just before the final siren. Best for North included Paul Bennett, Scott Wing, Charlie Thompson, Lerrel Sharp and Withers.

In the state preliminary final the Robins lost to eventual premiers North Hobart by 26 points at North Hobart Oval.

Two seasons later North again scraped home against Longford in the NTFA grand final, this time by 2 points. Sharp, Thompson, Wayne Turner, Hugh Boyd and Trevor Stingle all gave noteworthy performances. In the state preliminary final, however, Burnie came to York Park and dished out a real football lesson to the Robins. Admittedly the eventual margin was a comparatively modest 24 points, but a final scoreline of 8.25 (73) to 6.13 (49) tells its own story.

Another sustained period of mediocrity followed. Indeed, it was not until the appointment of former Essendon player Peter Daniel as coach in 1975 that the Robins again tasted premiership success. A 16.14 (110) to 8.10 (58) grand final triumph over Scottsdale that year was followed by an 89 point thumping of Wynyard and a fighting 24 point loss to Glenorchy in the state premiership play offs. The clash with Glenorchy was widely regarded as one of the best club matches ever seen in Tasmania, and involved a total of eleven players who had either previously played or would go on to play in the VFL.

Under Daniel the Robins remained a force for another six seasons. In 1976 and 1977 they made the grand final, losing to Launceston by a point in the former year and Scottsdale by 39 points in the latter. Beginning in 1978, however, North Launceston embarked on its best run of success since the immediate post World War Two period.

The 1978 grand final brought a 14.12 (96) to 11.17 (83) victory over Launceston with Neil Maynard, Daniel, Stan Reid and Richard Spencer putting in particularly meritorious performances.

The following year North reaped the benefits of accuracy in front of goal as they scraped home by 2 points against Scottsdale. Final scores were North Launceston 15.7 (97); Scottsdale 13.17 (95), with Nick Clark, Rodney Loone, Scott Knights and Stan Carey best for the Robins.

In 1980 a prototype Statewide competition was introduced with all twenty-one of Tasmania's top level senior clubs participating. North performed well to reach the semi finals where they were desperately unlucky to go down to Clarence by 2 points in a replay after the two teams had initially fought out a thrilling draw.³

In the NTFA, however, the Robins were still clearly the team to beat, as was emphasised by their 4 goal grand final defeat of City-South. North's best included Daniel,

Shane Young, Knights and Reid (who booted 4 goals). After the grand final Robins coach Peter Daniel took charge of the Tasmanian state of origin side for the Adelaide carnival having already coached Tasmania against Queensland earlier in the season.

There was no statewide competition in 1981 but the six NTFA and nine NWFU clubs joined forces to form the Greater Northern Football League. After a twenty game minor round involving all fifteen clubs the two leagues played separate finals series with the two premiers then confronting one another for the GNFL title. North overcame the indignity of an 80 point second semi final loss to Launceston to down the same club by 25 points in the NTFA grand final and then defeated Devonport 18.17 (125) to 12.13 (85) to clinch the GNFL flag. Best in the former match were Reid (6 goals), Clark, Graham Hunnibell and Stephen Mackrill, with Young, Hunnibell, Clark, Knights and Mackrill among those to catch the eye against Devonport.

The GNFL only lasted one further season with North getting as far as the NTFA preliminary final. Peter Daniel resigned as coach after the 1982 season having officially retired as a player the previous year (although he did make a brief comeback when the side was struggling late in the 1982 season).⁴

Tony 'Chang' Young was Daniel's replacement as senior coach and he proved an immediate success as the Robins defeated Longford 14.14 (98) to 10.10 (70) to clinch the 1983 flag.

The 1984 season saw Deloraine and George Town entering the NTFA bringing the total number of clubs in the competition to eight. The Robins underwent a fall from grace that year to finish fifth, but they were back as a force the following season to finish the home and away games 12 points clear of second placed Launceston. It was Launceston who had the last laugh, however, downing the Robins by 53 points in the grand final.

A new era dawned in 1986 with the inception of a proximate statewide league in which North Launceston were one of two northern-based entrants. However, the Robins also elected to retain a team in the NTFA, a decision which stretched the club's resources to the limit and effectively prevented either team from having an impact.

North Launceston withdrew from the NTFA in 1987 (although remaining technically affiliated to that body) but success continued to prove elusive. The Launceston public was inimical to the concept of statewide football, and on the field the Robins were finding the increased pressure and general rise in standard hard to cope with.

Tony Young retired as coach after the 1987 season ending a thirty-two year association with the club. His replacement was former Claremont and North Melbourne player Steve Goulding under whose guidance the Robins showed gradual improvement, narrowly missing the finals in 1988, and ending the roster matches the following season perched atop the ladder. Crowds were showing noticeable improvement too, with success on the field eventually wooing back a sceptical public.

The 1989 season ended in disappointment, however, as consecutive finals defeats against North Hobart and Hobart showed that much work remained to be done if the side was to take that decisive final step to premiership success.

The Robins went within an whisker of taking that decisive step the following year, qualifying for the grand final against Hobart only to crumble under the pressure of expectation on the big day itself and go down tamely by 58 points. An injury to Steve Goulding 90 seconds into the match may also have been significant. Assistant coach Robbie Sanders described the loss of Goulding as "the most tragic thing I've ever seen in football. Losing him cost us a good forty possessions, and you just can't put a value on how he inspires the players around him."⁵

Tragically, the 1991 season was to see a similar pattern of events develop. The Robins qualified for the grand final, but without star ruckman Robert Groenewegen who had been injured in the second semi final victory over Clarence, they proved unable to gain enough first use of the ball to offer a sustained challenge to North Hobart. Final scores were North Hobart 12.14 (86) to North Launceston 8.12 (60).

Steve Goulding resigned as coach after a soul destroying 1992 season which saw the Robins secure the minor premiership with ease, only to crash out of the finals with successive narrow losses to North Hobart (by 3 points) and Hobart (by 2 goals).

In 1993, without the added burden of expectation which seems to go with winning the minor premiership, North actually came closer to winning a statewide flag than ever before. Under former Sydney and Carlton champion David Rhys-Jones the Robins overcame North Hobart by 18 points in the qualifying final, went down to Clarence by 24 points in the second semi final, and qualified for the grand final with a second victory over North Hobart, this time by 13 points, in the preliminary final. Then in possibly the highest standard TFL Statewide grand final played to date North Launceston were in the contest all day only to go down in the end by 9 points, 17.15 (117) to Clarence's 19.12 (126). With some justification, the Robins could be described as the 'nearly birds' of TFL football.

A depressing slump to eighth position in 1994 led to Rhys-Jones announcing his resignation as coach only for him to reverse this decision later as a result of vigorous persuasion on the part of club officials. The change of heart proved significant. Throughout the 1995 season the Robins were clearly the TFL's pace setters and this time there was to be no eleventh hour fade out. After topping the ladder at the end of the roster matches the team downed New Norfolk by 2 goals in a dour second semi final before fronting up to reigning premiers

Clarence in the big one. Not surprisingly, widespread doubts were expressed as to the Robins' ability to maintain their form when it really counted, but, in a frenetic, low scoring game played in sub-arctic conditions, North Launceston always seemed to have the Roos' measure. Final scores were North Launceston 9.11 (65); Clarence 7.13 (55). Only 9,448 hardy souls braved the inclement weather, a record low for a Statewide League grand final. "Everyone thought we had a monkey on our back with regard to premierships," observed Rhys-Jones, "but we've definitely thrown that off after today."⁶

Three seasons later the 'monkey' was consigned to distant memory as, in front of 9,638 spectators at North Hobart Oval, the Robins held grand final opponents and reigning premiers Clarence goalless in the first half en route to a 14.16 (100) to 6.15 (51) victory. With neighbours South Launceston simultaneously triumphing at NTFL level there could be little doubt that, in 1998 at least, Launceston constituted the epicentre of Tasmanian football power.

To the dismay of traditionalists, North Launceston underwent a name change in 1999, becoming known as 'the Northern Bombers'. There was little change on the field, however, as the club once again made it through to the grand final. On this occasion, however, the northerners had to accept the 'second best' tag to a pumped up Glenorchy Magpies combination.

It was a similar story in the final year of the statewide competition in 2000, the only difference being that the Bombers' conquerors wore the white and red of Clarence rather than the black and white of Glenorchy.

Following the collapse of the statewide competition the Bombers, having reassumed the North Launceston monicker, joined the NTFL, reaching a grand final in their debut season of 2001, only to lose heavily to Burnie. Since then results can only be described as mediocre, and all connected with the club will be hoping that the

resumption of state league football in 2009 will be a catalyst for a return to the glory days of yore.

Footnotes

- 1 In 1986 North Launceston fielded senior teams in both the NTFA and TFL statewide competitions.
- 2 The state premiership series was not accorded official status until 1909.
- 3 The two games were uncannily similar, with the aggregate score on both occasions being identical.
- 4 Daniels left the Robins to take over as senior coach of Subiaco, only to leave the Lions' den at the end of a 1983 campaign that saw them finish up with the wooden spoon after only 4 wins from 21 matches.
- 5 'Inside Football', 26/9/90, page 30.
- 6 'Inside Football', 26/9/95, page 30.

North West Football Union: Formed in 1910, and disbanded after the 1986 season, the NWFLU was throughout the post-war era acknowledged as one of Tasmania's three top grade competitions (the others being the TFL and the NTFA).

NWFLU premiers 1910 to 1986 were:

1910	Ulverstone
1911	Mersey
1912	Mersey
1913	Latrobe
1914	Devonport
1915	Devonport
1920	Latrobe
1921	Diggers
1922	Latrobe
1923	Ulverstone
1924	Latrobe
1925	Devonport
1926	Latrobe
1927	Burnie
1928	Burnie
1929	Circular Head
1930	Latrobe
1931	Latrobe
1932	Penguin
1933	Latrobe

1934	Devonport
1935	Ulverstone
1936	Devonport
1937	Burnie
1938	Devonport
1939	Burnie
1945	APPM
1946	East Devonport
1947	Ulverstone
1948	East Devonport
1949	APPM
1950	Ulverstone
1951	Ulverstone
1952	Wynyard
1953	Ulverstone
1954	Burnie
1955	Ulverstone
1956	Ulverstone
1957	Ulverstone
1958	Burnie
1959	Burnie
1960	Burnie
1961	Cooee
1962	Burnie
1963	Burnie
1964	Cooee
1965	Cooee
1966	Burnie
1967	Wynyard
1968	East Devonport
1969	Latrobe
1970	Latrobe
1971	Latrobe
1972	Latrobe
1973	Cooee
1974	Burnie
1975	Wynyard
1976	Ulverstone
1977	Penguin
1978	Cooee
1979	Wynyard
1980	Penguin
1981	Devonport
1982	Cooee
1983	Smithton
1984	Cooee
1985	Penguin
1986	Ulverstone

Summary Of Wins: 12 Burnie, Latrobe, Ulverstone; 7 Cooee, Devonport; 4 Penguin, Wynyard; 3 East Devonport; 2 APPM, Mersey; 1 Circular Head, Diggers, Smithton

North Western Football Association:

Established in 1894, the NWFA currently comprises nine clubs: East Ulverstone, Forth, Motton Preston, Rosebery Toorak, Sheffield, Spreyton, Turners Beach, Wesley Vale and West Ulverstone. With a total of twenty senior grade flags to its credit Wesley Vale has been the competition's most successful club. Next comes Forth with seventeen premierships, while the now defunct Mersey won thirteen between 1894 and 1949.

Northern Tasmanian Football

Association: There have been two distinct competitions of this name, the first of which ran between 1886 and 1986, and was one of the state's three principal competitions (the others being the TFL and NWFU). The second NTFA competition developed out of the Launceston-based Tasmanian Amateur Football League, which was established in 1931, and in 1948 was merged with the Southern Tasmanian Amateur Football Association to form a statewide controlling body for amateur football in Tasmania. This new body inherited the TAFL name, with the Launceston-based competition becoming known as the TAFL Northern Division. This name was retained until 1997 when the competition was re-named the Northern Tasmanian Football Association. In 2009 the NTFA comprised sixteen clubs split into two divisions thus: Division One - Bracknell, Bridgenorth, Deloraine, Georgetown, Longford, Rocherlea, Scottsdale and Sharks; Division Two - Evandale, Fingal Valley, Old Launcestonians, Old Scotch, Perth, St Patrick's Old Boys, Tamar Cats and University Mowbray. All these clubs are profiled in the book.

Premiers of the present day NTFA and its precursor competitions have been:

1931 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1932 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1933 Associated Banks
 1934 Churinga
 1935 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1936 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1937 Churinga
 1938 Churinga
 1939 Churinga
 1940 Churinga
 1941 Dark Blue Rovers
 1946 Mowbray
 1947 Mowbray
 1948 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1949 Mowbray
 1950 Mowbray
 1951 Old Launcestonians
 1952 Old Launcestonians
 1953 Old Launcestonians
 1954 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1955 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1956 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1957 Old Scotch Collegians
 1958 Old Scotch Collegians
 1959 Old Launcestonians
 1960 Old Launcestonians
 1961 Brooks Old Boys
 1962 Old Launcestonians
 1963 Brooks Old Boys
 1964 Old Launcestonians
 1965 Mowbray
 1966 Mowbray
 1967 Mowbray
 1968 Mowbray
 1969 Mowbray
 1970 Old Launcestonians
 1971 Old Launcestonians
 1972 Mowbray
 1973 Mowbray
 1974 Mowbray
 1975 Old Scotch Collegians
 1976 Old Scotch Collegians
 1977 Quandeine
 1978 Old Scotch Collegians
 1979 Quandeine
 1980 Old Scotch Collegians
 1981 Rocherlea
 1982 Old Launcestonians

1983 Old Scotch Collegians
 1984 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1985 Rocherlea
 1986 Old Scotch Collegians
 1987 Northern Districts
 1988 Rocherlea
 1989 Longford
 1990 Hillwood
 1991 Rocherlea
 1992 Hillwood
 1993 Tamar Cats
 1994 University-Mowbray
 1995 University-Mowbray
 1996 Bridgenorth
 1997 University-Mowbray
 1998 University-Mowbray
 1999 Hillwood
 2000 Hillwood
 2001 Scottsdale
 2002 George Town
 2003 George Town
 2004 George Town
 2005 George Town
 2006 George Town
 2007 George Town
 2008 George Town

Summary Of Wins: 12 Mowbray; 10 Old launcestonians; 9 St Patrick's Old Collegians; 7 George Town, Old Scotch Collegians; 5 Churinga; 4 Hillwood, Rocherlea, University-Mowbray; 2 Brooks Old Boys, Quandeine; 1 Bridgenorth, Dark Blue Rovers, Longford, Northern Districts, Scottsdale, Tamar Cats

A second division was introduced in 1992. Premiers to date have been:

1992 Mowbray
 1993 Rocherlea
 1994 *No competition*
 1995 *No competition*
 1996 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 1997 Old Launcestonians
 1998 Campbell Town
 1999 St Patrick's Old Collegians
 2000 Campbell Town

2001	Campbell Town	1921	Launceston
2002	St Patrick's Old Collegians	1922	City
2003	Tamar Cats	1923	City
2004	St Patrick's Old Collegians	1924	North Launceston
2005	University-Mowbray	1925	Launceston
2006	University-Mowbray	1926	North Launceston
2007	Fingal Valley	1927	North Launceston
2008	Fingal Valley	1928	City
		1929	Launceston
		1930	City
		1931	North Launceston
		1932	City
		1933	Launceston
		1934	Launceston
		1935	Launceston
		1936	Launceston
		1937	Launceston
		1938	Launceston
		1939	City
		1940	Launceston
		1941	City
		1945	Launceston
		1946	North Launceston
		1947	North Launceston
		1948	North Launceston
		1949	North Launceston
		1950	North Launceston
		1951	Launceston
		1952	City
		1953	City
		1954	City
		1955	Longford
		1956	City
		1957	Longford
		1958	Longford
		1959	City-South
		1960	City-South
		1961	North Launceston
		1962	City-South
		1963	North Launceston
		1964	Scottsdale
		1965	Scottsdale
		1966	City-South
		1967	East Launceston
		1968	Scottsdale
		1969	Launceston
		1970	Scottsdale
		1971	Scottsdale

Summary Of Wins: 4 St Patrick's Old Collegians; 3 Campbell Town; 2 Fingal Valley, University-Mowbray; 1 Mowbray, Old Launcestonians, Rocherlea, Tamar Cats

Premiers of the original NTFA competition from 1886 to 1986 were:

1886	City
1887	City
1888	Launceston
1889	Launceston
1890	City
1891	City
1892	Launceston
1893	Launceston
1894	Launceston
1895	City
1896	Fitzroy
1897	Launceston
1898	Essendon
1899	Launceston
1900	Launceston
1901	North Launceston
1902	City
1903	City
1904	North Launceston
1905	North Launceston
1906	North Launceston
1907	City
1908	City
1909	Launceston
1910	City
1911	North Launceston
1912	North Launceston
1913	Launceston
1914	City
1920	Launceston

1972	City-South
1973	Scottsdale
1974	City-South
1975	North Launceston
1976	Launceston
1977	Scottsdale
1978	North Launceston
1979	North Launceston
1980	North Launceston
1981	North Launceston
1982	Scottsdale
1983	North Launceston
1984	Scottsdale
1985	Launceston
1986	Scottsdale

Summary Of Wins: 28 City/City-South; 26 Launceston; 24 North Launceston/ Essendon; 10 Scottsdale; 3 Longford; 1 East Launceston, Fitzroy

Northern Tasmanian Football League: The NTFL was formed in 1987 and continues to this day. Senior grade premiers to date have been:

1987	Ulverstone
1988	East Devonport
1989	Scottsdale
1990	Ulverstone
1991	Smithton
1992	Burnie Tigers
1993	Ulverstone
1994	Ulverstone
1995	Ulverstone
1996	Ulverstone
1997	Ulverstone
1998	South Launceston
1999	South Launceston
2000	Ulverstone
2001	Burnie Dockers
2002	Burnie Dockers
2003	Burnie Dockers
2004	Burnie Dockers
2005	Burnie Dockers
2006	Launceston
2007	Launceston
2008	Launceston

Summary Of Wins: 8 Ulverstone; 5 Burnie Dockers; 3 Launceston; 2 South Launceston; 1 Burnie Tigers, East Devonport, Scottsdale, Smithton

In 2009, following the defection of North Launceston, Launceston, Burnie Dockers and South Launceston to the new statewide competition, the atrophied NTFA comprised just six clubs: East Devonport, Latrobe, Penguin, Smithton, Ulverstone and Wynyard.



The above photo features the Cananore team that won the both the TANFL and Tasmanian state premierships in 1913. I am indebted to Jenny Waugh for kindly sending me a scan which was made from a photocopy of the original image, which she has in her possession.



Cygnet celebrate trouncing Sorell 21.15 (141) to 9.10 (64) in the 2004 SthFL regional league grand final. The win gave The Port their third successive premiership.

O

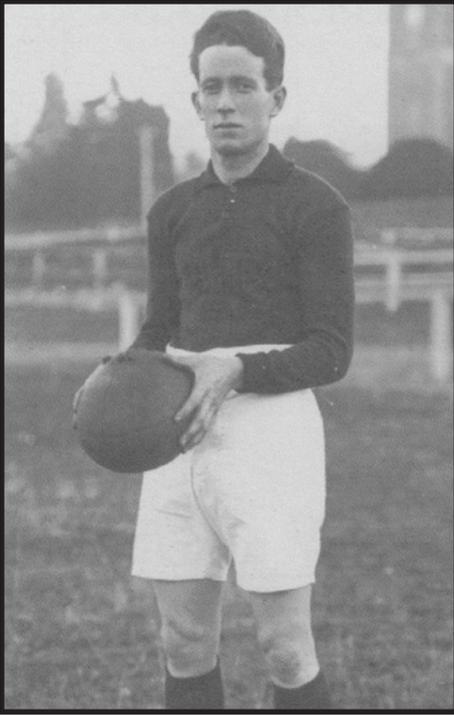
Oatlands District Football Association: The ODFA was established in 1952. Present day member clubs are Campania, Mount Pleasant, Ross, Swansea and Woodsdale. Premiers 1952 to 2008 were:

1952	Tunbridge
1953	Mount Pleasant
1954	Mount Pleasant
1955	Mount Pleasant
1956	Woodsdale
1957	Woodsdale
1958	Tunbridge
1959	Woodsdale
1960	Woodsdale
1961	Parattah
1962	Parattah
1963	Woodsdale
1964	Mount Pleasant
1965	Parattah
1966	Tunbridge
1967	Woodsdale
1968	Tunbridge
1969	Parattah
1970	Tunbridge
1971	Mount Pleasant
1972	Mount Pleasant
1973	Mount Pleasant
1974	Mount Pleasant
1975	Colebrook
1976	Kempton
1977	Mount Pleasant
1978	Oatlands
1979	Mount Pleasant
1980	Mount Pleasant
1981	Oatlands
1982	Kempton
1983	Oatlands
1984	Oatlands
1985	Ross
1986	Woodsdale
1987	Mount Pleasant
1988	Oatlands
1989	Bothwell
1990	Woodsdale

1991	Woodsdale
1992	Woodsdale
1993	Woodsdale
1994	Kempton
1995	Woodsdale
1996	Woodsdale
1997	Bothwell
1998	Woodsdale
1999	Woodsdale
2000	Woodsdale
2001	Woodsdale
2002	Triabunna
2003	Mount Pleasant
2004	Swansea
2005	Bothwell
2006	Mount Pleasant
2007	Swansea
2008	Woodsdale

Summary Of Wins: 18 Woodsdale; 14 Mount Pleasant; 5 Oatlands, Tunbridge; 4 Parattah; 3 Bothwell, Kempton; 2 Swansea; 1 Colebrook, Ross, Triabunna

ODGERS, FRED: A skilful and extremely pacy rover - indeed, in the view of some, the quickest player in South Australia at the time - Freddy Odgers commenced with Sturt when league football resumed after world war one in 1919. He had already proved himself an accomplished footballer playing in the wartime Patriotic competition, and he was a key factor in Sturt's achieving what was effectively, given that they had won the premiership in the last season before the war, a second consecutive flag in 1919. Between 1919 and 1922 he played 56 senior games for the Double Blues, and booted 41 goals. He also represented South Australia once. In 1923 he transferred to New Town, where he joined his former Sturt team mate and 1919 premiership captain-coach Bill Mayman, who had been playing with the club since its debut in the TFL the previous year. Odgers spent just one season with New



Fred Odgers

Town, but it was an auspicious one. He had an extremely consistent year, helping the club to its first ever TFL grand final, which was only narrowly lost against a much more experienced and finals hardened North Hobart combination. Most reports rated Odgers as New Town's best performer on grand final day. He also achieved selection for the TFL on several occasions during the year, including the noteworthy match against a South Australian 'B' combination in Adelaide in which the TFL scored a memorable 32 point win. In 1924 he crossed to Penguin and became that club's first ever Cheel Medallist.

OLD HOBARTIANS ASSOCIATION

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 1987

Home Ground: Geilston Bay Oval

Formed: 26th March 1919

Colours: Red, green and blue

Senior Grade Post-War Premierships:

Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1948, 1967, 1969, 1972 (4 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1967, 1969, 1972 (3 total); TAFLSD Old Scholars - 1982 (1 total); Old Scholars Football Association - 1988, 2008 (2 total)

Senior Post-War Competition Best and

Fairest Player Awards: Walter Howard Medal - Peter Turner 1955; Tony Andrews 1965; Robert Newton 1967, 1969 & 1971; Peter Bullock 1979 & 1985; Ted West 1982 (5 Medallists/8 Medals); Peter Fitzgerald Medal - Ricky McCulloch 1990; Paul Sheen 1994; Jason Fitzgerald 1996; Sean Williams 1997; Tim Scott 2001 (5 total)

Most Games: 325 by Peter Mansfield

The history of the Old Hobartians Association Football Club (OHA) dates back to 1919 when it competed in the Tasmanian Junior Football Association. Details of the club's early years are sketchy, and it was not really until the club joined the Tasmanian Amateur Football League's Southern Division competition in 1947 that records began to be assiduously maintained.

OHA broke through for their first TAFLSD flag in only their second season, beating St Virgil's in the grand final by 32 points. This entitled them to play off for the state title against the Northern Division premier, St Patrick's Old Collegians, but the Launceston-based team proved too strong.

The strongest teams in OHA's history were probably those of the late 1960s and early '70s which on three occasions achieved the 'double' of southern division and state premierships.

In 1981 the TAFLSD split into Districts and Old Scholars sections, with OHA competing in the latter. In 1982 they beat Hutchins in the Old Scholars grand final, but lost to Districts premier Lindisfarne in

the divisional grand final. In 1986 the two sections divorced entirely, with the Old Scholars section becoming known as the Old Scholars Football Association. OHA won their first OSFA premiership in 1988 when they trounced Friends in the grand final by 80 points, 18.16 (124) to 6.8 (44), and their second twenty years later with a 14.9 (93) to 9.19 (73) grand final defeat of Richmond.

OLD LAUNCESTONIANS

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and precursors since 1931

Home Ground: Bethune Park

Formed: 1931

Colours: Blue, black and white

Emblem: Blues

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Northern Division (TAFLND) - 1951-2-3, 1958-9-60, 1962, 1964, 1970-1, 1982 (11 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1952-3, 1960, 1964, 1982 (5 total); NTFA Division Two - 1997 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: TAFL Best and Fairest - R.Thornton 1934; E.Brooks 1939; J.Hunter 1941 (3 total); Max Allen Cup - P.Shepherd 1954; B.Foster 1957 (2 total); W.C. Curran Medal - G.Cuff 1973; C.Foon 1982 (2 total); NTFA Division Two Best and Fairest - James Proverbs 1997 (1 total - records incomplete)

Most Games: 321 by David Howie

Highest Score: 64.53 (437) vs. Quandeine 0.0 (0) in 1964

Old Launcestonians was a founder member in 1931 of the Launceston-based Tasmanian Amateur Football League. The team finished runner-up in its debut season, as it would do a total of seven times in the ten years from 1931 to 1940, increasing to eight in all by the time it broke through for its first flag in 1951. The 1950s would go on to be a productive decade,

with further local premierships following in 1952, 1953, 1958 and 1959, plus a pair of state titles. The Blues actually contested every grand final in the 1950s, a sequence they extended by reaching the first five play-offs of the subsequent decade, winning premierships in 1960, 1962 and 1964. In both 1960 and 1964 they claimed the Conder Shield as well.

The 1970s started off in highly promising fashion thanks to grand final defeats of St Patrick's Old Collegians in both 1970 and 1971. Thereafter, however, the Blues endured a bleak spell of unprecedented proportions that did not end until 1982 when they landed both the northern and state flags.

Old Launcestonians currently compete in Division Two of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, a competition which commenced in 1997, and in which the Blues won the first ever premiership after a 21.4 (130) to 9.3 (57) grand final defeat of old sparring partners St Patrick's.

Old Scholars Football Association: This competition commenced in 1981 as an Old Scholars section of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League's southern division. Since 1987 it has been a standalone competition. In 2009 it is home to half a dozen clubs: Dominic Old Scholars (DOSA), Hutchins, Old Hobartians Association, Richmond, St Virgil's and Tasmanian University.

Senior grade premiers to date have been:

1981	Hutchins
1982	Old Hobartians Association
1983	Hutchins
1984	Dominic Old Scholars
1985	Tasmanian University
1986	Dominic Old Scholars
1987	Dominic Old Scholars
1988	Old Hobartians Association
1989	Friends
1990	Friends
1991	Friends
1992	Tasmanian University
1993	Tasmanian University

1994	Dominic Old Scholars
1995	Dominic Old Scholars
1996	St Virgil's
1997	Friends
1998	St Virgil's
1999	Dominic Old Scholar
2000	Hutchins
2001	St Virgil's
2002	Hutchins
2003	Hutchins
2004	Richmond
2005	Richmond
2006	Hutchins
2007	Hutchins
2008	Old Hobartians Association

Summary Of Wins: 7 Hutchins; 6 Dominic Old Scholars; 4 Friends; 3 Old Hobartians, St Virgil's, Tasmanian University; 2 Richmond

OLD SCOTCH COLLEGIANS

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and precursors since 1935

Home Ground: Northern Tasmanian Cricket Ground, Launceston

Formed: 1935

Colours: Maroon, gold and blue

Emblem: Thistles

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Northern Division (TAFLND) - 1957, 1975-6, 1978, 1980, 1983, 1986 (7 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1976, 1980 (2 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: TAFL Best and Fairest - R.Clemons 1935 (1 total); Max Allen Cup - K.Taylor 1957; M.Neilson 1971 (2 total); W.C. Curran Medal - G.Beward 1984; D.Gibson 1985 (2 total); Northern Amateurs Division Two Best and Fairest - G.Beward 1992; J.Cooley 1996 (2 total)

Most Games: 317 by Mark Walker 1979 to 1999

Formed in 1935, Old Scotch was a significant contributor to the amateur game in northern Tasmania for many years. In terms of on-field success, the 1970s and 1980s proved especially productive, with all but one of the club's seven senior premierships being won during those decades. The exception was the club's breakthrough premiership, won by means of a 9.8 (62) to 7.11 (53) grand final defeat of Old Launcestonians. Old Scotch also won the now defunct state title twice, beating Claremont in both 1976 and 1980 by 2 and 71 points respectively.

P

PARSONS, BOB: Known as 'The mighty Atom' during his playing career, Bob Parsons gave tremendous service to Tasmanian football as both a player and a coach for the better part of three decades. He began with New Town prior to world war two before embarking on military service abroad. After returning home in 1945 he joined forces with Jack Rough and Bill Fox to provide New Town with one of the greatest ruck combinations seen in Tasmanian football. A member of premiership sides in 1948-9, Parsons played a total of 95 TANFL games with New Town. He later played with Clarence (6 games) and Penguin (70 games).

A regular interstate and representative player, arguably the greatest achievement in Bob Parsons' career came when he topped the goal kicking at the 1950 Brisbane carnival. With 14 goals in 4 games, Parsons finished 2 ahead of Bill Hutchison of the VFL, while renowned full forward John Coleman could manage only 9 goals for the series. Had an All Australian team been selected after the championships there seems little doubt that Parsons would have been included.

Parsons also represented Tasmania at the Adelaide carnival three years later, and it was there, in recognition of his alacrity, courage and verve, that the nickname of 'The Mighty Atom' was first conferred upon him.

After his retirement as a player, Bob Parsons was a successful coach, with his greatest accomplishment coming in 1965 when he steered Glenorchy, as New Town was renamed in 1957, to both the TANFL and state premierships.

He is a member of Penguin's official 'Team of the Century', but not, perhaps surprisingly, Glenorchy's.

PASCOE, MALCOLM: Still a few weeks short of his sixteenth birthday, Mal Pascoe

joined Essendon from local team Essendon Bombers in 1949, and spent the next four seasons working his way through the club's junior ranks. In 1952 he starred in the Dons' 7.14 (56) to 4.5 (29) seconds grand final win over Collingwood. Strong overhead, and a prodigious drop kick, he played a total of 94 VFL games between 1953 and 1958, including the losing grand final of 1957 against Melbourne when he shared the ruck-roving duties with Hugh Mitchell. In 1959 he accepted the post of captain-coach of TANFL side Hobart, where he enjoyed a dream debut season that saw him represent the state, win the William Leitch Medal for best and fairest in the competition, top the league's goal kicking list with 75 goals, and steer his side to a 9.14 (68) to 2.9 (27) grand final defeat of New Norfolk. Shortly after the grand final he steered Hobart to its first and only state championship title courtesy of a 14.11 (95) to 9.14 (68) victory over Burnie. He led the Tigers to a second successive TANFL flag in 1960, and also topped the league's goal kicking list again, this time with 57 majors. A third local premiership followed three years later, and Pascoe stayed at the helm until the end of the 1965 season, making him Hobart's longest serving senior coach up to that point. He continued as a player under his successor John Watts, and his final tally of 177 TANFL games included a starring role in the Tigers' heart-stopping 10.14 (74) to 11.7 (73) grand final defeat of Glenorchy in 1966. In 1978 he returned to Hobart as non-playing coach and was in charge for two seasons. The importance of Mal Pascoe's contribution to Hobart was later recognised with his inclusion, as first ruckman, in the club's official 'Greatest Team 1947 to 2002'.

PASCOE, ROBERT: Hefty, robust and imposing, Bob Pascoe began his league career at North Adelaide, and his 97 senior



games for the club between 1959 and 1963 included membership of its winning grand final team against Norwood in 1960. In 1962 he was selected to represent South Australia, but was forced to miss out after incurring a suspension.

Pascoe's best football was played during his time at North Melbourne between 1964 and 1967. During the early part of the 1966 season he was widely acknowledged as the 'form' big man in the VFL, and selection in the Big V carnival squad for Hobart followed. Just as four years earlier in his home state, however, Pascoe ended up missing out, this time after suffering a broken leg.

When Pascoe returned to football in 1967 he quickly rediscovered his best form, ultimately running third in North's best and fairest voting. With brother Barry, newly arrived from North Adelaide, he gave the 'Roos a solid first ruck combination. However, at season's end he ran foul of the club's authorities and was sacked. The following year found both Pascoe brothers at

St Kilda, with Bob overcoming a controversial start - he was suspended by the club for twelve weeks during his debut season - to give commendable service in 31 games over three years.

The final phase of Bob Pascoe's career took place in Tasmania where he captain-coached NWFU side Burnie between 1971 and 1973. During that time he played a total of 44 club games, besides representing the NWFU every year, and captaining Tasmania against the VFL in Hobart in 1973.

PATON, IAN: Hard working, resolute, and the consummate team player, ruckman Ian Paton gave Hawthorn ten years of reliable service which included involvement in two winning grand finals. He joined the Hawks from Scotch College in Tasmania and made his VFL debut in the premiership year of 1976. Paton was not selected for that season's grand final, but two years later he was a member of the team which downed North Melbourne in the premiership decider by 3 goals. After Don Scott retired at the end of the 1981 season, Paton assumed principal ruck duties for the team, and he was first ruckman when the Hawks annihilated Essendon by 83 points in the 1983 grand final. He also played in the losing grand final the next year against the same opposition. The last of Ian Paton's 155 VFL games came in 1985. He spent the 1986 season captaining Hawthorn's reserves, and in 1987 returned home to Tasmania where he was appointed captain-coach of South Launceston, which was about to commence its second season in the recently formed TFL Statewide competition. The Bulldogs were not particularly successful under Paton's coaching, but from the personal point of view his playing form was consistently superb, leading to club best and fairest trophies in 1987, 1988 and 1990.

PAYNE, BURNET 'BURNIE': Burnet Thomas Payne - invariably referred to as 'Burnie' - was without doubt one of

the all time greats of the Hobart Football Club, and indeed of Tasmanian football in general. He made his league debut for the Tigers as a sixteen year old in 1956, and when he finally retired in 1973 he had played a total of 253 league games, including 15 in the VFL. His time at Hobart saw him participate in winning grand finals in 1959, 1960, 1963 and 1966, win William Leitch Medals in 1965 and 1966, and represent Tasmania on a club record (held jointly with Trevor Leo) 16 occasions, including games at the 1966 and 1969 carnivals. The fact that he won only one club best and fairest award during his career seems, on the face of it, rather surprising, but is really just an indication of the abundance of talent present at Hobart during the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

Clever, elusive and with pace to burn, there were few more eye-catching rovers than 'Burnie' Payne when he was on song. Many of his best performances came when the stakes were at their highest, such as his best afield displays in the 1963 and 1966 grand finals. In 1964 he transferred to the 'big time' with St Kilda and enjoyed a fine season, playing 15 VFL games and kicking 27 goals as well as earning frequent mention in dispatches. However, he was forced by family reasons to return home to Tasmania in 1965, thereby depriving the Saints of a potential star, whilst simultaneously giving Tasmanian football fans the rare opportunity of seeing one of the finest footballers in the country playing out his career in their own backyard.

Once his TANFL career was over, 'Burnie' Payne spent three seasons as coach of Kingston, which at the time was a member of the Huon Football Association.

His status as one of the greatest ever players in the history of the Hobart Football Club was emphasised just after the turn of the century with his inclusion as first rover in the Tigers' official 'Greatest Team 1947 to 2002'.

PENGUIN

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football League (NTFL) since 1987

Club Address: P.O. Box 173, Penguin 7316, Tasmania

Home Ground: Penguin Recreation Ground

Formed: 1890

Colours: Royal and light blue

Emblem: Two Blues

Premierships: 1932, 1977, 1980, 1985 (4 total)

Cheer Medallists: Fred Odgers 1924; R.Stott 1926; 'Nip' Smith 1927 (3 total)

Wright Medallists: Gerry Plapp 1931 (1 total)

NWFU Western Division Best and

Fairest Award: A.Crawford 1947 (1 total)

Wander Medallists: Colin Moore 1958; Ricky Smith 1972 (2 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: T.Dunham (44) 1956, (76) 1958, (76) 1960; D.Adams (41) 1962; F.Wooller (61) 1966; C.Reynolds (135) 1985 (6 total)

Highest Score: 30.20 (200) vs. East Devonport in 1977

Most Games: 432 by Bill Fielding

Record Finals Attendance: 9,828 for the 1985 NWFU grand final at West Park, Burnie: Penguin 21.9 (135); Smithton 13.9 (97)

Located between Burnie and Ulverstone on Tasmania's north west coast the small seaside town of Penguin takes its name from the colonies of fairy penguins which frequent the area. As far as football is concerned, the locality has made something of a name for itself in recent years as a regular and reliable producer of AFL talent, including Richmond's Gale brothers, Brendon and Michael, Russell Robertson of Melbourne, and Justin Plapp of Richmond and St Kilda. Much more importantly, however, the town's senior football club 'the Mighty Two Blues' has,

for well over a century, provided local inhabitants with regular high quality exposure to the greatest of games. If the standard of football on display has declined in recent years - respected sports commentator Tim Lane recently described Tasmania's major football competitions, the SFL and the NTFL, as "really only fourth tier"¹ - it would be facile to measure football's importance in purely qualitative terms. Football in Tasmania, perhaps more than anywhere else in Australia, has always represented a vital element in community life, and while the institutionalised rape and pillage carried out by and on behalf of the AFL and its clubs has inevitably undermined this state of affairs to some extent, the local football club retains a certain social significance which is quite independent of the perceived quality of its 'product'.

With the exception of a one season stint in the newly formed NWFU in 1910, the Penguin Football Club, which was formed in 1890, spent the period until 1922 competing in various junior Leagues and Associations, winning a solitary flag in 1913. Between 1922 and 1937 the side once again participated in the NWFU, contesting consecutive grand finals against Latrobe in 1932 (won by 21 points) and '33 (lost by 51 points). In 1938 Penguin joined Wynyard, Cooee and City in establishing a new competition, the still extant Darwin Football Association; it reached the grand final in 1938, losing by 5 goals to Wynyard, but thereafter was unsuccessful.

The Two Blues rejoined the NWFU fold in 1945 when that competition reformed after World War Two, but it would be more than thirty years before the side contested a grand final. However, once the breakthrough was made, albeit with a disappointing 32 point loss to Ulverstone in 1976, it seemed the monkey was well and truly off the club's back. During the NWFU's final ten seasons of competition

between 1977 and 1986 Penguin emerged as one of the competition's leading clubs, contesting five grand finals for three wins, a record that only Cooee could better.

Prominent players for Penguin in this period included triple club champion Bill Fielding, dual winner Garth Barrett, Barry Valentine, Michael King, Chris Reynolds, Kevin Brown and Andrew Baldock.

Penguin entered the NTFL when it was formed in 1987 and have endured a somewhat forlorn time in that competition since, contesting the finals only intermittently, and managing an overall success rate in its first fourteen seasons of just 36.4%. In both 1998 and 1999 the senior side failed to win a single match. Nevertheless, as was intimated at the outset, success in football is not, or ought not to be, everything. For the 500 or so loyal souls who attend the Two Blues' weekly outings throughout the winter,² while most would no doubt wish earnestly for a premiership, ultimately it is the club, and the game itself, which matter above all.

Footnotes

1 Quoted in *Australian Rules Football in Tasmania 2002* edited by John Stoward, page 8.

2 Penguin's average attendance in the 2001 season (when the side finished ninth out of twelve clubs) was 526. Premiership team Burnie by comparison attracted a league high average crowd of 739, while wooden spooner Smithton was watched by a weekly average of 385.

PERTH

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) since 1998

Home Ground: Perth Recreation Ground

Formed: 1880; disbanded 1955; reformed 1960

Colours: Black, white and teal

Emblem: Magpies

POLLY SAYS TOO MUCH

1970 Interstate Match: Tasmania vs. Western Australia

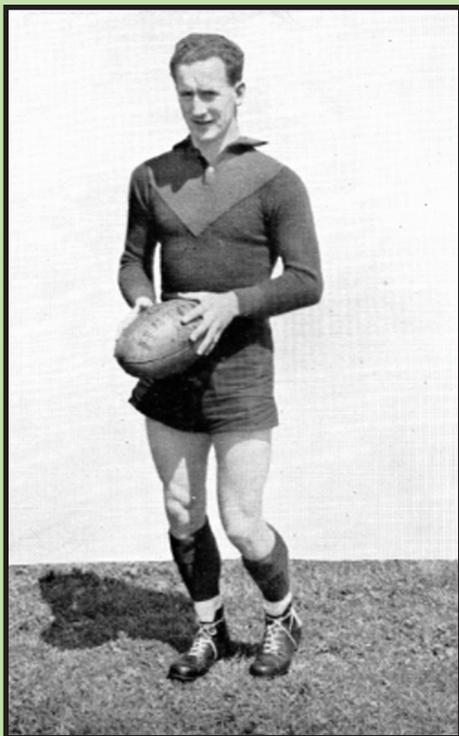
What do the following footballers have in common? Fred McGinis, Laurie Nash, Verdun Howell, Bob 'Tassie' Johnson, Ian Stewart, Royce Hart, Brent Crosswell, Tim Evans, Noel Carter, Simon Atkins, Darrin Pritchard, Paul Hudson, Alastair Lynch, Matthew Richardson. More than one thing, actually, as it happens: all were either born in Tasmania or played their early football there; all achieved considerable notoriety in the game; and all, without exception, achieved most of that notoriety while playing outside Tasmania. This, in brief, has been the dilemma faced by Tasmanian football, and individual Tasmanian footballers, for well over a century. The quality of Tasmanian football has always been high - indeed, assessed on a per capita basis it would be very hard indeed to avoid the conclusion that, over the entire course of the twentieth century, Tasmania was actually the leading producer of top quality football talent in Australia. However, for a combination of social, political and economic reasons, the state has never managed to develop an internal infrastructure conducive to keeping the majority of its best players at home.



Ian Stewart

Despite this, Tasmania has managed a number of noteworthy achievements in the interstate arena. At the 1911 Adelaide carnival, for instance, the Tasmanians overcame Western Australia by 5 points. Other examples include the famous victory of Bill Mayman's 1923 TFL combination over a strong South Australian side on the Adelaide Oval; carnival victories over South Australia (1956 and '58) and Western Australia (1958); the York Park heroics of Stuart Spencer, Don Gale, Barry Strange, Neil Conlan et al against the mighty Big V in 1960; and the superbly gritty, against the odds display against reigning Australian champions Western Australia - and the elements - at Subiaco in 1963, which resulted in a win to Tasmania by 15 points. Arguably greater than all of these performances, however, was the win in 1970 against the visiting West Australians at North Hobart Oval. By this stage, the loss of players to the VFL, and other mainland competitions, had reached an all time high, with more than an entire team's worth of players plying their trade in Melbourne.

Other states had suffered at the hands of the Victorians too, of course. Western Australia, for instance, had roughly the same number of its players involved in the VFL as Tasmania, but with six times the population to draw from, the overall impact was proportionately reduced.



Stewart Spencer

The Western Australians arrived in Hobart in confident frame of mind. On Saturday 12 June they had come closer than ever before to recording an upset victory over the VFL in Melbourne, ultimately losing by just 6 points despite managing 30 scoring shots to 24. Moreover, the last time Western Australia had played Tasmania, at the previous year's Adelaide carnival, the sandgropers had done virtually as they pleased all day en route to 113 point victory. As a result, team captain Graham 'Polly' Farmer told the waiting pool of Tasmanian journalists that his side simply could not countenance anything other than a convincing win. "If we can't beat Tasmania, we ought to give the game away," he declared, presumably with the intention of thereby inspiring his West Australian team mates.

Well, the statement was inspirational all right, but it would not be the men in yellow and black jumpers who would be thanking Farmer after the game. Such provocative declarations have a strange tendency to back fire, it seems, and after the supposedly undermanned Tasmanians had played superbly to buck the odds with a 2 point win,

'Advocate' journalist Allan Leeson could not restrain himself from archly observing that, in lieu of Farmer's comments, "there are now twenty redundant interstate footballers".

The Teams

Former Geelong player John Devine (North Hobart) was captain-coach of a Tasmanian side that boasted a predominance (more than 50%) of southern-based players. Like Devine, vice-captain Darrell Baldock had considerable VFL experience, as did his Latrobe team mate John Jillard, Longford's Paul Vinar, New Norfolk's Ricky Graham, and Max Urquhart of Wynyard. The majority of the players, however, had spent their entire football careers in the Apple Isle.

Western Australia had a wealth of talent on every line, including one of the finest rovers in Australia, Bill Walker of Swan Districts, two superlative ruckmen in 'Polly' Farmer and Bill Dempsey, both of West Perth, champion Perth wingman Greg Brehaut, and East Perth's redoubtable utility Malcolm Brown.

Match Report

From 'The Advocate' - by Allan Leeson

(This) will go down in history as one of the best ever performances by a Tasmanian team. In fact, it was only fourth victory against WA in the 16 clashes between the states since 1911.

Tasmania stole the game with phenomenal goal shooting and fierce tackling in the opening two and a half quarters, lost it late in the third and for most of the final quarter when it switched to fancy short passing, and won it again in a steamrolling final three minutes.

Two men held the game in their palms in the vital few minutes - West Australian centre half forward Mal Brown who had been switched to full forward, and Tasmanian half forward flanker John Bingley. Brown returned to the scene of his famous - or infamous (whichever way you look at it) - 1966 carnival stoush with Tasmanian Max McMahon to capture the lead for Western Australia for the first time with a goal twenty-six minutes into the final term. It was Brown's great marking and creative attacking - fired by replacement centreman Cam Blakemore - that nearly gave WA victory minutes before the final siren. It was Bingley's fanatical desire, marking and deciding kick that recovered the lead for Tasmania thirty seconds before the final siren.

The big crowd of nearly 20,000 - only 4,000 short of the 1966 opening day carnival record of 23,754 - held its breath as Bingley marked with three minutes left. Bingley, of all people, a natural backman and notoriously bad kick for goal. Sure enough, his kick flew wide and fell short for Frost to miss and Marshall to pick up the crumbs and kick a point.

The crowd had almost given up hope as the precious minutes ticked by and WA recovered again for Brown to mark, a long way out, but within kicking distance. But he too was off target, for a point.

All hope seemed lost as Longford coach Paul Vinar, considered by many as the best Tasmanian afield, kicked off. The former national long distance champion, as usual, put plenty of distance into the lofty kick. The ball flew to the wing, Stirling grabbed it, Devine chipped in and found Baldock, who hit Bingley on the chest about forty yards out on a flank.

Could he or couldn't he? This was the big question in one of the most tense finished seen in an interstate game in Tasmania. Bingley did and the wild scenes of jubilation among players and thousands of spectators as the siren sounded 30 seconds later reflected the pleasure of everyone at the ground. Veteran pressmen said it was the best reception ever given a Tasmanian team. Thousands poured onto the ground and clogged the entrances and even the timekeeper vented his feelings with a drawn out salute on the siren.

I believe the straight kicking for goal - it was uncannily accurate - and fierce tackling in the opening half played the biggest part in this victory.

In defence of WA it must be remembered that it was recovering from an equally torrid game against Victoria only two days previously. A game which robbed it of four of its star players - Denis Marshall, 'Hassa' Mann, Bradley Smith and Peter Stephen - all of whom were injured. The strange ground - and North Hobart can be strange to visiting teams - slippery surface and travelling are all factors which were against the sandgropers. Nevertheless, they had every opportunity and nothing can be taken away from Tasmania - generally regarded as the 'Cinderella' football state. The Tasmanians demonstrated a fanaticism and desire to win the ball rarely seen in state teams. They took the initiative from the first bounce, with Baldock, proving that he is far from 'too old' as claimed by some critics, and Devine the masterminds. Rovers Bonney and Marshall were in fine form and within five minutes the home side had two goals on the board. It went on to kick six goals from seven shots, while WA had only four shots, one of which was a 'poster'.

It was much the same in the second quarter, with full forward Athol Hodgetts also joining the spree. Hodgetts finished with 3.1 in his interstate debut - against the man who kept Hudson to only one goal on Saturday, John Reilly.

'Polly' Farmer's creative handball and strength in the ruck started to tell towards the end of this term, enabling bustling little rover Bill Walker - one of the stars of the 1969 Adelaide carnival - to come into his own.

The WAs whittled the lead away in the third term, but Tasmania was still well clear. Then at three quarter time WA made two changes which swung the game. Cam Blakemore replaced injured centreman Peter Manning and became the focal point of WA's thrusts to high marking Brown, who was moved to full forward. Ultimately, however, it was not quite enough.

Match Summary

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Tasmania	6.1	13.2	14.5	18.10	118
Western Australia	1.3	6.7	10.10	17.14	116

BEST - Tasmania: Vinar, Bonney, Graham, Devine, Urquhart, Steele, Stirling, Baldock
 Western Australia: Walker, Brown, Brehaut, A.Stiles, Farmer, Cooper, Blakemore

SCORERS - Tasmania: Bonney 4.1; Marshall 3.2; Hodgetts 3.1; Devine, Hall 2.1; Baldock, Stirling 1.1; Bingley, L.Styles 1.0; Frost 0.2 Western Australia: Carroll 3.1; Cooper 3.0; Walker 2.3; Brown, Smeath 2.2; Duperouzel 2.1; Blakemore, Farmer, Purton 1.0; Metropolis 0.3; Young 0.1; rushed 0.1

ATTENDANCE: 19,823 at North Hobart Oval

Senior Grade Premierships: Esk Football Association (EFA) - 1945, 1971, 1983 (3 total); Esk-Deloraine Football Association (EDFA) - 1984, 1986-7-8-9-90 (6 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: EFA Best and Fairest - J.McCarthy 1953; Bill Campbell 1966 (2 total - records incomplete); EDFA Best and Fairest - Bruno Zelesco 1988, 1989, 1990 (1 winner/3 wins); NTFA Division Two Best and Fairest - Matthew Williams 2000 (records incomplete)

The Magpies have a long history which has not been without its troubles, but they have enjoyed a fair amount of success as well. Their first senior flag was won in the Esk Football Association in 1945 thanks to a 7.8 (50) to 7.7 (49) grand final defeat of Cressy. Perth fielded strong sides during the early 1950s, but second place in 1952 and 1953 was as close as the side got to claiming another premiership.

In 1955 the club was forced to go into recess, and did not resume until 1960. The

seniors reached grand finals in 1964 and 1970, losing to Bracknell and Evandale respectively, before finally claiming that elusive second flag in 1971 with an 11.11 (77) to 10.8 (68) grand final victory over Deloraine.

Perth's third premiership was won in 1983, again at the expense of Deloraine. In 1984 the Esk and Deloraine Associations were combined, and the Magpies, under the new name of Perth Rovers, defeated Wesbury in the new competition's first grand final. They went on to contest the first seven EDFA grand finals, winning all but one of them.

Perth currently competes in division two of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association.

POWELL, DENNIS was a fine ruckman who boasted considerable stamina and was an excellent palmer of the ball. He spent his entire fifteen season league career with the same club, Hobart, and his value is readily evidenced by his feat in winning no fewer

than six club best and fairest awards during what was arguably the Tigers' greatest ever era. In the winning grand finals of 1959 against New Norfolk, 1960 against North Hobart, 1963 against Sandy Bay and 1966 against Glenorchy, Powell led the rucks, as he did in the state premiership victory over Burnie in 1959. His tally of 272 senior games for Hobart was, at the time of his retirement, a club record. He also represented Tasmania 5 times, and played 14 intrastate matches for the TFL. Hardly surprisingly, he was included in the first ruck in Hobart's official 'Best Team 1947 to 2002'.



Fred Pringle

PRINGLE, FRED commenced his senior football career with Cananore in 1915, while still only fifteen years of age. The TFL went into abeyance the following year because

of the war, and did not resume until 1920, when Pringle once again fronted up for the Canaries. An accomplished all rounder, he was equally at home in the ruck or in any key position. The Cananore team in which he played for most of the 1920s was one of the strongest ever seen on the Apple Isle; besides Pringle, it boasted, at various times, players of the calibre of Horrie Gorringer, Jack Charlesworth, Jack Gardiner and Hec Smith. Small wonder that it enjoyed almost annual flirtation with the premiership, which it won on five occasions between 1921 and 1927, rounding things off on each occasion with the state title.

Late in the 1923 season, Pringle ventured to Victoria where he joined Carlton. He spent the entire 1924 season with the Blues, where his form was sufficiently eye-catching to procure interstate selection. He returned to Cananore in 1925, this time as captain-coach, and in one of the highlights of his career late in the season he steered the Canaries to an incredible 178 point victory over visiting South Australian team, Port Adelaide.

The 1927 season saw Fred Pringle back on the mainland, but this time only briefly, as a member of Tasmania's Melbourne carnival side. At the end of the following year, while still in his prime as a player, he retired.

PRITCHARD, DARRIN: Stepping into Rodney Eade's footsteps at Hawthorn was another talented, pacy wingman from Tasmania in the shape of Sandy Bay recruit Darrin Pritchard.. A member of the Hawks' 1988, 1989 and 1991 premiership sides Pritchard was arguably the most exciting wingman in Australia at his peak. He represented both his home and adopted states at state of origin level, skipping the former on three occasions, and was named in the 1989 VFL Team of the Year. After sustaining a broken leg in 1995 he made a creditable comeback but was never quite the same player. He retired after the 1997 season having played 211 VFL/AFL games.

In June 2004, AFL Tasmania named Pritchard on the interchange bench in the Tasmanian 'Team of the Century'.

PYE, LEN 'APPLES': Memorably nicknamed 'Apples', Tasmanian-born Len Pye actually commenced his senior football career in the VFA with Northcote. He returned to Tasmania in 1929, thereby missing the onset of the Brickfielders' greatest ever era, which would yield a total of five premierships over the next eight seasons. Not that flag success was foreign to Pye: joining North Hobart, he participated in that club's grand final wins over Lefroy in 1929 and Cananore in 1932. In 1929, the Robins also won the state premiership with a 9 point win over Launceston.

Adept on the ground, formidable in the air, and a thumping kick, Pye won the 1932 Leitch Medal, and was a key performer for Tasmania at the 1933 Sydney carnival, where he came to the attention of a number of mainland clubs. The 1934 season found him at Fitzroy where he played a total of 16 VFL games and kicked 39 goals in two years.

Back at North Hobart in 1936, Len Pye continued where he had left off, putting in a best afield performance for the Robins as they overcame Lefroy by 4 points in a nail-biting grand final. A 17 point defeat of Launceston in the state premiership play-off followed.

Best afield again in the 1937 grand final, and this time with an official award, the Coronation Medal, to confirm it, Pye nevertheless suffered disappointment as North Hobart went down to Lefroy by 45 points.

In winning the George Watt Memorial Medal in both 1937 and 1938, Len Pye became the first player to secure TFL best and fairest awards on three occasions. (Rex Garwood later emulated this feat.) Had the war not intervened, he might conceivably have won even more.



Len Pye

A member of five North Hobart premiership teams and a winner of the club's best and fairest award in 1931 and 1936-7-8, Pye returned to the Robins when full scale football resumed in 1946. he following year, however, he joined TANFL debutants New Norfolk, where he played out the final two seasons of his league career.

Len Pye's immense contribution to Tasmanian football was rewarded in 2004 with inclusion in the state's official 'Team of the Century'.

R

RAIT, ALAN: Prior to the merger of Peter Hudson, the greatest full forward in Tasmanian football history was undoubtedly Allan Rait. In his debut season with North Hobart in 1927 he played mainly as a half forward flanker, but from 1928 onwards he found his true home at the goal front. In 1929, Rait 'topped the ton' for the first of four times, and the following year established a TANFL record of 152 goals for the season that was to stand until 1976, when superseded by Hudson. The 1930 season also saw Rait selected to represent Tasmania at the Adelaide carnival when, with 27 goals, he finished second on the goal kicking list to Bill Mohr of the VFL.

In 1933, Alan Rait joined Mohr in the VFL when he was signed by Footscray. He played 18 games that year, and booted 59 goals to head the Tricolours' list, but an injury sustained early the following season brought his VFL career to an untimely end. After spending the remainder of the 1934 season back home in Tasmania recovering from his injury, Rait resumed with North Hobart in 1935 as captain-coach. The Robins lost that year's grand final to Roy Cazaly's New Town by 14 points, but made amends in 1936 by winning both the local and the state titles.

Alan Rait put in one final season with North Hobart in 1937 before deciding to retire. All told, he booted 847 goals in league football in roughly 180 games. He topped the TANFL goal kicking list in all but two of his ten full seasons in the competition.

REID, NOEL: North Hobart's Noel 'Nogger' Reid was the first post-war TANFL footballer to notch 200 league games. A champion rover and centreman who late in his career was transformed into a top quality back pocket player, he ended his senior career in 1956 with 213 TANFL games to his credit, plus 35 intrastate representative appearances, and 8 state games for



Noel Reid

Tasmania. His state appearances included games at both the 1947 Hobart and 1950 Brisbane carnivals. Always cool under pressure, Reid boasted all the skills of the game, and was extremely strong and quick. He won the Leitch Medal for best and fairest in the TANFL in 1945, his very first senior season. In August 2000 'Nogger' Reid was selected in North Hobart's official 'Team of the Century'.

RICHARDSON, MATTHEW made his Richmond debut in 1993 and has since carved out a spectacular, if often injury interrupted, career for himself at the highest level. Thirteen times Richmond's leading goalkicker he is also one of the finest marks in the AFL, leading the league after the home and away series in that particular statistical

category in 1999. During the latter part of his career, he played many fine games as a wingman, and indeed he was selected in that position in the 2008 AFL All Australian team having previously, in 1999, been chosen as a forward.

RICHMOND

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 2001

Home Ground: Richmond War Memorial Oval

Formed: 1878; merged with Campania 1980, and played as Richmond-Campania 1980-90; reverted to Richmond 1991

Colours: Dark blue and white

Senior Grade Premierships: Southern County Football Association (SCFA) - 1925-6 (2 total); South Eastern Districts Football Association (SEDFA) - 1945-6-7, 1951, 1958, 1964, 1974, 1976, 1978 (9 total); Tasman Football Association (TFA) - 1993-4-5-6, 2000 (5 total); OSFA - 2004-5 (2 total) [Campania, which had been formed in 1882, won senior premierships in the Richmond Football Association in 1933, and the SEDFA in 1949, 1953 and 1963.]

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Awards: SEDFA Best and Fairest - Derek Parremore 1954 (1 total, but competition records incomplete); Tas Bryan Medal (TFA) - Mark Scott 1993 (1 total); Peter Fitzgerald Medal - A.Daft 2005 (1 total)

Football of some sort is recorded as having been played in Richmond in 1867 by two teams of Irish settlers. The Richmond Football Club was formed in 1878, and played its first match against another club (Oatlands) two years later. One presumes that, prior to this, the club's members only engaged in informal matches among themselves.

In 1895, Richmond joined the Midlands Football Association, but details of its record in that competition have disappeared. The

club's history becomes easier to trace after world war one, and particularly after it joined the Southern County Football Association in 1923. Richmond won two SCFA premierships before transferring to the Richmond Football Association, where it remained until the competition was suspended owing to the war at the end of the 1940 season.

After the war, Richmond competed with a reasonable amount of success (nine flags in thirty-six seasons) in the South Eastern Districts Football Association. In 1980 the club underwent an amalgamation with Campania, and competed under the name of Richmond-Campania until 1990. From 1981 to 1990 the club competed without noteworthy success in the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League. It then crossed to the Tasman Football Association where it contested half a dozen grand finals during the course of an involvement lasting ten seasons, winning a total of five premierships, including four in succession between 1993 and 1996. With the future of the TFA seemingly in doubt - it duly went into recess at the end of the 2001 season - Richmond sought, and was granted, admission to the Old Scholars Football Association in 2001. The club adapted quickly to its new home, winning senior flags in both 2004 and 2005, and reaching another grand final in 2008, which was narrowly lost against Old Hobartians.

ROACH, MICHAEL began his senior career with Longford where he played mainly as a wingman. However, it was as a full forward with Richmond in the VFL, where he moved in 1977, that he made his name. Supremely powerful overhead, he kicked both straight and long, and was a key figure in Richmond's pre-eminence during the early 1980s. His best year in front of the sticks was 1980, when his club record tally of 112 goals was good enough to top the league list. He was the league's top goalkicker again in 1981 with 86 goals, and he headed Richmond's

list no fewer than seven times (once jointly). After representing Tasmania at the 1979 Perth state of origin carnival, Roach achieved All Australian selection. He retired in 1989 after precisely 200 VFL games which yielded 607 goals.

ROBERTSON, COLIN: Best remembered for the Norm Smith Medal he won during Hawthorn's 1983 VFL grand final demolition of Essendon Colin Robertson was a dashing player in two states who was equally at home on the ball, on a wing, or in defence. In the 1983 grand final his brief was to curb the effectiveness of key Bomber on baller Tim Watson, a task he performed in exemplary fashion, whilst still managing to exert a significant impact offensively.

Robertson joined Hawthorn from Wynyard in 1980 after the Hawks won a six club chase to procure him. He quickly settled in at Glenferrie becoming, from 1981 onwards, a significant contributor to the hard running style of football which was being developed by coach Allan Jeans, and which would ultimately enable the Hawks to establish one of the most awesome - and enduring - football dynasties of all time.

Such high standards made competition for senior places at Hawthorn probably stiffer than it had been at any other VFL club up to that point, and after the 1984 grand final - in which he performed serviceably to contribute 2 goals to Hawthorn's losing tally of 12.9 - Robertson found it increasingly difficult to perform consistently at the required level. Admittedly, grand final day 1985 did see him earn a second premierships medallion in a side including players of the calibre of Peter Knights, Rodney Eade, Michael Byrne, James Morrissey, Greg Dear and Steve Malaxos, but the sad fact was that this was just a reserves flag which, in the context of the Hawthorn senior side's 78 point capitulation to Essendon later the same day, meant very little.

Colin Robertson finished his senior football career by captaining Burnie Hawks

during that club's first three seasons in the TFL statewide competition.

ROCHERLEA

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and precursors since 1970

Home Ground: Rocherlea Football Ground

Formed: 1951

Colours: Black and yellow

Emblem: Tigers

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Northern Division (TAFLND) - 1981, 1985, 1988, 1991 (4 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1988 (1 total); TAFLND Division Two - 1993 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Max Allen Cup - B.Appleby 1970 (1 total); W.C. Curran Medal - C.Harris 1974; B.Bell 1980 & 1981; Justin Rigby 1999 (3 Medallists/4 Medals - records incomplete); TAFLND Division One Best and Fairest - Tony Brand 1995 (1 total); TAFLND Division Two Best and Fairest - Craig Webb 1996 (1 total)

Most Games: 325 by Brian Bell

The Tigers joined the Northern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League in 1970 and were quite competitive from the start. During the 1970s, the reserves won a couple of premierships, but the seniors had to wait until 1980 before contesting a grand final, and did not win a flag until the following year. Two further senior premierships followed during the 1980s, after the second of which, in 1988, Rocherlea defeated southern premier Claremont to claim the state title.

During the 1990s the Tigers continued to thrive, contesting grand finals in 1991, 1993 (second Division), 1995 and 1996, for two wins. Meanwhile, the reserves won a record five successive flags between 1987 and 1991.

The Northern Tasmanian Football Association replaced the northern division of the amateurs in 1997. Rocherlea competes in division one of this competition.

ROSS

Current Affiliation: Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA) since 2006
Home Ground: Ross Oval, Park Street
Formed: 1878; into recess 2000; reformed 2006
Colours: Navy blue and red
Emblem: Demons
Senior Grade Premierships: Midlands Football Association (MFA) - 1946, 1948, 1956-7-8-9, 1966-7-8 (9 total); ODFA - 1985 (1 total)

The Demons have endured a hard time lately. Indeed, between 2000 and 2005 the club actually went into recess, but since resuming its performances have been encouraging.

The Ross Football Club dates back well over a century. The club was particularly strong during the 1940s, '50s and '60s when it was a member of the Midlands Football Association. Ross won the very first premiership in this competition in 1946 when it accounted for Tunnack in the grand final by the narrowest of margins. The MFA existed between 1946 and 1971, during which time Ross contested no fewer than seventeen grand finals for nine wins, making it the competition's most successful club.

In 1980 the Demons commenced their involvement in the Oatlands District Football Association where their only senior flag to date was procured in 1985 at the expense of Mount Pleasant. They finished as runners-up in 1983, 1991 and 1998.

ROUGH, JACK was arguably Tasmanian football's greatest ever ruckman. Renowned for the accuracy of his palming, Rough made his debut with New Town in 1945

and, apart from the 1951 season when he led Ulverstone to the NWFU premiership (winning a Wander Medal in the process), and allowing for the name change to Glenorchy in 1956, he spent his entire senior career at the club.

Never the most spectacular of players, Rough was nevertheless invaluable to his team both in terms of his quiet effectiveness as a knock ruckman - his palming skills were especially noteworthy - and in the level of encouragement he provided, particularly to his younger team mates. As captain, captain-coach or coach he was responsible for helping steer the Magpies to eight grand finals for five premierships. He also led the side to the unofficial state championship title on four occasions.

Six times a Tasmanian state representative, Rough participated in the 1950 Brisbane carnival, where he caught the eye of Victorian talent scouts. However, like many of his generation he saw little incentive in trying his luck on the mainland.

In 2005, Jack Rough was named as an inaugural coaching legend in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

S

SANDY BAY

Affiliated: TFL 1945-1997

Club Address: P.O. Box 278, Sandy Bay 7005, Tasmania

Home Ground: Queenborough Oval

Formed: 1945

Disbanded: 1997

Colours: Blue and white

Emblem: Seagulls

Premierships: 1946, 1952, 1964, 1971-2, 1976-7-8 (8 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1946, 1971 (2 total)

William Leitch Medallists: E.Pilkington 1946; W.Smart 1950; T.Cashion 1953; R.D.Lewis 1956; G.Whitton 1963; R.Steele 1969 & 1970; R.Olsson 1971 & 1973; A.Martyn 1982 & 1983; A.Bennett 1986; M.Seddon 1988 (10 Medallists/13 Medals)

All Australians: Des James 1979 (1 total)

TFL Top Goalkickers: L.Collins (50) 1947; I.Westell (57) 1948, (83) 1950, (66) 1952, (68) 1954 & (88) 1955; B.Palfreyman (51) 1969 & (67) 1970; R.Adams (96) 1973 (8 total)

Highest Score: 30.12 (192) vs. Launceston 9.14 (68) in 1994

Most Games: 315 by Bob Lahey

Record Home Attendance: 6,070 in 1964: Glenorchy 10.14 (74); Sandy Bay 8.11 (59)

Record Finals Attendance: 20,775 for 1964 grand final at North Hobart Oval: Sandy Bay 11.11 (77); New Norfolk 9.11 (65)

Having gained admission to the TFL on that competition's resumption after World War Two the Seagulls made an immediate impact, reaching the grand final in their debut season, and winning a flag in their second.¹ Admittedly, there were only three other clubs in the league at that point, but even so it is difficult to think of many other teams making similarly auspicious starts.

Once the competition expanded to six clubs in 1947, however, Sandy Bay began to find life tougher. They eventually rediscovered the winning touch in 1952 with a 12.9 (81) to 9.9 (63) grand final victory over Hobart followed by a losing grand final against New Town in 1953. Another grand final defeat at the hands of the Magpies, who were known by this time as Glenorchy, followed in 1958 before the Seagulls returned to the victors' rostrum in 1964 with a dour 2 goal grand final defeat of New Norfolk.

It was during the 1970s, however, that the Sandy Bay Football Club really came into its own, embarking on a sustained period of dominance that few TFL clubs ever matched. Sandwiched in between third place finishes in 1970 and 1979 the Seagulls contested eight consecutive grand finals for five wins and three losses. Especially towards the end of this period the side was well nigh indomitable, as the scorelines of the grand finals bear out:

Year	Grand Final Result
1971	Sandy Bay 18.13 (121); Clarence 16.16 (112)
1972	Sandy Bay 18.9 (117); North Hobart 10.14 (74)
1973	Hobart 11.19 (85); Sandy Bay 10.5 (65)
1974	North Hobart 21.10 (136); Sandy Bay 15.18 (108)
1975	Glenorchy 15.16 (106); Sandy Bay 10.7 (67)
1976	Sandy Bay 21.10 (136); Glenorchy 5.9 (39)
1977	Sandy Bay 19.9 (123); Glenorchy 3.14 (32)
1978	Sandy Bay 11.14 (80); Glenorchy 9.15 (69)

The Seagulls were the only TFL club to secure three consecutive post-war senior premierships, but sadly there were no subsequent additions to the honour board prior to the club's compulsory exclusion from the competition at the end of the 1997 season. Sandy Bay's demise was a simple

matter of economics: the TFL had outgrown itself and there was no longer a place for clubs which first and foremost were about enjoying football - like, quintessentially, Sandy Bay - rather than about achieving success in business terms. The new, trimmed down TFL was leaner, meaner and supposedly better equipped to withstand the inevitable rigours and pressures of the new century. However, according to the subjective criteria to which many genuine football supporters still subscribe the departure of Sandy Bay - and Hobart, and Launceston - left the TFL a considerably poorer football environment.

Three years later it was all academic anyway as the Statewide League collapsed. It is hard to see how the sport of Australian football in Tasmania will benefit from the creation of a de facto state team to compete in a glorified AFL reserves competition, unless you happen to believe, as an ever increasing number of people appear to, that 'AFL' and 'Australian football' are synonyms.

Arguably the greatest of the many fine players to have given service to the Seagulls was Tony Martyn, who made his TFL debut with the club in 1976 and immediately stamped himself as a performer of immense potential, and no small amount of skill. Named the TFL's rookie of the year that season, he capped things off by helping his team to a 21.10 (136) to 9.9 (63) grand final annihilation of Glenorchy. After playing in further premiership teams in 1977 and 1978, and winning the club's best and fairest award in the latter year, he transferred to Melbourne where he gave solid service in 32 VFL games over the next two and a half seasons. Midway through the 1981 season he joined Port Adelaide, playing a total of 14 SANFL games including that year's winning grand final against Glenelg when he was one of the best players afield.

Martyn returned to Sandy Bay in 1982 a much more accomplished and assured player. Equally effective when playing across the centre, on a half forward flank,

or on the ball, he was the dominant player in the league in 1982 and 1983, winning the William Leitch Medal both seasons. He also won consecutive best and fairest awards for the Seagulls, and the Lefroy Medal as Tasmania's best player in interstate matches in 1982. The last of his 129 senior games for Sandy Bay was the losing grand final of 1986 against Glenorchy.

Footnote

1 Sandy Bay also claimed the 1946 state title after defeating North Launceston by 6 points at North Hobart Oval.

SANKEY, MAURICE: A relentlessly vigorous ruckman who relished the physical side of the game, Maurice Sankey was the sort of player whose value to his team greatly transcended his statistical, or even readily observable, contribution. He hailed from the football hotbed of north-west Tasmania and commenced his senior football with NWFU club Latrobe. In 1959 he was recruited by Carlton, and during his early seasons in particular he gave the Blues sterling service. He was one of Carlton's best players in a losing effort against Essendon in the 1962 grand final. He continued with the Blues for three further seasons, by which time he had played precisely 100 VFL games and kicked 65 goals. Then, in November 1965, he was tragically killed in a car accident at the age of just twenty-five.

SCOTT, ALLAN: A powerful overhead mark, and a thumping kick, Allan Scott played with distinction in both northern and southern Tasmania, as well as on the mainland, for well over a decade after the cessation of hostilities in world war one. Originally from Launceston, he played alongside twin brother Don at North Launceston from 1919 to 1925. Equally at home leading the ruck or in any key position, he was a significant contributor to Robins premierships in 1923 and 1925, and

was a member of Tasmania's 1924 Hobart carnival side.

After a season in Victorian country football, Scott returned to Tasmania in 1927 and joined TFL club Cananore, where he remained for two years. In his first season with the club he was a member of both local and state premierships-winning teams, and also travelled to Melbourne as part of the Tasmanian carnival team. In 1929 he ventured to Melbourne on a more permanent basis when he joined St Kilda, establishing himself in two seasons and 32 games in the VFL as a powerful and sometimes spectacular player. When the Saints enjoyed all too rare participation in the major round in 1929, Allan Scott was one of their best players in a narrow 1st semi final loss to Carlton.

Returning to the Apple Isle in 1931 he assumed the reins as captain-coach of his original club, North Launceston, and immediately masterminded a premiership. After a total of 133 games for the Robins he travelled to the south of the island in 1933 for one last season of league football as captain-coach of New Town.

SCOTT, DON, who made his senior grade debut for North Launceston in 1919 aged just sixteen, was a highly capable defender who boasts the unique distinction of having represented both the NTFA and the TFL in the same season. Most of his career - 157 senior games - was spent with North Launceston, but midway through the 1927 season he was transferred in his employment, and for the remainder of that year and the whole of the next he fronted up for Cananore. He also gained selection for the TFL having earlier in the season lined up with the NTFA. The Cananore phase of his career comprised 30 games, and he also numerous intrastate matches as well as representing Tasmania at the 1924 carnival on home soil. Away from football he was a fine oarsman who represented Tasmania at the King's Cup in both 1922 and 1923.

SCOTTSDALE

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) since 2000

Home Ground: Scottsdale Recreation Ground

Formed: 1889

Colours: Black and white

Emblem: Magpies

Premierships: 1912, 1919, 1926-7-8, 1937, 1939, 1946, 1964-5, 1968, 1970-1, 1973, 1977, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1989, 2001 (20 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1973 (1 total)

Tasman Shield Trophy Winners: Charlie Dennis 1952 (1 total)

Hec Smith Memorial Medallists: Max Headley 1972; Stephen Nicholls 1977; Ricky Rattray 1978; David Noonan 1979; Jamie Dennis 1982 & 1984 (5 Medallists/6 Medals)

Ovaltine Medallists: Peter Rozenaal 1990; Ricky Hanlon 1992 (2 total)

All Australians: Jim Leitch 1972 (1 total)

NTFA Top Goalkickers: R.Lethborg (55) 1965; M.Taylor (57) 1966; M.Hadley (81) 1972 & (70) 1973; P.Bennett (75) 1983 (5 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: M.Nichols (71) 1990; S.Blackwell (71) 1996 (2 total)

Highest Score: 36.28 (252) vs. George Town 14.8 (90) in 1980

Most Games: 408 by Greg Lethborg

Record Finals Attendances: 9,276 for the 1977 NTFA grand final at York Park; Scottsdale 15.19 (109); North Launceston 10.10 (70)

If, as some contend, Tasmania has become the forgotten or neglected jewel in Australian football's crown then it is arguable that few clubs exemplify this state of affairs better than Scottsdale.

In 1973, as Australian football was fumbling blindly in the dark for a doorway through which it could escape from the stymieing effects of more than a century of obsessively localised, parochial

preoccupation, Scottsdale shared top billing on the putative national stage at the Australian club championships in Adelaide. Examined logically, the concept of a competition which pitted the might of Richmond (VFL), Glenelg (SANFL) and Subiaco (WANFL) against a club representing a town of fewer than 2,000 inhabitants in northern Tasmania was seriously flawed; little wonder, you might infer, that the game swiftly moved on to other means of broadening its horizons and appeal. However, there is also a school of thought which holds that the game lost something integral to its true nature when it 'evolved' from being an activity rooted in enjoyment, direct active involvement and community pride to one governed principally by dollars, cents and the profit-loss incentive. The homogenous world of the modern AFL certainly boasts many attractive and exciting features, but it is quintessentially - in keeping with most of the rest of the sporting world, to be fair - devoid of variation, romance, and the capacity to astonish.

Scottsdale qualified to contest the 1973 Australian club championships after a superb season in which it failed to win just 1 of its 20 roster matches (a draw against North Launceston), beat North Launceston twice to secure the NTFA flag, annihilated TFL premiers Hobart by 65 points in the state preliminary final, and scored a heart stopping 11 point win over Cooeee (NWFU) to clinch the state premiership in front of a predominantly hostile crowd of 8,269 at Burnie. Scottsdale had dominated the NTFA for much of the preceding decade, but this was the club's first state premiership. Trailing by 32 points at the final change of the state grand final the side looked set for another disappointment. However, the move of key defender Ron Hall to centre half forward altered the game completely, as he provided the Magpies with a much needed focal point in attack, enabling them to secure victory by adding 5.9 to 0.2 in a barnstorming last quarter performance.

Scottsdale's 'day in the sun' at Adelaide was brief and, measured by objective standards, unimposing, as losses were predictably sustained against both Subiaco and Glenelg. However, the side was competitive, especially in its opening game against the Lions, and for a brief time at least, the tiny Tasmanian town of Scottsdale was indefatigably 'on the map', a state of affairs unlikely ever to be repeated. (In 2005, Scottsdale's 1973 combination was immortalised when it became the first team to be inducted into AFL Tasmania's 'Hall of Fame'.)

All of which brings us back to the point made in the opening sentence, for in 2000 Scottsdale was compelled, because of financial constraints, to withdraw from northern Tasmania's premier competition, the NTFL, and compete instead in the amateur NTFA. Instead of Glenelg and Subiaco, or even Hobart and North Launceston, the club now competes each week against the likes of Hillwood, Rocherlea and Bracknell. Of course, there are many who would argue that all this means is that Scottsdale has finally gravitated to its logical position in the modern market place, but for those who still find the association of the words 'football' and 'market place' irksome it is difficult to escape the impression that the club has - to hijack the frame of reference - been short-changed.

Comparative obscurity is by no means new to Scottsdale, however. The club was originally formed as long ago as 1889, but it spent its first sixty years competing, with modest success, in a variety of junior competitions. The club's profile was raised significantly in 1948, however, when it gained admission to one of Tasmanian football's three main senior competitions, the NTFA. After a prolonged 'bedding in' period which yielded just one (losing) grand final appearance in sixteen seasons the club, which had changed its colours from red and white to black and white on entry to the NTFA, and was known as the Magpies, emerged as a fully-fledged force in 1964 with

a breakthrough premiership. Moreover, it was no flash in the pan, as the side emphatically proved over the ensuing decade which spawned five further flags from seven grand final appearances, and a reputation as one of Tasmanian football's strongest ever combinations.

Although the Magpies boasted many fine players during this era, including Bob Taylor, Stan Wilson, Greg and Rex Lethborg, Steve Nicholls, Danny and Ron Hall, Jim Leitch, Kevin Egan and John Dekkers, they were essentially a team without stars which relied on the quintessential old fashioned values of grit, determination and persistence, coupled with teamwork of the highest order, to succeed.

Scottsdale continued to meet with intermittent success until the NTFA was dissolved at the end of the 1986 season in the wake of the introduction of statewide football. For those northern-based clubs not involved in the statewide league the 1987 season saw the inception of another new competition, the NTFL, which was essentially an amalgamation between the old NTFA and NWFU.

Scottsdale's thirteen season involvement in the NTFL was by no means inglorious, with a premiership in 1989 and losing grand finals in 1990 and 1993, and an overall success rate of 62%. However, as has been repeatedly noted elsewhere in this publication, on field achievements are no longer the principal determinant of a club's viability nor, indeed, its 'success', and in 2000 the Magpies were forced to 'jump ship' when they were no longer capable of meeting the basic running costs necessary to function in the relatively high profile, semi professional NTFL.

Life in the NTFA is considerably less complicated as well as less expensive, but the Scottsdale tradition continues. A losing grand final in the club's debut season in the competition was followed by a premiership in 2001 thanks to a 14.6 (90) to 5.25 (55) grand final defeat of a wayward George Town, whereupon the Magpies began to make

noises to the effect that they would like to resume participation in the NTFL. Perhaps predictably, the NTFL authorities did not respond all that enthusiastically to this idea, but Scottsdale remain committed to it as a long term objective. There is also a feeling at the club, as indeed there is among large sections of northern Tasmania's football loving community, that a return to the old NTFA-NWFU geographical split would be in the best interests of senior football in the area. Inter-regional rivalry is extraordinarily intense in Tasmania, and perhaps football needs to exploit and tap into this if it is to maintain its pre-eminence in the hearts and minds of the average Tasmanian.

SEARL, CHARLES: One of the best all round athletes of his day, Charlie Searl represented Tasmania at no fewer than five different sports, including football. As a footballer he was extremely nimble and pacy, and played for most of his career as a wingman. That career began in 1904 with Lefroy, where he remained until midway through a 1908 season that saw him representing his state at the inaugural interstate football championships in Melbourne. Searl was one of Tasmania's best performers at the championships until injury prematurely ended his involvement.

Back home, Searl finished the season with NTFA side North Launceston after being relocated to the northern city in his work. He continued to perform with great distinction, and shortly after joining the Robins he was chosen in the NTFA's representative side which travelled to Hobart to take on the TFL. Given that earlier in the year he had been a member of the TFL team which played the NTFA in Launceston this gave him something of a rare if not unique distinction. (Sadly for Searl, he ended up on the losing side on both occasions.)

Charlie Searl continued to play for North Launceston until 1911 after which, having helped the club to that year's premiership, he chose to hang up his boots. It was the

second time he had played in a premierships team, the first having been with Lefroy in 1907.

SHARP, LERREL was a top quality defender who commenced his senior career with Scottsdale in the NTFA. In 1953, still aged just nineteen, he crossed to the VFL where he joined Collingwood. He spent seven seasons with the Magpies, for whom he quickly earned a reputation as one of the finest back pocket specialists in the competition. Boasting impeccable judgement, he was good both in the air and at ground level, and his clearing kicks were almost invariably penetrative and well-placed. At the end of his debut season he helped Collingwood to a 12 point grand final triumph against Geelong, and later played in the losing grand finals of 1955 and 1956 as well, both against Melbourne. He missed the 1958 grand final victory over the Demons with injury, however, and at the end of the following year, after 87 VFL games and 1 goal, plus 3 interstate matches for the VFL, he returned home to Tasmania where he joined North Launceston. In a five season stint with the Robins he performed with consistent brilliance, winning the club's best and fairest award in 1960 and 1963, an ABC-sponsored trophy for the best and fairest player in the NTFA in 1960, and appearing, invariably with distinction, in three grand finals for two premierships. He played intrastate football for the NTFA in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1964. Lerrel Sharp was included on a half back flank in North Launceston's official 'Best Team 1945 to 1999'.

SMITH, HEC: One of several top class Tasmanian-born rovers to emerge during the 1920s, Hec Smith actually began playing football while he was away at boarding school in Melbourne. Although he was already fourteen years of age at the time, he demonstrated an extraordinary natural aptitude for the game, and after returning

home to Tasmania he commenced playing with Cananore when the TFL resumed operation after World War One. Along with the likes of Horrie Gorringer, Jack Charlesworth, Jack Gardiner and Fred Pringle, Smith gave the Canaries an extremely powerful team which landed the 'double' of local and state flags in 1921 and '22. Smith himself won the club's best and fairest award in 1921, but two years later he was on the move to Launceston, where he spent three seasons before being appointed captain-coach of Longford, which was making its NTFA debut.

A polished performer, either as a wingman or, more usually, as a rover, Hec Smith was not afraid of 'mixing it' with taller, heavier opponents when the going got tough. His potent brand of leadership from the front was instrumental in rapidly transforming Longford from competition makeweights to legitimate premierships challengers, but the minor premierships in 1931 was as close as the club got to a flag during Smith's stint at the helm.

Hec Smith's final move took place in 1932, when he assumed the captain-coach's mantle at City, to immediate and telling effect. In his debut season with the club it carried all before it in securing both the local flag, and the state title, the latter by virtue of a thrilling 6 point win over North Hobart. Maintaining the consistently exemplary form he had demonstrated throughout his career, Smith was selected in Tasmania's 1933 Sydney carnival team, having earlier played at both Melbourne (1927) and Adelaide (1930). He continued playing until the end of the 1934 season, whereupon he maintained his direct involvement with football by serving the NTFA in a number of administrative roles.

Hec Smith's name was perpetuated after his death by the naming of the NTFA's annual best and fairest Medal, as well as a grandstand at North Hobart Oval, in his honour. In 2006, he was added as a legend to Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

SMITHTON

Affiliated: Circular Head Football Association 1919-50; NWFU 1949-51; CHFA 1952-79; NWFU 1980-86; NTFL 1987-present

Home Ground: Smithton Football Ground

Formed: Circa 1919

Colours: Red, white and black

Emblem: Saints

Premierships: 1925, 1929, 1949, 1952, 1954-5-6, 1958-9-60, 1962-3-4, 1966-7-8, 1971, 1978, 1983, 1991 (20 total)

Wander Medallists: Stephen Parsons 1983; John Korporshoek 1984 (2 total)

Ovaltine Medallists: Mark Thorp 1988; Dean Tuson 1989; Darren Denneman 1991; Tony Crennan 1994 (4 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: Tony Macguire (93) 1982 & (110) 1983 (2 total)

Highest Score: 39.18 (252) vs. George Town 8.4 (52) in 1989

Most Games: 250 by Garry Young

Record Finals Attendance: 9,828 for the 1985 NWFU grand final at West Park, Burnie; Penguin 21.9 (135); Smithton 13.9 (87)

Smithton's half a century plus stint in the Circular Head Football Association - a competition in which the standard of play was regarded for much of the time as being just below that of Tasmania's three major leagues¹ - yielded a total of eighteen senior premierships from thirty-seven grand finals. When the club moved up a level in 1980 by rejoining the NWFU (in which it had previously competed between 1949 and 1951) it did not take it long to find its feet. In 1983, it reached the grand final for the first time and, after a classic, 1980s style 'shoot-out', overcame the challenge of Cooee by the smallest margin possible, 20.17 (137) to 21.10 (136). Not satisfied with this, the Saints (as they had become known on their elevation in 1980) also provided the season's Wander Medallist in the shape of

Stephen Parsons, and the top goal kicker in Tony Maguire, who booted 93 majors for the year.

Smithton continued to challenge strongly for the flag in each of the NWFU's final three seasons, albeit without further success after grand final losses against Cooee (by 9 points in 1984), Penguin (8 goals, 1985) and Ulverstone (15 points, 1986).

Since 1987 the club has competed in the NTFL, reaching the grand final twice, in 1989 (lost to Scottsdale by 3 goals) and 1991 (won by 8 goals against Ulverstone). Recent performances have been significantly less noteworthy, however (although the side did manage to qualify for the finals in 2006, before eventually finishing fifth).

Footnote

1 In 1950, for example, Ron Phillips of CHFA club Stanley was selected in Tasmania's squad for the Brisbane carnival.

SORELL

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 1996

Home Ground: Pembroke Oval

Formed: 1883

Colours: Royal blue and gold (initially black and white, then red, black and white)

Emblem: Eagles

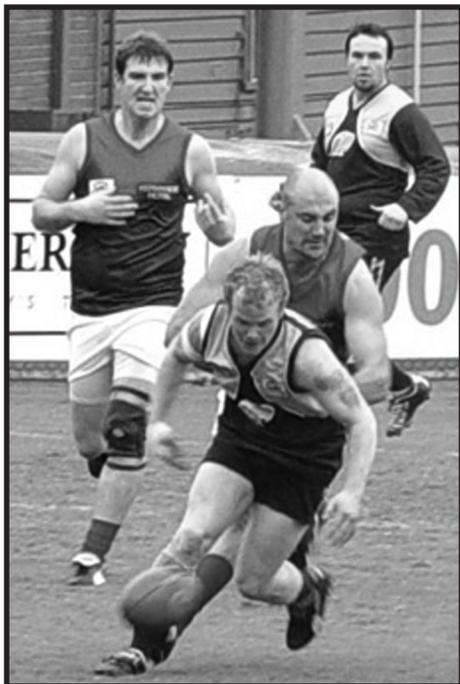
Senior Grade Premierships: Pembroke Football Association (PFA) - 1937-8-9 (3 total); Clarence Sub-Districts Football Association (CSDFA) - 1952 (1 total); South Eastern Districts Football Association (SEDFA) - 1960 (1 total); Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1966, 1983, 1990 (3 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1966 (1 total); TAFLSD Districts - 1983 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Walter Howard Medal - Graeme Jones 1968; Lindsey White 1982

& 1987; Michael Waller 1988 & 1990;
M.Kerslake 1991 (4 Medallists/6 Medals)

Most Games: 410 by Mark Clothier



A Sorrell player has front position in this 2004 action shot from a match between the Eagles and Kermandie. (Image used by kind permission of Dan Garlick of OzVox Media.)

Sorrell was a founder member, in 1996, of the Southern Football League. When the competition split into two sections in 2002, the side initially competed in the premier league, but soon found itself out of its depth and was demoted to the regional league. In 2009, following the defection of half a dozen premier league clubs to the new statewide competition, the SthFL reverted to a uni-division format.

The Eagles qualified for the major round in 2005, but bowed out in the elimination final against Huonville. A year later they went all the way to the grand final, only to lose by 10 points to Dodges Ferry. The 2007 season brought a disappointing slide down the

premiership ladder as the Eagles managed just 7 wins from 18 roster matches to finish eighth (of ten). A year later there was marginal improvement as the side finished fifth.

Sorrell's first known premiership was won in the Pembroke Football Association in 1937, thanks to an 8.11 (59) to 7.7 (49) grand final defeat of Nugent. Sorrell downed Nugent again in the next year's grand final, and in 1939 made it three flags in succession with an 11.9 (75) to 3.14 (32) win over Dunalley.

After world war two Sorrell espoused a peripatetic lifestyle for a time, winning premierships in the Clarence Sub-Districts Football Association in 1952, and the South Eastern Districts Football Association eight years later. Between 1963 and 1995 the club competed in the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League where it won three senior flags. In 1966 it claimed the coveted 'double' of southern and state titles after respectively overcoming Ogilvie Tech Old Scholars by 15 points and northern premier Mowbray by 51 points.

SOUTH LAUNCESTON - 19th Century

Affiliated: NTFA 1887-95

The original South Launceston Football Club spent almost a decade competing in the NTFA without managing to achieve premiership success. It came second on five occasions, in 1887, 1888, 1891, 1894 and 1895.

SOUTH LAUNCESTON

Affiliated: TFL Statewide 1986-97; NTFL 1998-present

Club Address: P.O. Box 149, Kings Meadows 7249, Tasmania

Home Ground: Youngtown Memorial Oval

Formed: 1986, following the merger of City-South and East Launceston clubs

Colours: Royal blue and white

Emblem: Bulldogs

Premierships: 1998-9 (2 total)

Darrel Baldock Medallists: Scott Harris 2000; Matthew Westfield 2006 (2 total)

Highest Score: South Launceston - 34.19 (223) vs. Penguin in 1998

Most Games: 199 by Nathan Richardson

The South Launceston Football Club was brought into being by the merger in 1986 of two erstwhile competitors from the NTFA, City-South and East Launceston. The purpose of the merger was to enable Launceston to have two clubs competing in the newly formed TFL statewide competition, but the fledgling South Launceston combination found the going difficult from the start, and indeed its entire involvement in statewide football can perhaps most charitably be described as inglorious. In twelve seasons of competition the Bulldogs never once contested the finals, with their highest placed finish being sixth in 1992, and their total of three wooden spoons being matched in statewide history only by New Norfolk, who participated for a longer period.

In 1998 South Launceston pre-empted the impending implosion of the statewide concept by affiliating with the NTFL, where conditions proved to be much more to their liking. The club won premierships in 1998 and 1999, and has been consistently competitive since, with players like Scott Harris, Nathan Richardson, Brian Finch and Nigel Page at last instilling a measure of credibility and self-respect into the jumper.

SOUTHERN CATS

Affiliated: TFL Statewide 1998-9

Home Ground: North Hobart Oval

Formed: 1998

Disbanded: 1999

Colours: Navy blue and white

Emblem: Cats

Senior Premierships: Nil

Highest Score: 26.23 (179) vs. Devonport 7.9 (51) in 1999

Originally known as Southern Districts, the Cats replaced Sandy Bay, which had been forced to disband, in the TFL Statewide competition in 1998. Coached by a former Sandy Bay man in Troy Clarke, they lasted little over a season before disbanding themselves.

Southern Football League: The Southern Tasmanian Football League, which now trades as AFL Southern Tasmania, began life as a single tier competition in 1996, before splitting in two in 2002 after the admission over the preceding four seasons of most of the former southern-based members of the statewide Tasmanian Football League brought the total number of clubs to an unwieldy fourteen.

SthFL premiers 1996 to 2001 were:

1996	Channel
1997	Kingston
1998	Brighton
1999	Hobart
2000	Kermandie
2001	Clarence

Premier League premierships 2002 to 2008 were won by:

2002	Clarence
2003	North Hobart
2004	Clarence
2005	New Norfolk
2006	Clarence
2007	Glenorchy
2008	Glenorchy

Regional league premiers were:

2002	Cygnets
2003	Cygnets

2004	Cygnets
2005	Kermantie
2006	Dodges Ferry
2007	Kermantie
2008	Huonville

In 2009 the Southern Football League was denuded by the loss of six clubs to the new statewide competition and in light of this it opted to revert to a single division format.

SPENCER, STUART: Originally from Portland, with whom he won the Western District Football League's best and fairest award in 1949, Stuart Spencer was twenty-five years old when he arrived at Clarence, a veteran of 122 VFL games with Melbourne which included participation in the 1955 and 1956 premierships sides. He had also played half a dozen interstate games for the VFL, gained selection in the 1956 All Australian team, and was a dual winner of the Demons' best and fairest award (no mean feat when you consider that his team mates included players of the calibre of Ron Barassi, John Beckwith, Brian Dixon, Laurie Mithen and Ian Ridley). There is no doubt that, had he wished, he could have gone on playing in the VFL for many more years, but for family and business reasons he elected to relocate to Tasmania. With him he brought a professionalism and an indefatigable resolve to succeed, which gradually had a discernible impact on those under his tutelage.

He also continued to perform with distinction as a player, winning 'The Mercury' award for the best and fairest player in the TANFL in 1958 and 1960, representing Tasmania on 11 occasions, and procuring a second All Australian blazer after the 1958 centenary championships in Melbourne. When Tasmania broke through for a first ever victory over the Big V at York Park, Launceston in 1960, Stuart Spencer took great delight in captaining the victors. Not only that, he was most observers' choice as best afield, while behind he kicked shortly before the end effectively sealed the result in that it put the Tasmanians 7 points in front.

The only major disappointment of Spencer's senior football career, which ended after 161 TFL games for Clarence, was that he failed to steer the 'Roos to a flag, although having got them to their first ever grand final in 1962, his penultimate season, he definitely left them in a stronger position than they were in when he joined them.

SPRIGG, TREVOR was a confident, purposeful key position defender who played 149 WANFL games with East Fremantle from 1965 to 1970 and in 1976-7. In his debut season, he was at full back as Old Easts came from 21 points down at three quarter time to defeat Swan Districts 18.18 (126) to 16.6 (102) in the grand final. He was East Fremantle's fairest and best player in 1968, and represented Western Australia 5 times. In 1971 he took over as captain-coach of Glenorchy and transformed the Magpies into a highly competitive unit. He made 7 interstate appearances for Tasmania, including games at the 1972 Perth carnival. In 1975 he stood down as coach but continued as a player under Peter Hudson. He ended up playing some of the best football of his career, earning the William Leitch Medal, and starring in the Magpies' 39 point grand final defeat of Sandy Bay. In 1976, after a total of 92 TANFL games, Sprigg returned home to Western Australia for two finals seasons with Old Easts.

During the 2000 season Trevor Sprigg was named on a half back flank in the official Glenorchy 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

ST PATRICK'S OLD COLLEGIANS

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and precursors since 1931

Home Ground: St Patrick's Football Ground

Formed: 1931

Colours: Green and gold

Emblem: The Saints

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League (TAFL) - 1931-2, 1935-6 (4 total); TAFL Northern Division (TAFLND) - 1948, 1954-5-6, 1984 (4 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1932, 1954 (2 total); TAFLND Division Two - 1996 (1 total); NTFA Division Two - 1999, 2002, 2004 (3 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: TAFL Best and Fairest - H.McIntee 1937 (1 total); Max Allen Cup - D.Hay 1950; J.Cunningham 1952; A.Neville 1954, 1955 & 1956; K.Hudson 1969 (4 winners/6 wins); NTFA Division Two Best and Fairest - Jason Matthews 2001 (1 total - records incomplete)

The Saints have a long and illustrious history, commencing in 1931 with the very first premiership of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League. In 1932, they repeated the achievement, as well as winning the inaugural Conder Shield, which at that point in time was a knock-out competition for northern amateur clubs only. St Patrick's overcame long-standing rivals Old Launcestonians in the final by a comfortable margin of 41 points, 14.10 (94) to 8.5 (53). Further TAFL flags were claimed in 1935 and 1936 making the 1930s the most successful decade in the club's history to date.

The Saints' first post-war premiership arrived in 1948 when Mowbray was defeated in the grand final by 4 points. The 1950s brought five successive grand final appearances between 1952 and 1956, with victory being attained in the last three. In 1954 the Saints backed up with the state title when they thrashed southern premier Old Virgilians by 83 points.

During the 1960s and '70s St Patrick's suffered the misfortune of being a regular bridesmaid courtesy of grand final losses in 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1979, but it was not until 1984 that premiership glory was again enjoyed thanks to a 13.15 (93) to 10.8 (68) grand final defeat of Rocherlea.

The Saints currently compete in the Northern Tasmanian Football Association's 2nd Division, with their tally of four premierships to date representing a competition record.

ST VIRGIL'S OLD SCHOLARS (Old Virgilians OVA)

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 1987

Home Ground: New Town Cricket Ground

Formed: 1927

Colours: Blue, green and gold

Senior Grade Premierships: Public School Old Boys Football Association (PSOBFA) - 1933 (1 total); Southern Tasmanian Amateur Football Association (STAFA) - 1947 (1 total); Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1950-1-2, 1954 (4 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1951 (1 total); OSFA - 1996, 1998, 2001 (3 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: PSOBFA Best and Fairest - A.Kirkham 1937; Tom Calder 1938 & 1939 (2 Medallists/3 Medals); Walter Howard Medal - Brendan Delaney 1981; Jody Brockman 1984 (2 total); Peter Fitzgerald Medal - Rene Peters 1996 (1 total)

Most Games: 404 by Ben Jones and Kevin Patmore

Originally known as Old Virgilians, the club was formed in 1927, and first took part in organised competition the following year. Between 1928 and 1931 the club competed in the West Hobart Football Association. It then became a founder member of the Public School Old Boys Football Association, reaching the grand final in its debut season, but losing to Hutchins by 41 points. The following year it won its first ever premiership with a 13.14 (92) to 13.13 (91) grand final defeat of Friends.

The first decade after world war two was a

highly successful period for Old Virgilians who, in the nine seasons between 1946 and 1954, contested seven grand finals for five wins. In 1951 the club also won its only state title after downing northern premier Old Launcestonians by 10 points in a high scoring game.

After overcoming Friends in the 1954 grand final St Virgil's would have to wait more than four decades to again experience premiership success. By that time the entire football landscape had altered dramatically, and the amateur game in Tasmania had all but died. St Virgil's reached a grand final - the club's first at senior level for twenty-nine years - in 1994, but lost by 10 points to DOSA. Two years later the side claimed that long overdue flag with a 16.19 (115) to 7.5 (47) grand final trouncing of Old Hobartians.

Since 1996 St Virgil's has won two more senior premierships, at the expense of DOSA in 1998, and Hutchins two years later.

STEWART, IAN: The label 'legend' is bandied about quite indiscriminately these days but it would be hard to disagree with its appropriateness in the case of Ian Harlow Stewart. Born in the western Tasmanian mining settlement of Queenstown, where footballers do not have the luxury of grass to cushion their falls, Stewart is one of an elite band of just four players to have won the coveted Brownlow Medal on three separate occasions. Although neither strongly built nor especially athletic looking he was enormously tough and resilient, and his outward appearance belied enormous, some would say unique, native ability. Indefatigably accurate when kicking with either foot, Stewart was also deceptively strong overhead (in the 1966 season, for instance, he took more marks than any other player in the VFL), and so courageous that he frequently won possessions that logic told you he had no right to. He was also extraordinarily elusive, seldom being caught with the ball - small wonder that the umpires took note to the extent of awarding him more Brownlow votes than any other player of his era.

Ian Stewart's senior career began with Hobart in 1962 where he played 13 senior games and was selected in both of Tasmania's



Ian Stewart

interstate games that year, against the VFA and the VFL. In the latter game, playing in the centre, he gave clear notice that he was a star in the making by outpointing his direct opponent on the day, Geelong's Alastair Lord, who later that season would win the Brownlow Medal. Wooed across the Bass Strait by St Kilda the following year he rapidly formulated an irresistible partnership with fellow Taswegian Darrel Baldock which was largely responsible in 1966 for steering the Saints to their first, and so far only, senior premiership.

After seven seasons and 127 games with St Kilda Stewart's career looked to be waning but in 1971 he moved to Richmond and immediately won another Brownlow to add to the two won previously in 1965 and 1966. While at Punt Road he linked up to great effect with another high profile Tasmanian player in the shape of Royce Hart. Stewart's 78 games with the Tigers included the victorious grand

final of 1973 and took his final VFL games tally to 205. He originally retired midway through the 1974 season only to make a handful of appearances the following year before finally calling it a day for good.

Ian Stewart's selection as centreman in the official Tasmanian 'Team of the Century', which was announced in June 2004, was as inevitable as it was justified. Two years later he was inducted as an icon in Tasmanian Football's official Hall of Fame.

STOKES, RAY: A dashing and skilful wingman or centreman, Ray Stokes began and ended his career in the NWFU with Burnie. In between he played 93 VFL games with Richmond between 1946 and 1951, some of them alongside his brother Jervis. He kicked 23 goals. He continued to play fine football after his return to Tasmania, and in 1954 was awarded the Wander Medal as the NWFU's top player of the season. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, he never won Burnie's best and fairest award. Stokes coached Burnie between 1952 and 1957, overseeing consecutive grand final appearances in 1954 (defeated Wynyard) and 1955 (lost to Ulverstone). His 7 interstate games for Tasmania included matches at both the 1953 Adelaide and 1956 Perth carnivals.

STRANGE, BARRY was without doubt one of the foremost Tasmanian footballers of his era. He began and ended his senior career with New Town/Glenorchy, playing a total of 165 senior games for the club between 1952 and 1957 and from 1961 to 1965. He spent the intervening three year period captain-coaching Penguin in the NWFU. Highlights of Strange's career included involvement in four winning TANFL grand finals (1953, 1955-6, and 1965), 10 appearances for Tasmania, All Australian selection after the 1956 Perth carnival, membership of the famous Tasmanian interstate team that downed the 'Big V' at Launceston in 1960, and a couple of club best and fairest awards. Strange played the majority of his football at centre

half back, and was chosen in that position in 2000 in Glenorchy's official 'Team of the Century'.

SUMMERTON

Affiliated: STFA 1898

SWANSEA

Current Affiliation: Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA) since 2002
Home Ground: Swansea Football Ground
Formed: 1890s
Colours: Red and blue
Senior Grade Post-War Premierships:
 East Coast Football Association (ECFA)
 - 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955-6-7-8 (7 total);
 Fingal District Football Association (FDFA)
 - 1966, 1978, 1982 (3 total); Tasman
 Football Association (TFA) - 1999, 2001 (2
 total); ODFA - 2004, 2007 (2 total)

Swansea has participated in numerous different competitions over the years, and has usually managed to find success. Its most noteworthy era came immediately after World War Two when it competed in the East Coast Football Association, a competition which ran from 1946 to 1958. During that time Swansea was easily the Association's most successful club, reaching ten out of thirteen possible grand finals for seven wins.

After the ECFA went into mothballs Swansea spent roughly a quarter of a century competing in the Fingal District Football Association, claiming further senior flags in 1966, 1978 and 1982. The side was also runner-up on four occasions.

More recently, Swansea has enjoyed premiership success in both the Tasman Football Association (1999 and 2001) and the Oatlands District Football Association (2004 and 2007).

T-U

TAMAR CATS

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) since 1997

Home Ground: Beauty Point Football Ground

Formed: 1989, by the merger of Beauty Point and Beaconsfield Football Clubs

Colours: Navy blue and white

Emblem: Cats

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Northern Division (TAFLLND) - 1993 (1 total); NTFA Division Two - 2003 (1 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: W.C. Curran Medal - Dwayne Beaton 1997*; Clayton Sturzaker 1997* (2 total)

** indicates won jointly.*

The Cats' first senior premiership was won in Division One of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League's Northern Division in 1993. They overcame George Town in the grand final by 9 points, 13.9 (87) to 9.16 (78). The following season saw them once again reaching the grand final, only to lose to University-Mowbray by 55 points.

Tamar Cats currently compete in Division Two of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, the competition in which they won their second and most recent senior flag in 2003.

Tasmanian Amateur Football League

Southern Division: Originally known as the Public School Old Boys Football Association this competition ran from 1932 until 1995. During that time it assumed a number of different names as well as undergoing one significant structural change. In 1947 the PSOBFA was renamed Southern Tasmanian Amateur Football Association,

a name it retained for just a single year. Between 1948 and 1980 and again from 1987 until its demise the competition was called the Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division. The interim phase between 1981 and 1986 saw the structural change previously alluded to as the competition was split into a Districts Division and an Old Scholars Division, precursor of the Old Scholars Football Association, whose history is reviewed separately.

TAFLLSD premiers 1932 to 1995 (including Districts Division premiers 1981-6) were:

1932	Hutchins
1933	Old Virgilians
1934	Clemes College
1935	Hutchins
1936	Hutchins
1937	Friends
1938	Hutchins
1939	Friends
1940	Hutchins
1946	Hutchins
1947	St Virgil's
1948	Old Hobartians Association
1949	University
1950	St Virgil's
1951	St Virgil's
1952	St Virgil's
1953	Ogilvianians
1954	St Virgil's
1955	Friends
1956	Friends
1957	Lindisfarne
1958	Friends
1959	Friends
1960	Friends
1961	Hutchins
1962	Friends
1963	Hutchins
1964	Hutchins
1965	Claremont
1966	Sorell

1967	Old Hobartians Association
1968	Claremont
1969	Old Hobartians Association
1970	University
1971	University
1972	Old Hobartians Association
1973	University
1974	Claremont
1975	Claremont
1976	Claremont
1977	University
1978	Claremont
1979	Claremont
1980	Claremont
1981	Claremont
1982	Lindisfarne
1983	Sorell
1984	Claremont
1985	Mangalore
1986	Claremont
1987	Claremont
1988	Claremont
1989	Lindisfarne
1990	Sorell
1991	Lauderdale
1992	Claremont
1993	Claremont
1994	Claremont
1995	Claremont

Summary Of Wins: 17 Claremont; 11 Hutchins; 8 Friends; 6 St Virgil's/Old Virgilians; 4 Old Hobartians Association; 3 Lindisfarne, Sorell; 2 Dominic Old Scholars; 1 Clemes College, Lauderdale, Mangalore, Ogilvinians

Tasmanian Football League: Originally based exclusively in Hobart, this competition was established in 1879 under the name of the Tasmanian Football Association. It later underwent several name changes, becoming known in turn as the Southern Tasmanian Football Association (1887 to 1905), the Tasmanian Football League (1906 to 1927), the Tasmanian Australian National Football League (1928 to 1985), and the TFL once again between 1986 and 2000 when it was

a statewide competition including clubs from the north of the state. Details of all the competition's premiership-winning teams and, where appropriate, premiership-deciding matches are shown on pages 162 to 165.

Tasmanian State Premiership: After several years of unofficial competition, the Tasmanian State Premiership was formally inaugurated in 1909, when the premier teams of the TFL (Cananore) and NTFA (Launceston) met in Hobart. Thereafter, the competition was held more or less annually, except for the war years, with the premier team of the NWFU entering the fray in 1954. The last Tasmanian State Premiership was conducted in 1978. A complete list of winners appears on page 165.

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY

Current Affiliation: Old Scholars Football Association (OSFA) since 1987

Formed: Early to mid-1930s

Colours: Black, yellow, and red

Emblem: Rainbows

Senior Grade Premierships: Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division (TAFLSD) - 1949, 1970-1, 1973, 1977 (5 total); TAFL State Championship (Conder Shield) - 1970-1, 1973, 1977 (4 total); TAFL Old Scholars Division - 1985 (1 total); OSFA - 1992-3 (2 total)

Senior Competition Best and Fairest

Player Awards: Walter Howard Medal - Graham Foster 1951; Roger Francey 1968; Greg Rundle 1970 & 1976 (3 Medallists/4 Medals); Peter Fitzgerald Medal - Brad Willis 1987; John McMurray 1991 & 1993; T.Browning 2002 (3 Medallists/4 Medals)

Most Games: 416 by Bill Trethewie

A University Football Club is recorded as having competed in the Denison Football Association in 1914, but today's Old Scholars club was not established until the 1930s.

TFL Premiers and Grand Finals 1879 to 2000

Year	Winner	G	B	Pts	Loser	G	B	Pts
1879	City			<i>No grand final</i>				
1880	Cricketers			<i>No grand final</i>				
1881	Railway			<i>No grand final</i>				
1882	Railway	6	-	N/A	Cricketers	0	-	N/A
1883	Railway			<i>No grand final</i>				
1884	Cricketers			<i>No grand final</i>				
1885	Holebrook	3	12	N/A	Railway	2	16	N/A
1886	City	6	16	N/A	Railway	0	9	N/A
1887	Railway	5	3	N/A	City	1	9	N/A
1888	City	4	15	N/A	Railway	3	6	N/A
1889	Railway			<i>No grand final</i>				
1890	Holebrook	3	11	N/A	Railway	2	7	N/A
1891	Holebrook			<i>No grand final</i>				
1892	City	3	9	N/A	Holebrook	2	9	N/A
1893	Railway	8	17	N/A	Holebrook	7	6	N/A
1894	Railway	2	5	N/A	City	0	4	N/A
1895	Railway	4	3	N/A	City	2	4	N/A
1896	Railway	10	5	N/A	North Hobart	2	5	N/A
1897	City	1	3	N/A	North Hobart	0	6	N/A
1898	Lefroy	8	17	65	Wellington	3	5	23
1899	Lefroy	4	7	31	Wellington	2	8	20
1900	Wellington	7	8	50	Lefroy	5	6	36
1901	Lefroy	11	12	78	Wellington	3	8	26
1902	North Hobart	4	11	35	Lefroy	2	6	18
1903	Wellington			<i>No grand final</i>				
1904	Wellington			<i>No grand final</i>				
1905	North Hobart			<i>No grand final</i>				
1906	Derwent			<i>No grand final</i>				
1907	Lefroy			<i>No grand final</i>				
1908	North Hobart	2	7	19	Lefroy	1	9	15
1909	Cananore	3	11	29	Lefroy	0	6	6
1910	Cananore			<i>No grand final</i>				
1911	Cananore	9	6	60	Lefroy	6	8	44
1912	Lefroy	6	12	48	North Hobart	3	12	30
1913	Cananore	10	13	73	Lefroy	4	12	36
1914	North Hobart	7	11	53	Cananore	4	11	35

Year	Winner	G	B	Pts	Loser	G	B	Pts
1920	North Hobart	10	12	72	Lefroy	6	16	52
1921	Cananore	6	18	54	North Hobart	4	5	29
1922	Cananore	9	12	66	North Hobart	8	8	56
1923	North Hobart	10	9	69	New Town	7	6	48
1924	Lefroy	8	3	51	Cananore	4	11	35
1925	Cananore	15	14	104	North Hobart	7	9	51
1926	Cananore	14	8	92	New Town	8	12	60
1927	Cananore	13	10	88	Lefroy	7	16	58
1928	North Hobart	<i>No grand final</i>						
1929	North Hobart	9	15	69	Lefroy	7	12	54
1930	Lefroy	14	11	95	North Hobart	10	17	77
1931	Cananore	9	12	66	North Hobart	9	12	66
Re-play	Cananore	8	9	57	North Hobart	7	12	54
1932	North Hobart	16	15	111	Cananore	9	5	59
1933	Cananore	16	12	108	North Hobart	8	16	64
1934	North Hobart	11	22	88	Lefroy	9	10	64
1935	New Town	18	9	117	North Hobart	15	13	103
1936	North Hobart	13	9	87	Lefroy	11	17	83
1937	Lefroy	17	12	114	North Hobart	9	15	69
1938	North Hobart	13	15	93	Lefroy	11	15	81
1939	North Hobart	10	9	69	Cananore	6	11	47
1940	North Hobart	18	8	116	Cananore	7	17	59
1941	North Hobart	12	17	89	Cananore	9	11	65
1945	North Hobart	10	17	77	Sandy Bay	7	5	47
1946	Sandy Bay	12	16	88	New Town	5	16	46
1947	North Hobart	13	7	85	Hobart	10	9	69
1948	New Town	11	15	81	North Hobart	9	11	65
1949	New Town	10	8	68	Hobart	4	11	35
1950	Hobart	11	12	78	New Town	11	10	76
1951	New Town	20	14	134	North Hobart	9	9	63
1952	Sandy Bay	14	9	93	Hobart	11	9	75
1953	New Town	16	18	114	Sandy Bay	15	13	103
1954	Hobart	12	10	82	New Town	10	12	72
1955	New Town	15	11	101	Hobart	8	18	66
1956	New Town	8	7	55	North Hobart	7	10	52
1957	North Hobart	11	15	81	Glenorchy	9	15	69
1958	Glenorchy	15	15	105	Sandy Bay	11	11	77
1959	Hobart	9	14	68	New Norfolk	2	9	21

Year	Winner	G	B	Pts	Loser	G	B	Pts
1960	Hobart	6	7	43	North Hobart	6	3	39
1961	North Hobart	16	12	108	Glenorchy	11	6	72
1962	North Hobart	10	12	72	Clarence	7	15	57
1963	Hobart	10	4	64	Sandy Bay	6	13	49
1964	Sandy Bay	11	11	77	New Norfolk	9	11	65
1965	Glenorchy	10	15	75	North Hobart	6	8	44
1966	Hobart	10	14	74	Glenorchy	11	7	73
1967	North Hobart	11	12	78	Glenorchy	8	16	64
1968	New Norfolk	14	13	97	North Hobart	9	14	68
1969	North Hobart	19	15	129	Clarence	17	15	117
1970	Clarence	19	16	130	New Norfolk	10	15	75
1971	Sandy Bay	18	13	121	Clarence	16	16	112
1972	Sandy Bay	18	9	117	New Norfolk	10	14	74
1973	Hobart	11	19	85	Sandy Bay	10	5	65
1974	North Hobart	21	10	136	Sandy Bay	15	18	108
1975	Glenorchy	15	16	106	Sandy Bay	10	7	67
1976	Sandy Bay	21	10	136	Glenorchy	5	9	39
1977	Sandy Bay	19	9	123	Glenorchy	3	14	32
1978	Sandy Bay	11	14	80	Glenorchy	9	15	69
1979	Clarence	12	11	83	Glenorchy	11	14	80
1980	Hobart	14	9	93	Glenorchy	7	16	58
1981	Clarence	15	23	113	New Norfolk	13	10	88
1982	New Norfolk	13	9	87	Glenorchy	11	10	76
1983	Glenorchy	28	19	187	New Norfolk	14	11	95
1984	Clarence	13	13	91	Glenorchy	9	11	65
1985	Glenorchy	10	15	75	Clarence	10	11	71
1986	Glenorchy	14	20	104	Sandy Bay	9	18	72
1987	North Hobart	23	20	158	Glenorchy	16	10	106
1988	Devonport	15	7	97	Glenorchy	8	6	54
1989	North Hobart	18	22	130	Hobart	16	4	100
1990	Hobart	19	16	130	North Launceston	10	12	72
1991	North Hobart	12	14	86	North Launceston	8	12	60
1992	North Hobart	16	12	108	Hobart	10	13	73
1993	Clarence	19	12	126	North Launceston	17	15	117
1994	Clarence	13	13	91	New Norfolk	8	5	53
1995	North Launceston	9	11	65	Clarence	7	13	55
1996	Clarence	14	17	101	Burnie Dockers	10	14	74
1997	Clarence	20	9	129	Burnie Dockers	18	14	122
1998	Northern Bombers	14	16	100	Clarence	6	15	51

Year	Winner	G	B	Pts	Loser	G	B	Pts
1999	Glenorchy	15	9	99	Northern Bombers	7	11	53
2000	Clarence	15	15	105	Northern Bombers	8	8	56

Summary Of Wins: 27 North Hobart; 14 Glenorchy/New Town; 12 Cananore, Wellington; 9 Clarence, Hobart; 8 Lefroy, Sandy Bay; 5 City; 3 Holebrook; 2 Cricketers, New Norfolk, North Launceston, Northern Bombers; 1 Derwent, Devonport

Tasmanian State Premiers 1909 to 1978

1909	Cananore				1954	City
1910	Cananore				1955	Ulverstone
1911	Cananore				1956	New Town
1912	Lefroy				1957	Longford
1913	Cananore				1958	Glenorchy
1914	North Hobart				1959	Hobart
1920	North Hobart				1960	City-South
1921	Cananore				1961	North Hobart
1922	Cananore				1962	North Hobart
1923	North Hobart				1963	Burnie
1924	Lefroy				1964	Cooee
1925	Cananore				1965	Glenorchy
1926	Cananore				1966	City-South
1927	Cananore				1967	<i>No result</i>
1928	City				1968	New Norfolk
1929	North Hobart				1969	North Hobart
1930	City				1970	Latrobe
1931	Cananore				1971	Sandy Bay
1932	City				1972	City-South
1933	Launceston				1973	Scottsdale
1934	Launceston				1975	Glenorchy
1935	Launceston				1976	Ulverstone
1936	North Hobart				1978	Cooee
1937	Launceston					
1938	Launceston					
1939	North Hobart					
1940	North Hobart					
1941	North Hobart					
1945	North Hobart					
1946	Sandy Bay					
1947	North Launceston					
1948	New Town					
1949	North Launceston					
1950	North Launceston					

Summary Of Wins: 12 North Hobart; 10 Cananore; 7 City/City-South; 5 Glenorchy/New Town, Launceston, North Launceston; 2 Cooee, Lefroy, Sandy Bay, Ulverstone; 1 Burnie, Hobart, Latrobe, Longford, New Norfolk, Scottsdale

Note: The competition did not take place in the years not listed. For details of the 1967 match, see pages 70 to 72.

Prior to world war two, and for a short while after it, the club did not participate in formal competition of any kind, but in 1948 it applied for, and was granted, admission to the Southern Division of the Tasmanian Amateur Football League. After finishing fourth in its debut season it gave little indication that it was going to improve on that performance during the 1949 roster matches, which concluded with it once again occupying 4th spot on the ladder. Minor premier Hutchins had not lost a game all season, and was confidently regarded as having a mortgage on the flag, a status it only served to reinforce by cruising straight into the grand final. Rather surprisingly, the team it ended up facing was University, which having already considerably exceeded expectations by upsetting the odds in both the first semi final and preliminary final would, presumably, be content merely to make up the numbers on grand final day.

Ah, if only football was that easy to predict. The University players proceeded to produce far and away the best collective performance of their lives, while their Hutchins counterparts were uncharacteristically slipshod and wayward, dominating possession, but repeatedly failing to capitalise on it. At the final bell the scoreboard showed University 7 points to the good, having scored 14.8 (92) to Hutchins' 11.19 (85); the supposedly better team had lost, and the first significant foundation stone of an emerging club's tradition had been laid.

As so often seems to be the case when a team achieves something truly memorable, the aftermath was anything but, and it would be more than two decades before University again tasted premiership success. The architect of the success was Brian Eade (father of Rodney Eade), who was appointed to the club's senior coaching position in 1967, and who steered the club to five of the six grand finals between 1968 and 1973, for wins in 1970 against Bridgewater, 1971 against Friends, and 1973 against Sorell. For good measure, the Rainbows also went

on to add the state title on each occasion. In 1971, they did so by means of a record-breaking 26.12 (168) to 3.14 (32) defeat of Old Launcestonians.

Coached by Ron Mawbey, University again claimed the 'double' in 1977, downing Sorell by 10 points in the Southern grand final, and Quandeine by 2 goals in the state match.

Between 1981 and 1986 the TAFLL Southern Division split into Districts and Old Scholars sections, with the premiers of each section playing off to determine the overall premier. Competing in the Old Scholars section, the Rainbows scored a 9 point win over Friends to win the 1985 premiership, but lost the Divisional grand final to Mangalore.

In 1987 the Old Scholars section became a standalone league. University has so far won two premierships in this competition, beating Hutchins in the 1992 grand final by 46 points, and St Virgil's by 2 points the following year.

TRIABUNNA

Current Affiliation: Southern Football League (SthFL) since 2006

Home Ground: Triabunna Recreation Ground

Formed: Circa 1900

Colours: Maroon and white

Emblem: Kangaroos

SthFL Premierships: Nil

Peter Hodgman Medallists: Nil

In 2006, Triabunna was one of two clubs admitted to the SthFL's regional league, the other being the newly formed Central Hawks. Perhaps the kindest thing to be said about the 'Roos' performances to date is that they have not been noteworthy. The club has enjoyed success in the past, however, claiming post-war senior grade premierships in various competitions on no fewer than eleven occasions, most recently in 1997 in the now defunct Tasman Football Association.

TASSIE'S FIRST FORAY

1882 Challenge Match: Tasmania vs. Essendon

The first ever match involving a Tasmanian team representative of the entire island took place on 29 August 1882 at the Upper Cricket Ground, North Hobart. The opposition was provided by Essendon, which was enjoying its best VFA season to date, and would ultimately finish in second place on the ladder behind Geelong. The Sash Wearers, as they were known, had already scored comfortable wins over northern and southern Tasmanian combinations, and boasted a large number of fine players, including skipper Ned Powell, renowned long kicker G.Cairns, and colonial representatives Fred Hughes, Paddy McShane, 'Jumbo' Carter and C.Griffiths.

Football in Tasmania was going from strength to strength in 1882. Earlier in the year, the first Northern Tasmanian Football Association had been formed, with three inaugural member clubs: Launceston, City and Longford. This brought the north in line with the south, which had had its own Association since 1879, with the four founder member clubs of City, Cricketers, New Town and Railway having been joined since 1880 by Holebrook. Railway went through the 1882 season unbeaten to secure its second consecutive premiership before beating northern premier Launceston for the unofficial state championship.

Prior to that, however, the Hobart public came out in force to witness arguably the most important single match played in Tasmania up to that point, with the Tasmanian team lining up as follows: W.H.Cundy (captain), C.Goddard, T.Bagley, A.Stuart, L.McLeod, O.G.Douglas, W.Cheverton, G.Cheverton, B.Stuart, F.Turner, H.Paul, R.Kirby, J.Briggs, J.Cleary, J.H.Cato, K.Burns, D.Murnane, W.Boyd, E.Lucas, T.Molloy, W.Edmonson, W.Walch, E.Ritchie (emergency). The fact that there are twenty-two names (excluding the emergency) in this list strongly suggests that this was an 'odds match,' as the standard size of teams in 1882 was twenty players.

Match Report

From 'The Mercury'

Nearly 3,000 people assembled on the Upper Cricket Ground for the match on August 29, 1882, between Essendon and Tasmania. The ladies' pavilion was crowded and many of the fairer sex took up positions around the ground and watched with great interest the struggle between the two teams.

The weather was wet and threatening, and consequently the ground was wet and heavy, and before the ball had been in play many minutes it became very wet and heavy and slippery and members of both teams had difficulty in holding it.

Tasmanian captain was the Railway skipper W.H.Cundy, who won the toss and decided to kick northwards.

At the start the Tasmanians played very strongly, and it was thought they were going to make a good stand against the visitors. Before the game had commenced many minutes W.H.Cheverton obtained a mark about 20 yards in front of goal, and with a well judged kick secured the first goal for Tasmania. The ball was then sent down the west wing where Bagley (Tasmania) got it and he carried it down to the south west corner of the oval.

McLeod, G.Cheverton, A.Stuart and A.G.Douglas were all playing well for Tasmania at this stage, while McShane made some brilliant runs for the Victorians. Shortly afterwards, Nully sent the ball to the centre of the ground from the west wing, where it was laid hold of by F.Hughes, who then secured the first goal for Essendon.

The play which followed was very fast. Martin, after a brief run, placed the leather in McShane's hands, and he sent it down to Feehan, who tried for goal and almost got it, scoring a behind instead. Tasmania then rallied and played hard, but Essendon secured another behind.

Bagley, the two Chevertons and Lucas all played well, and they carried the ball close to their goal, but Essendon relieved and shot the ball back towards their goal, where they had two shots and missed. In a second or two 'Jumbo' again collared the centre of attraction when he marked and passed to Feehan, who punted it on to 'Gobbo'¹ who kicked the second goal for Essendon.

The play which succeeded this was fast and furious, and caused great excitement among spectators. K.Burns (Tasmania) had a shot for goal, but hit the post. The Tasmanians played well but they were finding the Essendon backs hard to penetrate.

McShane made a splendid run down the centre of the ground and with a brilliant kick secured another goal for Essendon.

(For Tasmania) A.Stuart made some brilliant runs and Kirby worked like a bullock. Shortly afterwards 'Gobbo', from a mark, secured Essendon's fourth goal. At half time the score stood at Essendon 4.13 to Tasmania 1.3.

After the break the Tasmanians worked well with all the skill and judgement they could, but they found the Victorians tough nuts to break through and score the much needed goals. Briggs, Kirby, A.Stuart and McLeod had several shots, but only behinds resulted. Feehan scored a mark and notched another goal for Essendon. Not long afterwards the same player scored their sixth goal. From this point on the match took little change and when time was called the score stood at Essendon 6.27 defeated Tasmania 1.8.

Best players for Tasmania were Goddard, Bagley, Cundy, A.Stuart, McLeod, Douglas and Cheverton (2).

Messrs. W.Ray (Tasmania) and Heath (Essendon) acted as central umpires,² with F.Lovett (Tasmania) and P.Lyins (Essendon) as goal umpires.

Postscript

The standard of Tasmanian football gradually improved as the 1880s went on. When Essendon next toured the island in 1886, it played two matches against the TFA, drawing the first, and getting soundly beaten in the second. Later that same season, a TFA combination inflicted a sizeable defeat on Melbourne, a result for which the VFA side only partially atoned by managing a narrow victory in the return encounter. By the late 1890s, however, the halcyon days were well and truly over, as a combination of economic privation and the escalating exodus of the island's top players to the mainland had a savagely inimical effect on playing standards.

Essendon, by contrast, was to enjoy arguably its greatest ever era during the 1890s, winning four consecutive VFA premierships between 1891 and 1894, and raising standards

¹ Michael Maplestone in *Flying Higher*, his history of the Essendon Football Club, professes perplexity over the identity of both 'Jumbo' and 'Gobbo'. I am unable at present to shed any light on the identity of the latter player, but 'Jumbo' presumably refers to 'Jumbo' Carter, who was a prominent and well known Essendon footballer at this time

² It is unclear whether these umpires operated in tandem, or took charge for half a game each.

of play to previously unimagined heights. Players like Albert Thurgood, Charles 'Tracker' Forbes, August Kearney, Jim Anderson, George Stuckey, Harry Wright, and Tasmanians Colin Campbell, Edward Officer and George Vautin arguably had few peers in the game during their careers, and were largely responsible for establishing the 'Same Old' tradition that remains one of the most distinctive and enduring in Australian sport.

The idea of picking a single team to represent the colony of Tasmania as a whole did not take hold as it might have done. Indeed, because of the almost incessant bickering between the northern and southern Associations it was to be five years before a genuinely representative Tasmanian side was again chosen. In 1887, a team comprising seventeen southerners and eight northerners toured Victoria, winning 3 and drawing 1 of its 6 matches, and performing overall with considerable credit. Sadly, from a Victorian perspective all the tour really did was alert club recruiting officers to the existence of a vast pool of comparatively untapped playing talent residing temptingly within reach just across the Bass Strait. Once the recruiting officers had begun responding to this temptation, Tasmania's days of being able to compete on more or less equal terms with the Victorians were numbered. The emergence of the VFL in 1897 only served to hasten the process of attrition, and by the 1920s the standard of play in Tasmania was scarcely higher than that in the football backwaters of Sydney and Brisbane.

OFFICIAL TASMANIAN TEAM OF THE CENTURY

Selected in 2004

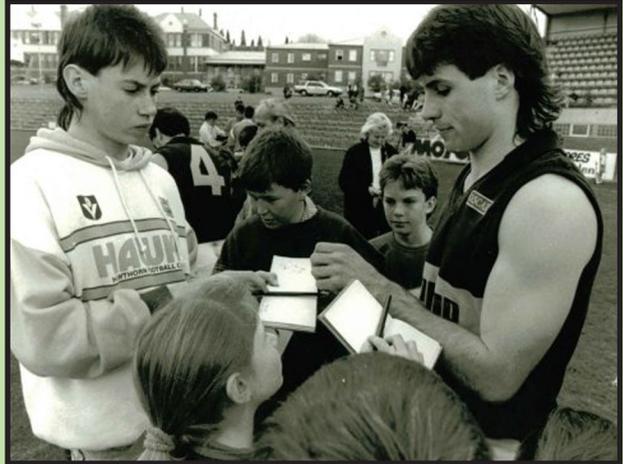
B	Verdun Howell	Bob 'Tassie' Johnson	Ivor Warne-Smith
HB	Barry Lawrence	Laurie Nash	Brent Crosswell
C	Arthur Hodgson	Ian Stewart	Rodney Eade
HF	Darrel Baldock (c)	Royce Hart	Daryn Crosswell
F	Alastair Lynch	Peter Hudson	Horrie Gorringe
1R	Peter 'Percy' Jones	John Leedham (v-c)	Terry Cashion
IC	Rex Garwood Len 'Apples' Pye Darrin Pritchard	Michael Roach Paul Williams	Matthew Richardson Neil Conlan
Coach	Roy Cazaly	Assistant Coach	Robert Shaw

THIRTY YEARS ON

1990 State of Origin Match: Tasmania vs. Victoria

The photographs used in this article are copyright 'The Mercury' and Robin Lane. I am indebted to David Harding for supplying me with scanned copies of the images.

Traditionally acknowledged as one of football's four major states, Tasmania was dealt an embarrassing body blow in 1988 when it was unceremoniously excluded from section one of that year's bicentennial interstate carnival in Adelaide. The reason for the demotion had nothing to do with the state's on field performances, but was rather, at least allegedly, the result of a subjective

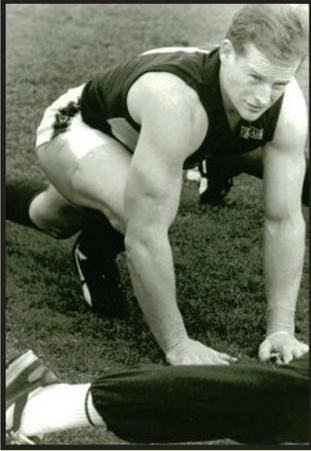


assessment by the National Football League to the effect that New South Wales, at the time, boasted a superior squad of players to the Tasmanians.¹ In reality, it is likely that New South Wales' inclusion in section one had a political motivation, linked closely to the NFL's VFL-inspired perception that the growth of the game in Australia's largest state was crucial to its long term well-being. Or, to put it more coarsely but no less validly, Tasmania was simply too small, and too poor, to be worth worrying about.

In 1989, Tasmania met Victoria at state of origin level for the first ever time. The match, played at North Hobart Oval in front of 12,342 spectators, resulted in a win to a very powerful Victorian side by 56 points, but the home side, which stayed right in contention until midway through the third term, was by no means disgraced, and indeed the match went some way towards restoring the state pride so cruelly undermined by the NFL the previous

¹ If taken to its logical extreme, such flagrantly groundless bureaucratic stage management would obviously eradicate the need for any football to be played. Simply feed all the numbers into a computer and, with a couple of mouse clicks, you have a result. As for the criteria used by the NFL in determining New South Wales' alleged superiority, these are unclear, although the fact that New South Wales had more VFL players on its list than the Tasmanians (21 as against 15) might well have been cited as a tiresomely spurious reason. The fact that New South Wales ultimately enjoyed a highly successful carnival, losing only narrowly to eventual champions South Australia, and beating Western Australia for the first time ever, is of course completely irrelevant when considering the question of whether or not the NFL's decision was morally justifiable.

year. It would be another twelve months, however - and, coincidentally, exactly thirty years on from arguably Tasmanian football's greatest hour, its victory over the VFL at York Park, Launceston in 1960 - for that pride to be fully restored.



State of origin football was very much at its peak in 1990. The VFL, aggressively determined to establish itself as a genuinely national concern, with expansion into South Australia at the earliest possible opportunity top of its short term priority list, re-named itself the Australian Football League, and arranged what can only be regarded as a propaganda mission for the Victorian state of origin team, with matches in Sydney, Perth and Hobart. A key purpose of these matches, coupled with the fact that, for the first time since 1981 - and certainly not by coincidence - there was to be no game against South Australia, was to nudge the objective of procuring South Australian involvement in the pseudo-national competition forward a step or two

by the graphic means of demonstrating what the South Australians were missing out on by not participating.

Such perverse political machinations aside, the purpose of the matches from the perspectives of New South Wales and Tasmania, and to a lesser extent Western Australia, was the much simpler, indeed one might dare suggest nobler, one of reinforcing state pride. On 22 May, New South Wales duly accomplished this with a stirring 10 point victory over the Vics on a rain-saturated SCG, with North Melbourne's Balldale-born forward John Longmire booting 8 goals in a best afield performance.

Just over a month later, Longmire, along with erstwhile New South Wales team mates Bernard Toohey, Brett Allison and Steve Wright, arrived in Hobart having miraculously, or at any rate by some unknown process, become Victorians. (In the cases of Allison and Wright, the question is rather how they had come, a month earlier, to be regarded as New South Welshman, with Allison hailing from the ACT, and Wright and Toohey from Victoria.) The confusion governing state of origin eligibility regulations at the time was further exemplified by the fact that Tasmania's captain, Darrin Pritchard, had in 1989 starred for Victoria in its 86 point demolition of South Australia at the MCG, while his team mate and fellow wingman Graeme Wright had represented Victoria at the SCG in the aforementioned game against New South Wales. Not that there was the remotest doubt as to either Pritchard's or Wright's entitlement to wear the rose, primrose and green; Pritchard hailed from Sandy Bay, and Wright from Devonport, and both players were quintessentially Tasmanian born and bred. However, the bewildering inconsistency in the application of state of origin eligibility criteria over the years, with



pragmatism all too frequently outweighing legitimacy, must be seen as to some extent compromising the entire concept.¹

Such eligibility considerations were at best of merely peripheral concern in the lead up to a game which had captured the imagination of the Tasmanian football-loving public like no other for close to twenty years.² Despite the fact that, just as thirty years earlier, the 'Big V' side was officially a second string combination, with its 'A' side scheduled to meet Western Australia in Perth a couple of days later, the match was being regarded as the next best thing to a grand final. Moreover, the Tasmanian team itself could scarcely be regarded as first choice, given the non-availability for selection of players from Melbourne, St Kilda, Carlton, Geelong, Brisbane and Essendon who were required to participate in VFL matches the previous day. Among the individuals from these clubs who might have been in serious contention for a guernsey were Steven Febey, Anthony Lovell, David Grant, Jody Arnol, Simon Minton-Connell, Adrian Fletcher, Mark Withers and Bradley Plain. Nevertheless, Tassie coach Robert Shaw made only a couple of exceptions to his his self-enforced 'rule of thumb' which favoured the selection of players actually born in the island state. These exceptions were Shane Fell, a Melbourne born full forward currently with Sydney, but who had commenced his senior League career with Glenorchy, and fellow Victorian and former North Hobart and Glenorchy player Brett Stephens, who was playing in the VFL with Fitzroy. As Shaw explained, "At various stages of their careers, Shane and Brett have been discarded, gone to Tasmania, played their first senior game there, represented their state and played in finals. With them, I'm prepared to make an exception to the rule".³

Idiosyncrasies, anomalies and selection restrictions aside, what seems evident is that, for perhaps the first and only time in football history, the 1990 interstate match between Tasmania and Victoria represented a fair and realistic test of strength between the respective teams, and from the Tasmanian perspective in particular its importance was

1 Examples of such inconsistency are legion. In the 1989 Victoria-South Australia match already mentioned, for example, the Victorian side contained a Queenslander (Jason Dunstall, who booted 4 goals) and a New South Welshman (Terry Daniher, who was a widespread choice as best afield). Indeed, three of 'Victoria's' four best players hailed from outside the state. When the Vics travelled to Perth later that same year, Dunstall was best afield with 9 goals in a winning team, while Daniher was once again named among the best players. In 1990, Victoria's losing team at the SCG contained a Tasmanian (Steven Febey), a Queenslander (Gavin Crosisca), and a Northern Territorian (Russell Jeffery), while blurring the situation still further was the fact that, in South Australia's 13 point defeat of Victoria at Football Park in 1992, one of the home team's most noteworthy performances came from North Melbourne's Wayne Carey, who hailed from Wagga in New South Wales.

2 In 1971, Tasmanian football was on a 'high' following the state's spectacular display in downing Western Australia - 'Polly' Farmer, Bill Walker, Greg Brehaut, Malcolm Brown et al - by 2 points at North Hobart Oval the previous year. Enticed by the prospect of a repeat performance, an all time record crowd for an interstate match in Tasmania of 20,548 turned up at the same ground on Monday 14 June 1971 for the meeting with South Australia, which had endured a tough and closely fought match against the VFL at the MCG just two days earlier. Unfortunately for Tasmania, the crowsaters had just enough left in the tank to resist what was nevertheless a concerted and formidable challenge, but this was probably the last occasion when the Tasmanians could approach such a match on more or less equivalent terms; over the ensuing couple of decades, the state's three senior competitions would be systematically denuded of talent by the VFL, a state of affairs which made the prospect of the 1990 clash with the 'Big V' all the more alluring and exciting - it was much more than a mere football match, it was an opportunity for revenge

3 'Inside Football', 20/6/90, page 3. In the interests of wholesale accuracy, however, it should perhaps be pointed out that Paul Hudson, the son of former Tasmanian-born Hawthorn champion Peter Hudson, was in fact himself born in Melbourne, while John McCarthy was from Wales.

hard to over-stress. "Tassie is a dinky-die football state," Robert Shaw reminded onlookers. "It's good the game is going national but it should be kept in mind that we are one of four traditional football states, along with Victoria, WA and SA. We believe we should be the fourth state which is involved in state of origin matches, but now we have to prove it on the ground."¹



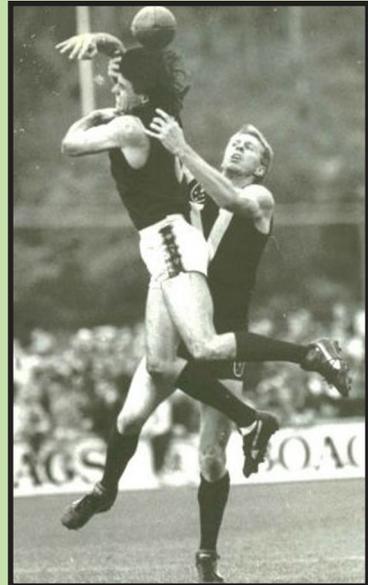
As for Tasmania's prospects in the game, "We're not the biggest name side around," admitted Shaw, "but we're young and enthusiastic." Meanwhile, and perhaps more to the point, "We are a better side than last year. We've got better depth."²

As 18,651 spectators - the second biggest attendance ever to witness an interstate match in Tasmania - crammed into North Hobart Oval on Sunday 24 June 1990 they could only hope that such pronouncements did not represent idle boasting. As time was all too quickly to prove, they did not.

An interesting feature of the match was that both sides were captained by Hawthorn players, with Darrin Pritchard leading the home team, and Gary Ayres the Vics. The respective teams' ruckmen, James Manson (Tasmania) and Damien Monkhorst (Victoria) were also from the

same club, in this case Collingwood, while an international flavour of sorts was provided by the presence of Tasmania's John McCarthy (born in Wales) and Victoria's José Romero (a Chilean). Other key players in the Tasmanian team included the Footscray pair of Simon Atkins and Steve Macpherson, dynamic Collingwood wingman Graeme Wright and his prodigiously long kicking team mate, Doug Barwick, and veteran Fitzroy centreman Scott Clayton. Moreover, by selecting the Gale brothers, Brendan and Michael, Tasmania forged a link with the great 1960 team, which had seen Don Gale - father of Brendan and Michael - line up in the back pocket.

Victoria, which was coached by triple VFL premiership coach David Parkin,³ had eventual 1990



¹ Ibid., page 3.

² Ibid., page 3.

³ Parkin, a dour but highly proficient and estimably courageous defender with Hawthorn over 211 VFL games between 1961 and 1974, later coached the Hawks to the 1978 flag, before moving to Carlton where he achieved further premiership success in 1981 and 1982. After a stint at Fitzroy, he returned to the Blues and succeeded in masterminding the club's re-emergence from mediocrity (11th place in 1991) to a premiership four years later.

Brownlow Medallist Tony Liberatore from Footscray, his club team mate and dual best and fairest winner Terry Wallace, and the man who would beat both of them to the 1990 Bulldogs club champion award, Peter Foster, redoubtable key defenders in the shape of Chris Langford from Hawthorn and North Melbourne's Mick Martyn, the 1990 Coleman Medallist-in-waiting, John Longmire (North Melbourne), and Matthew Knights of Richmond and Stevie Wright of Sydney, both of whom would win their respective clubs' best and fairest awards later in the year.

The match took place on a cool, comparatively still (with such breeze as there is blowing directly across the ground, favouring neither side), overcast but dry day - perfect football conditions, in fact. As the ball was bounced to commence the match, the teams lined up as follows:

TASMANIA (white - kicking UP) versus VICTORIA (black - kicking DOWN)

C.Alexander		S.Fell		A.Lynch
S.Kerrison		C.Langford		G.Ayres (captain)
D.Barwick		D.Gale		P.Hudson
J.Kennedy		M.Martyn		B.Toohy
D.Pritchard (captain)		S.Clayton		G.Wright
M.Knights		T.Wallace		B.Allson
T.Spearman		J.McCarthy		M.Gale
R.Lyon		P.Foster		S.Wigney
M.Mansfield		B.Stephens		S.Macpherson
P.Dear		J.Longmire		J.Romero
J.Manson		S.Atkins		T.Nichols
D.Monkhorst		A.Condon		A.Liberatore
INTERCHANGE:		S.Wade		D.Noonan
		S.Byers		D.Davies
INTERCHANGE:		B.Young		S.Wright
		M.Gallagher		B.Bower

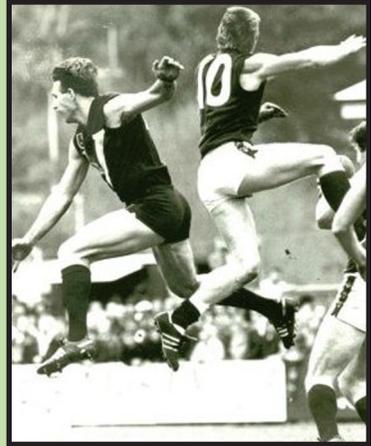
COACHES: Tasmania - Robert Shaw; Victoria - David Parkin

1st Quarter

5 mins Despite being three metres longer than the MCG, North Hobart Oval is marked out with forty metre rather than fifty metre arcs at each end, and it is from a distance of precisely

40 metres from goal, directly in front, that Colin Alexander rounds off Tasmania's first attacking foray of the match with an elegantly accurate drop punt.¹ **Tasmania 1.0; Victoria 0.1**

10 mins John McCarthy, at left centre wing, marks strongly in front of his North Melbourne team mate Mick Martyn and kicks towards a pack of players at centre half forward. Making light of the strenuous opposition afforded by three Victorian players, James Manson gets high off the ground to take a towering, one grab mark. His almost laughably ungainly kicking style is nevertheless often more accurate than the textbook approach favoured by many of his team mates, and so it proves on this occasion as his wobbly drop punt almost perfectly bisects the uprights. **Tasmania 2.1; Victoria 0.2**



11 mins After a lethargic start, Tasmania are beginning to win most of the hard ball contests and clearances, prompting Victorian coach David Parkin to relinquish an attacker to bolster his midfield. Nevertheless, it is the Tasmanians who

continue to dominate, as exemplified by their efficiency in clearing the ball from the ensuing centre bounce, courtesy of flame-haired ruck-rover Simon Atkins, who not only manages to get boot to ball despite intensely heavy traffic, but is also able to pick out the fast leading figure of Shane Fell at half forward right and float the ball perfectly out in front of him to facilitate the mark. Fell, who has been in disappointing form for the Swans, kicks truly from just outside forty metres. **Tasmania 3.1; Victoria 0.2**

18 mins Victoria at last manage to penetrate the Tasmanian back line and are awarded an obvious free kick as Trevor Spearman blatantly interferes with Bernard Toohey from behind in a marking contest. From almost dead on forty metres out on no appreciable angle, the Sydney stalwart coolly registers the Vics' first goal. **Tasmania 3.3; Victoria 1.2**

23 mins Hudson at half back right for Tasmania sends a crisp, low pass to Manson on right centre wing. With acres of space ahead of him, Manson runs on, drawing Terry Wallace towards him and then handballing over the Footscray star's head to Scott Clayton who, having just managed to keep the ball in play, pumps a high kick towards centre half forward where Shane Fell rides piggy-back on an opponent's shoulders before marking strongly on the chest. He kicks truly. **Tasmania 4.3; Victoria 1.3**

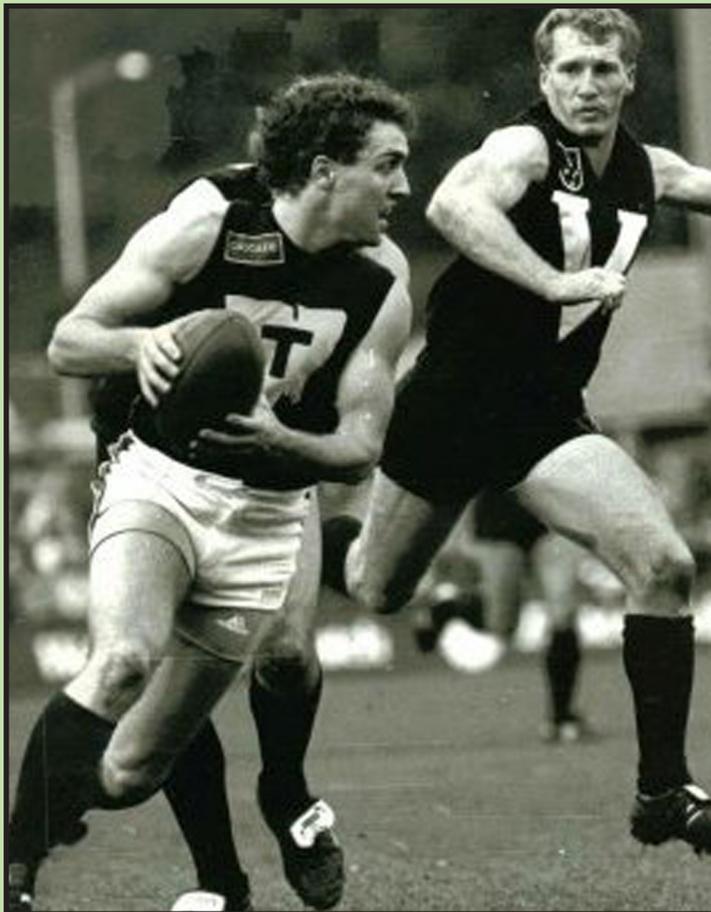
26 mins Under intense pressure in the right back pocket for Victoria, Damien Monkhorst's clearing kick wobbles off the side of his boot and out of bounds on the full some 40 metres around the boundary from Tasmania's left behind post. The resultant free kick is taken by Graeme Wright who picks out Doug Barwick with a perfectly weighted grass burner. Despite being some fifty-five metres from goal, Barwick amply justifies his reputation as one of the strongest kicks in the game as he launches into a thumping spiral punt that travels straight through the centre at post height. **Tasmania 5.3; Victoria 1.3**

¹ According to John Stoward's *Australian Rules Football in Tasmania*, page 90, North Hobart Oval is 162 metres long by 113 metres wide, compared with 159m x 138m for the MCG, 171m x 127m for Subiaco Oval, 165m x 133m for Football Park ('AAMI Stadium'), 131m x 135m for the SCG, 170m x 149m for the Gabba, and 165m x 135m for York Park.

Shane Fell's behind right on the quarter time siren extends the home side's lead at the first change to 25 points. **QUARTER TIME: Tasmania 5.4 (34); Victoria 1.3 (9)**

2nd Quarter

8 mins The umpire bounces the ball on Victoria's right half forward flank, and Stuart Wigney uses his body adeptly to out-maneuver Michael Gale before directing a well-judged



tap right into the path of Ross Lyon, who gathers and throws the ball onto his left boot in one smooth motion and is delighted to see it tumble awkwardly but accurately straight through the centre for a goal. **Tasmania 5.6; Victoria 2.3**

10 mins Tasmania effect the quick reply as they force the ball untidily but effectively forward to just inside their forty metre arc, where a frantic scrum develops. As players scramble for the

ball on hands and knees, it is Simon Atkins who finally manages to get a clean handle on it before firing out a telling handball to Paul Hudson, who is the only unmarked Tasmanian player in the vicinity. From roughly thirty metres out directly in front, with time to steady and measure his kick, Hudson is never going to miss. **Tasmania 6.6; Victoria 2.3**

16 mins As Tasmania try to maneuver the ball into space near the centre of the ground, Scott Clayton's hefty forward thump is intercepted by his Fitzroy team mate, Ross Lyon, who returns it with interest, sending it directly into the path of Stuart Wigney. The solidly built Footscray forward gathers the ball up with the smooth aplomb of a rover before spearing out a handball to Jose Romero, who sprints on towards goal, forcing Tassie full back Alastair Lynch to run out to meet him, leaving his opponent John Longmire unattended in the process. As Lynch approaches, Romero deftly handballs over his head to the now

unmarked Longmire who has the easiest of tasks to turn, and casually prod the ball over the goal line from point blank range. **Tasmania 6.7; Victoria 3.6**

17 mins Once again the Tasmanians concoct an immediate and telling riposte, as they win the ball out of the centre from the ensuing centre bounce and, after the ball spills off hands near centre half forward, restore their 25 point advantage courtesy of an effortless gather and telling snap from Colin Alexander. **Tasmania 7.7; Victoria 3.6**

21 mins Romero's centering kick eludes a pack of players at centre half forward and the ball tumbles away in the direction of goal. First to reach it is Allison, who spots Shane Kerrison standing unmarked in the goal square and hits him on the chest with a perfect pass. Kerrison promptly plays on and just manages to avoid the attentions of the on-rushing Steve Macpherson before firing home from a distance of about five metres. **Tasmania 7.7; Victoria 4.6**



26 mins After being awarded a somewhat contentious free kick right on 40 metres and straight in front, Bernard Toohey effortlessly registers his second major of the game. **Tasmania 7.7; Victoria 5.6**

28 mins With Victoria playing with trademark desperation and conviction, Gary Ayres vigorously soccer the ball from centre half back to just ahead of centre where Matthew Gale intercepts. However, before he can bring the ball adequately under control he is sent sprawling by Ross Lyon, and Jose Romero swoops in to collect the crumbs. Dashing onwards into the forty metre zone Romero has plenty of time to measure his options before spearing a low kick through the vacant goal square and over the line for full points. **Tasmania 7.7; Victoria 6.8**

31 mins Moments before the half time siren Jose Romero gathers the ball deep in the right forward pocket, almost on the boundary line, and screws a miraculous left foot snapshot around his body, over the heads of the goal line pack, and through the narrowest of apertures for a morale-boosting six pointer. For the first time since the early moments in the match the Vics are in front on the scoreboard, and deservedly so after they have completely dominated the closing stages of the term. **HALF TIME: Victoria 7.8 (50); Tasmania 7.7 (49)**

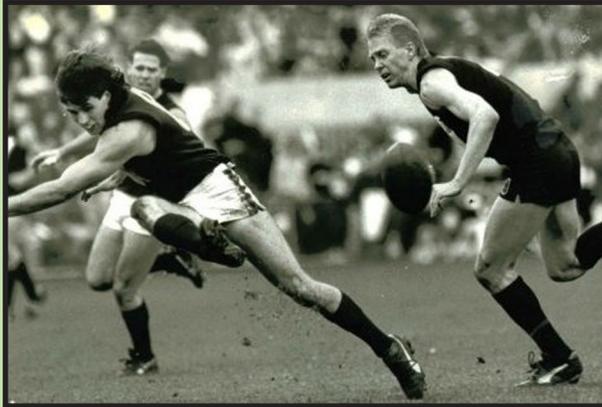
3rd Quarter

10 mins Noonan's probing kick to half forward right for Tasmania looks set to be intercepted by Chris Langford, who has come hurtling out of the goal square like an enraged bull. However, at the last moment the bouncing ball swerves deceptively, completely eluding the Victorian full back and bouncing instead straight into the hands of the stationary - and somewhat surprised - Shane Fell, who promptly off loads to the running Scott Clayton just inside the half forward right boundary. Clayton's high, hopeful

centering kick sails toward the goal square where Colin Alexander displays perfect timing and admirable calmness to out-mark two taller, higher leaping Victorian opponents. He maintains his calmness by splitting the centre from the front right hand point of the square.

Tasmania 8.8; Victoria 7.11

13 mins After marking near the rear edge of the centre square Peter Foster is awarded a fifty metre penalty after Colin Alexander fails to return the ball to him promptly. His ensuing kick for goal from some sixty metres floats harmlessly away into the left forward pocket, but the umpire rules that James Manson had transgressed the mark, and awards Kennedy another fifty metre penalty. This time, from less than twenty metres out directly in front, the Bulldog veteran makes no mistake, propelling the ball high over the grandstand and out of the ground in the process.



Victoria 8.11; Tasmania 8.8

18 mins A poor kick in by Barry Young after a Tasmanian behind is marked easily at half forward left by Michael Gale. After prolonged deliberation, he elects to go short to Graeme Wright, who is standing some twenty metres in field on almost precisely the same spot as that from which

Doug Barwick had goaled so magnificently in the opening term. Not to be outdone, Wright sinks his boot into a perfect drop punt which never looks like missing. **Tasmania 9.9;**

Victoria 8.12

23 mins Momentary confusion reigns deep in the right forward pocket for Victoria as the ball which Peter Foster had earlier despatched from the ground is returned to the arena right in the vicinity of where players are contesting the 'real' ball.

25 mins Despite having his left arm pinned behind his back by Chris Langford, Shane Fell is able to utilise his free arm to good effect as he leaps high to drag in a spectacular one-hander, before kicking truly from some thirty-five metres out directly in front. Unfortunately for Tasmania, however, Fell badly injures a knee shortly afterwards and takes no further part in the game, while Steve Macpherson is also forced to hobble from the fray after sustaining a similar injury. **Tasmania 10.9; Victoria 8.13**

28 mins To a tumultuous, cacophonous, surround-sound chant of 'Tassie, Tassie!' the home side has picked up its performance level several notches, and is making the hitherto poised looking Victorians appear disorientated and ramshackle. In an effort to curb the tide, Big V coach Parkin switches his key position players around, moving Foster from centre half back to centre half forward, Wigney from centre half forward to full forward, and Longmire from full forward to centre half back. The inevitable Tassie breakthrough is not long in coming, however, as Doug Barwick, who has only just returned to the ground after receiving extensive treatment for an injury, leads quickly and aggressively from full forward to half forward right to get on the end of a perfectly judged pass from Paul Hudson. From more or less the same position as that from which he had kicked his previous goal, he opts for a

drop punt this time, with exactly the same result. The noise from the crowd gets louder still.

Tasmania 11.10; Victoria 8.14

30 mins Paul Hudson's set shot from 50 metres out directly in front looks to be on course to register full points before seeming to hit an invisible brick wall some 5 metres from goal and plummeting dramatically to earth. Fortunately for Tassie, however, the ball lands safely in the waiting hands of Brendan Gale, having sent his opponent Damien Monkhorst sprawling, has the goal square more or less to himself. He kicks truly to open up a handy 20 point lead for the Tasmanians, who have recovered strongly after having to defend determinedly for much of the opening quarter of an hour of the term. **THREE QUARTER TIME: Tasmania 12.10 (82); Victoria 8.14 (62)**



4th Quarter

Rain during the lemon time interval has left the ground soggy, and quickly renders the ball greasy, but despite this the near record crowd is in for a treat of skilful, attacking football characterised by lightening quick, precise delivery and sure ball handling from players of both teams, and featuring one of the most astonishing sequences of 'goal for goal' action on record.

1 min Tasmania surge forward en masse from the opening bounce of the term, and Darrin Pritchard's probing kick into the goal square is vigorously punched away by his Hawthorn team mate, Chris Langford. Unfortunately for Victoria, however, the ball travels straight to John McCarthy in the left forward pocket, who inflicts the maximum punishment with a delightful, around the body left foot snap. **Tasmania 13.10; Victoria 8.14**

7 mins With Tasmania now well on top, John McCarthy nabs his second goal of the quarter and the match after taking a soaring mark in the goal square over his North Melbourne club mate, Mick Martyn. **Tasmania 14.11; Victoria 8.14**

9 mins The Victorians' first incursion deep into their attacking zone of the term bears fruit courtesy of a 35 metre set shot from straight in front by Ross Lyon. **Tasmania 14.12; Victoria 9.14**

14 mins After taking a clever, one-handed grab on right centre wing, Brendan Bower plays on quickly with a short pass to Tony Liberatore near the boundary line at half forward right. 'Libba' swings around onto his left foot and sends a high drop punt into the teeth of the goal square where Damien Monkhorst briefly gets both hands to the ball before it spins away over the goal line. Somewhat controversially, however - although it scarcely matters in the context of the ultimate result of the game - the goal umpire indicates that the ball had already crossed the goal line when Monkhorst got his fingers to it, a contention which a slow motion video replay of the incident disproves pretty conclusively. Nevertheless, Liberatore is visibly ecstatic, as are most of his team mates, and the concern in the crowd over this sudden surge by the Vics is almost palpable. **Tasmania 14.12; Victoria 10.16**

16 mins The crowd's trepidation is quickly reinforced as the Victorians pour forward in numbers yet again, and Brett Allison's high kick to the goal square is marked strongly by Damien Monkhorst less than a metre from the line. He makes no mistake. **Tasmania 14.12; Victoria 11.16**

16 mins 30 secs Within seconds, Tassie have concocted a telling riposte with arguably the goal of the game so far. An indeterminate centre bounce sees the ball go to ground, whereupon Simon Atkins pounces on it and sends a high, looping handball into the air ahead of the running Trent Nichols who, in one fluent movement, grabs the ball and feeds Graeme Wright before being ridden vigorously to the ground by Monkhorst. Spotting Michael Gale running past on his left, Wright shoots out a handball which Gale has to sprint hard to collect, but the extra momentum proves a blessing as he is able to just avoid the desperate lunge of Anthony Condon before straightening up and, from about 35 metres out on a 45 degree angle to the left of goal, steering a low, purposeful drop punt right through the centre to tumultuous acclaim. **Tasmania 15.12; Victoria 11.16**

17 mins Tasmania once again win the ball out of the centre, forcing it forward on this occasion with less apparent cohesion and purpose, but ultimately no less effectiveness. Colin Alexander's snapshot from centre half forward is smothered off the boot but John McCarthy is backing up superbly, and having collected the ball he kicks truly for his third major of the term. **Tasmania 16.12; Victoria 11.16**

17 mins 30 secs Victoria win the clearance this time, with Ross Lyon gathering the ball some 55 metres from goal before running on, and on, and on as the Tasmanian defenders inexplicably back off like the walls of the Red Sea. When he gets to within 35 metres, perhaps sensing that his amazing good fortune is certain to run out soon, Lyon gratefully steers the ball through for a goal. **Tasmania 16.12; Victoria 12.16**

18 mins James Manson thumps the ball forward some 20 metres from the ensuing centre bounce whereupon John McCarthy, having gained possession, kicks high towards centre half forward where a huge pack of players succeeds only in completely missing the ball, enabling Michael Gale to pounce on it and squeeze out a handball to Colin Alexander. As a morass of bodies converges on him, Alexander prods a low kick forward which, almost miraculously, fails to elicit a touch from anyone, and bounces through for a goal. **Tasmania 17.12; Victoria 12.16**

18 mins 30 secs For the sixth consecutive time a goal emanates directly from the centre bounce after Atkins, having collected the ball after another indeterminate ruck contest, handballs to McCarthy whose low tumble punt somehow manages to elude about half a dozen intervening Victorian defenders before being collected by Hudson. Unable to believe his good fortune, Hudson promptly throws the ball onto his left boot and reaps the seemingly inevitable consequences. **Tasmania 18.12; Victoria 12.16**

21 mins Ross Lyon, who has been one of the few genuine four quarter contributors for the Vics, finds Bernard Toohey at centre half forward and the Swans stalwart, who to this stage in the match has booted 2.6, on this occasion does not let his side down. **Tasmania 18.12; Victoria 13.16**

21 mins 30 secs The sequence of quick fire goals resumes courtesy of Trent Nichols, who makes no mistake after gathering the ball of the hands of the pack some 30 metres out on a 45 degree angle to the left of goal. **Tasmania 19.12; Victoria 13.16**

24 mins As a pack of players soars for the ball at centre half forward for Tasmania, Paul Hudson is alone in electing to remain rooted to the ground, a decision which proves justified as the ball tumbles off hands directly into his lap and he is able to swing round almost casually onto his right foot and steer through his third major of the afternoon. **Tasmania 20.12; Victoria 13.16**

30 mins Ross Lyon rounds off the scoring for the afternoon with a tired looking snap from 30 metres out directly in front which just manages to clear the goal line thanks partly to an adroit shepherd on Alastair Lynch by Peter Foster. The siren sounds moments later. **FINAL SCORE: Tasmania 20.14 (134); Victoria 14.17 (101)**

Match Summary

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Tasmania	5.4	7.7	12.10	20.14	134
Victoria	1.3	7.8	8.14	14.17	101

BEST - Tasmania: Manson, Pritchard, Lynch, Wright, Alexander, Hudson Victoria: Toohey, Kerrison, Ayres, Langford, Liberatore

GOALS - Tasmania: Alexander 4; Fell, Hudson, McCarthy 3; Barwick 2; B.Gale, M.Gale, Manson, Nichols, Wright Victoria: Lyon 4; Toohey 3; Romero 2; Foster, Kerrison, Liberatore, Longmire, Monkhorst

ATTENDANCE: 18,651 at the North Hobart Oval

Aftermath

Thirty years after its spectacular victory over the VFL at York Park, Tasmanian football had achieved another, equally memorable success, and if the predominant response was justifiably proud and ecstatic, there were also some disingenuous statements from people who ought, perhaps, to have known better.

To deal with the former first, Tassie coach Robert Shaw spoke for just about every one of his compatriots when he said, "Our guys were just fantastic today. Every time something went wrong for us, such as when Steve Macpherson and Shane Fell had to go off just when they were playing really well, we always found that bit extra. Doug Barwick who had come off concussed came

back on and gave us a lift when we needed it. And John McCarthy, who had a dog of a day till three quarter time....really fired up with three goals in the last quarter, when I put the acid on him".¹

Tasmanian centremen Scott Clayton, a veteran of over 150 VFL games and 8 finals with Fitzroy, said of the win, "It certainly is as good if not better than a finals game". The former Hobart star then went on to declare, "Beating the Vics for the first time in 30 years was history making and it certainly is a great thrill. They invited a lot of the 1960 Tasmanian side which beat Victoria into the room before the game and it was great to win for them." As for the significance of the win, "I am absolutely delighted....as the public over here is a real traditional football state. They love their football, and the support they gave us was really amazing. They were fantastic. Everyone is saying it's the best thing that has happened to the state for years. The place is just absolutely delighted, you've no idea what it's like".²

Ruckman James Manson concurred. "It's like a dream come true," he enthused. "It means so much more than you can imagine. That probably rates as the biggest game I have played in."³

The response to the result in Victoria was by and large to dismiss it as of no real consequence. For example, Victorian chairman of selectors Ted Whitten declared, "Football fans should not read too much into the Tasmanian defeat of Victoria" in that "the Victorian selectors were hamstrung because of restrictions imposed by the fixture".⁴ Ken Piesse agreed, suggesting that "half the (Victorian) side should not have been there",⁵ while Kevin Sheedy believed "that Victoria needs to restructure its methods and find players who really want to play for the state".⁶

However, perhaps the most contentious response of all to the game emerged from the mouth of the AFL's Executive Commissioner, Alan Schwab, whose suggestion that there was a genuine prospect of Tasmania having a team in the national competition in the near future - "1995 is a date by which we'd be realistically looking at Tasmania joining"⁷ - was presumably either a classic case of candy-floss diplomacy, or pure fatuousness. (Either that, or it was a remark obliquely aimed at South Australian ears.)

Victory in this match set Tasmania on the road to arguably its most concerted spell of representative success in history, with home wins at state league level following over South Australia (1995), Western Australia (1997) and the VFL (1998). However, with the concept of senior representative football, and particularly the state of origin format, having seemingly fallen out of favour, Tasmania's chances of making a concerted impression on football's national stage appear to disappeared, perhaps for good.

One noteworthy statistic to emerge from the match was that Tasmania's tally of 20.14 (134) was not only its best in matches against Victoria, but the state's highest ever tally against any of the other three major football states. Its highest score against Western Australia was 18.10 (118) in a 2 point win at North Hobart Oval in 1970, while its best against South Australia was 17.15 (117) in a 10 point loss at the 1953 Adelaide carnival.

1 'Inside Football', 27/6/90, page 29.

2 Ibid., page 12

3 Ibid., page 28

4 Ibid., page 5

5 Ibid., page 5.

6 Ibid., page 10.

7 Ibid., page 29

TYNAN, ALGY was a fine defender who played with distinction for Launceston both before and after World War One. He represented Tasmania at the first three Australian interstate championship series in Melbourne (1908), Adelaide (1911) and Sydney (1914), with his already high reputation being enhanced still further with his selection as 'Australia's champion full back' after the Adelaide series. Tynan was a member of three NTFA premiership sides during his career, which began in 1905, and ended with the third of those flags in 1920. He was also a regular intrastate representative for the NTFA, captaining the team on four occasions.

When Algy Tynan died in 1974 he had been the last surviving member of Tasmania's inaugural carnival team.

ULVERSTONE (Leven)

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football League (NTFL) since 1987

Home Ground: Ulverstone Recreation Ground

Formed: 1888

Website: www.ufcrobins.com.au

Colours: Black and red

Emblem: Robins

Senior Grade Premierships: 1900, 1903, 1906, 1910, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1950-51, 1953, 1955-6-7, 1976, 1986-7, 1990, 1993-4-5-6-7, 2000 (23 total) Tasmanian State Premierships - 1955, 1976 (2 total)

Cheer Medallists: Stan Trebilco 1923; Tas Langmaid 1929 (2 total)

Wright Medallists: Jim Brown 1930 (1 total)

Wander Medallists: Jack Rough 1951; Arthur Hodgson 1955; Jock O'Brien 1962; John Murphy 1981 (4 total)

Ovaltine Medallists: Nathan Howard 1996 (1 total)

Pivot Medallists: Nathan Howard 1997; Simon Walmsley 1999 (2 total)

Baldock Medallists: Scott Blair 2001 (1 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: J.Palliser (24) 1912; H.McDonald (47) 1925; M.Johnson (60)

1935; R.Stott (80) 1946; S.Walker (73) 1951; W.Pearce (65) 1964; K.Mahoney (79) 1969 (7 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: J.Auton (95) 1997 (1 total)

Highest Score: 44.28 (292) vs. Penguin 3.3 (21) in 1991

Most Games: 307 by Don Gleeson

Record Finals Attendance: 11,866 for the 1968 NWFU grand final at West Park, Burnie: East Devonport 15.16 (106); Ulverstone 10.18 (78)

Currently one of the NTFL's strongest and most consistently successful clubs, Ulverstone has a proud and illustrious history dating back to 1888. Originally known as the Leven Football Club, it changed its name to Ulverstone in 1890. The early years of the club are not particularly well documented, but it is known that Ulverstone competed in a variety of different Leagues and Associations, notably the North West Football Association between 1894 and 1908 where it was successful in winning three premierships.

North west coastal football during the early years of the twentieth century could be more than a little tempestuous. A game between Ulverstone and Mersey at Ulverstone on 18 July 1908 was a case in point. The match was rugged and ill tempered throughout, but things finally got totally out of hand midway through the final quarter. With Mersey leading by 21 points a flare up occurred after Ulverstone's Albert 'Nipper' Devlin was felled by his opponent, Gibbens. Players from both sides rapidly converged on the scene, and random pushing and jostling soon escalated into an all out brawl. When angry spectators began tearing up pickets from the boundary fence and running to join in the fray it was clear that a full scale riot was in danger of developing, and the five policemen on duty at the ground raced to intervene. However, despite the best efforts of both the police and the umpire the crowd could not be cleared from the oval, and the umpire was left with no option but to abandon the game.

Afterwards, as the train carrying the Mersey players and supporters departed Ulverstone station it was pelted with stones by an angry mob. At the ensuing Association tribunal, four Ulverstone players ended up receiving bans ranging from two months to life, while a fifth player was fined ten shillings in court. However, the disqualified quartet were all able to return to the field in 1909 as Ulverstone, along with Penguin and Latrobe, broke away from the NFWA to form a new competition, the North West Football League,¹ which gave way a year later to the NWFU.

Ulverstone was joined in the NWFU for its inaugural year by its two former NWFL compatriots, plus Mersey and Wesley Vale from the NFWA.² In the grand final that year it had the satisfaction of overcoming bitter rivals Mersey by 23 points, 8.13 (61) to 5.8 (38). Two further grand final appearances, both of which were lost, followed before football went into recess in 1916 because of World War One.

Ulverstone enjoyed modest success in the 1920s, '30s and '40s with sporadic grand final appearances and a single flag in each decade. The team really came into its own during the 1950s, however, when players like Graham 'Chum' Saltmarsh, Arthur Hodgson, G.B. 'Paddy' Martin, Joe and Len Pearce, Jack Rough and Merv Smith helped steer it to seven grand finals in eight years between 1950 and 1957 for a total of six flags. With the irrepressible Arthur Hodgson to the fore both on and off the field (as coach) the side also won its first state premiership in 1955 after wins over TFL premier New Town and Longford from the NTFA.³ The strength of NWFU football at this time is further exemplified by the combined team's success in 1955 in winning the Tasmanian intra-state championship for the third consecutive time. Needless to say, many Ulverstone players made prominent contributions to this achievement.

After the lucrative excitement of the 1950s the following decade proved to be a barren

time for the Robins despite their playing off on grand final day no fewer than five times. The 1970s were similarly unprofitable with the exception of a stellar 1976 season which saw the club win both the NWFU and state premierships. In the local grand final, steadiness in front of goal helped procure a 32 point victory over Penguin, while in the state grand final the Robins proved too strong for Launceston at York Park having earlier thrashed TFL premier Sandy Bay in the preliminary final by almost 12 goals. Sadly for Ulverstone, victory in the state premiership was no longer a passport to national exposure via the Australian club championships in Adelaide as, in 1976, that competition had been superseded by the NFL-Wills Cup, featuring teams from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia only. In a small way, Tasmania's ostracism from what, until now, had been a more or less guaranteed position of centrality and importance in the Australian football universe had begun.

The structure of Tasmanian football, too, was changing. The state premiership was contested for the last time in 1978, with the intra-state premiership likewise disappearing the following year. In 1980 Tasmania's twenty-one top level senior clubs joined together to compete in a knock-out series sponsored by a cigarette company. The series was not a financial success, but it was patently clear to most observers that Tasmanian football was being nudged (some would say forced) in the direction of statewide competition.

Ulverstone won its twelfth NWFU premiership in 1986 with a 9.10 (64) to 7.7 (49) grand final defeat of Smithton. This proved to be the last ever NWFU grand final, as the following season saw the establishment of a new competition, the Northern Tasmanian Football League. Formed in the wake of the defection to the newly created TFL statewide competition of NWFU sides Burnie and Devonport in 1987, following North Launceston's and South

Launceston's departure from the NTFA the previous year,⁴ the NTFL comprised the remaining former NTFA and NWFU clubs. As far as Ulverstone was concerned, however, it was business as usual, with a 13.19 (97) to 12.12 (84) grand final victory over East Devonport procuring the club's second successive flag.

Since then, the Robins have gone on to become by some measure the league's most successful club, winning a further premiership in 1990 followed by a spectacular five in a row between 1993 and 1997 and then, for good measure, an eighth NTFL flag in 2000. The arrival in the competition in 2001 of former statewide heavyweights in the shape of Burnie Dockers and North Launceston has made life harder for Ulverstone, but the side continues to perform creditably, and in 2007 got as far as the grand final, in which it lost narrowly to Launceston. Moreover, irrespective of what the future brings, the club has a history and a tradition of which to be proud, a fact exemplified by its refusal to follow the lead of so many other clubs in supposedly 'inferior' leagues throughout Australia and subordinate its own identity to that of one of the AFL 'superpowers'. Its players may take to the field in playing uniforms similar to those of Essendon, but they are categorically not Bombers, they are Robins, proud of the unique tradition they perpetuate, and honoured to be representing one of Tasmanian football's truly great clubs.

Footnotes

- 1 Records of the NWFL's sole season are scant and it is not known which of the three competing club's claimed the premiership.
- 2 The NWFA continues to operate to this day.
- 3 The NWFU premier had only been permitted to compete for the state premiership for the first time in 1950.
- 4 In 1986, North Launceston actually fielded sides in both the NTFA and the statewide league.

UNION

Affiliated: STFA 1887

After just one season in the STFA as a standalone club Union merged with North Hobart.

UNIVERSITY MOWBRAY

Current Affiliation: Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) since 1994

Formed: 1994, when University and Mowbray merged

Colours: Blue and gold

Emblem: Eagles

Senior Grade Premierships: NTFA Division One - 1994-5, 1997-8 (4 total); Division Two - 2005-6 (2 total)

The Eagles currently compete in division two of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association, in which competition they obtained back to back senior grade premierships in 2005 and 2006. During the 1990s the club was a force to be reckoned with in division one, with its haul of four senior grade flags making it the competition's joint most successful club for the decade (along with Hillwood).

V

VALENTINE, VIV: Strongly built, agile and quick, Viv Valentine was one of the earliest of the many brilliant Tasmanian players to have made their mark in Victorian football over the years. Originally from Launceston, he made his debut with the club of that name in 1906. His impact was immediate and pronounced, and later that year he was selected to represent a combined NTFA team against a visiting Collingwood combination. The following season he was transferred in his employment, and joined Latrobe, where he played for two highly successful years. In 1908, he was selected to represent Tasmania at the inaugural Australian championships in Melbourne, but was unable to travel. Another job-related move in 1909, this time to Devonport, saw Valentine fronting up with Mersey, which won that season's NWFA premiership. In a challenge match at the end of the year against TFL and state premier Cananore, a Valentine-inspired Mersey caused something of a sensation by winning easily.

After one final season with Mersey, Viv Valentine ventured across the Bass Strait to join Carlton, where he would play out the remaining eight seasons of his league career. His vigorous, all action approach to the game coupled with his renowned penchant for performing at his best in inclement weather made him a success in the VFL right from the start and he was selected as first rover in the VFL's 1911 carnival team. Later on, he played in the Blues' 1915 premiership team, as well as the losing grand final team of 1916. He played 115 games for Carlton, kicking 90 goals. In 1919, the season after his retirement as a player, he became the first Tasmanian ever to coach a VFL side when he steered his former teammates to fourth place on the ladder. He was replaced as coach the following year by Norman Clark, but his all round contribution to the club had been considerable, and was recognised shortly afterwards with life membership.



George Vautin

VAUTIN, GEORGE: One of the first Tasmanians to make a significant impact in Victorian football, George Vautin began his senior career with Launceston-based NTFA side City. In 1889 he was a member of a Tasmanian representative side that played four matches in Victoria, and one presumes that it was during this tour that he came to the attention of Essendon officials, for the 1890 season saw him lining up for the Same Old.

Renowned for his pace, elusiveness and guile, Vautin quickly established himself as one of the VFA's top rovers and indeed players. Between 1891 and 1894 he helped Essendon to four consecutive premiership wins and was widely acknowledged as one of the principal contributors to that success.

Still a top quality performer when Essendon became a founder member of the VFL in 1897, Vautin was a key contributor to the club's flag win that season. Having played an unknown number of VFA games, he then added a total of 28 VFL matches in 1897-8 before retiring.

W



WALSH, PADDY: Originally from Ledgerwood in northern Tasmania, Paddy Walsh played a couple of NTFA games for City before being recruited by Essendon. A left footer, he was a slimly built 183cm in height, and was regarded as “a new breed of more mobile, fast moving, rugged big men that Essendon had and he was big and powerful with plenty of dash and good on the ground”.¹ He gave the Dons some excellent service over the course of a ten season, 115 game VFL career. Equally at home as a follower or across half back, Walsh was extremely highly regarded by his contemporaries, and made no fewer than a dozen appearances in a ‘Big V’ jumper. He was voted Essendon’s best and fairest player in 1933, the season before a serious knee injury undermined the closing phase of his career. He finally called it a day at the end of the 1936 season.

¹ 'Inside Football', 27/6/90, page 29.

WANDERERS

Affiliated: NWFU 1913-14

WARNE-SMITH, IVOR: Born at Lavender Bay, Sydney in 1897, Ivor Warne-Smith’s football reputation was established in Tasmania and Victoria. One of the most revered names in the football history of both states, Warne-Smith was actually something of a reluctant footballer. After 8 games with Melbourne in 1919 he re-located to the Latrobe region of Tasmania, not because of football, but in order to take up share farming. His football prowess was noticed during informal lunch time end to end kicking sessions at Atkinson’s sale yards and he was invited to join Latrobe; however, because of the pressure of work on the farm it was not until midway through the 1920 season that he accepted the invitation.

During four and a half seasons with the Diehards he proved himself an accomplished footballer in all conditions and in a variety of positions. In 1922 he took over as club coach and led the side to two flags in three years. He also performed with distinction in inter-league games, winning the Parry Medal in 1924.

Warne-Smith returned to Melbourne as a twenty-seven year old in 1925 and his quick thinking, two-sided play made an immediate impact. In 1926 he won the Brownlow Medal and, playing at centre, was one of the best players afield as the Fuchsias swamped minor premier Collingwood by 57 points in the challenge final to claim their first premiership since 1900.

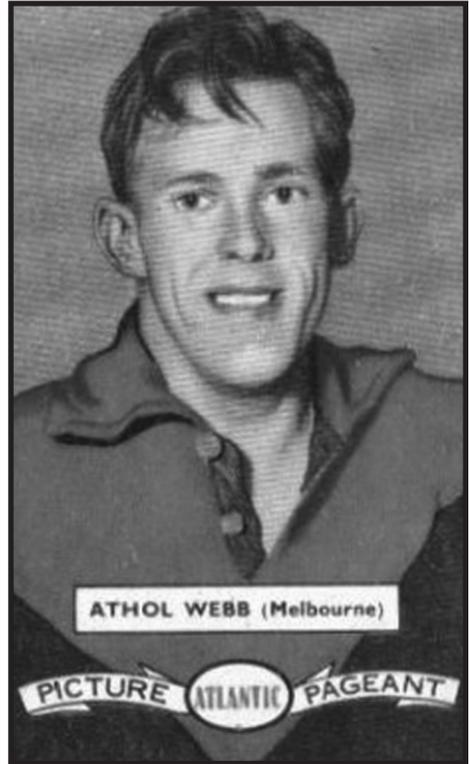
It was to be the only VFL flag of Warne-Smith’s career. However, he did win another Brownlow in 1928 to become the first dual winner of the award.

In recognition of his weighty contribution to Tasmanian football, Ivor Warne-Smith

was, in June 2004, included as a back pocket in that state's official 'Team of the Century', having four years earlier being chosen at centre half forward in Melbourne's equivalent team.

WATT, RICKY: Although his achievements during the VFL phase of his career were by no means negligible, Ricky Watt's stint with Collingwood was, to a considerable extent, a story of what might have been. He commenced with the Magpies in 1963 while still aged just sixteen, and immediately impressed as a tall, pacy, confident all rounder who shaped as a champion full forward of the future. Unfortunately, a series of severe injuries put paid to his entire 1965 season, and although he made a comeback he always faced an uphill struggle to maintain the high standards he had set himself. For a time during the 1969 season he looked as though he might be putting the worst of his troubles behind him and, after being chosen to represent the VFL, he performed brilliantly at the Adelaide carnival, from which he went away with an All Australian blazer. Injury woes resurfaced in 1970, however, and his last game in a Collingwood jumper proved to be the 1970 losing grand final against Carlton (reviewed here) when he was named as nineteenth man. After missing the entire 1971 season he resumed briefly with Coburg in the VFA in 1972, and then spent the ensuing season captain-coaching NWFU side Penguin. Watt then moved to East Devonport, under the coaching of Graeme Lee, where in 1975 he was successful in winning both a Wander Medal and his club's best and fairest award.

WEBB, ATHOL: Dynamic, elusive and skilful, Athol Webb was one of the finest crumbing forwards of the 1950s. He commenced his senior career with Scottsdale, whose best and fairest trophy he won in 1953. In 1955 he was recruited by Melbourne where, after a slow start, he developed into an important member of the



side. His 146 VFL goals included 5 in the grand final win over Collingwood in 1956, and 3 in the following year's defeat of Essendon. He also played against Collingwood in the losing grand final of 1958. Coach Norm Smith would typically use Webb as a decoy full forward, with a bigger, strong marking player such as Bob Johnson alongside him in a forward pocket. He topped the Demons' goal kicking list in 1956, with 56 goals, and in 1957 (jointly with Ron Barassi) with 44. Returning to Tasmania in 1960, Webb initially played with and captain-coached New Norfolk (1960-61), before rounding off the Tasmanian phase of his career in a similar role at East Launceston (1962-3), where he hit the headlines after sustaining a serious back injury during the 1963 season. He later moved to Sydney, where he coached Western Suburbs. Athol Webb had earlier played interstate football for Tasmania against the Australian Amateurs in 1954, and in the famous win against the VFL in 1960,

as well as for the VFL against his home state in 1957.

WEBB, LINDSAY: With the probable exception of Darrel Baldock, East Devonport has been home to no more colourful, dynamic and noteworthy footballer than Lindsay Douglas Webb, who played in the region of 250 senior games with the club over the course of four separate stints. The most significant and longest of those stints came during the first decade after world war two, commencing in 1946 when he was a member of the club's 12.13 (85) to 10.19 (79) grand final defeat of Burnie. In 1947, Webb was a member of Tasmania's Hobart carnival team, and the following year, as East Devonport's vice-captain, he helped the club procure another premiership.

A vibrant and sometimes volatile character, controversy was seldom far from Webb, and during the 1951 season it erupted in full force during a match between East Devonport and Burnie when he was reported for allegedly striking field umpire Lloyd Digney. Found guilty, Webb not surprisingly was sentenced to a lifetime ban, but twelve months later this was surprisingly reduced to just two years. Webb, who had been coaching East when suspended in 1951, returned as a player during the 1953 season, and then took over as coach once more in 1954, a season which saw him chosen to represent Tasmania against the Australian Amateurs. The following year he was responsible for handing a senior debut to a fresh-faced sixteen year old youngster known as Darrel Baldock. At the time, however, Webb was still the Swans pre-eminent football personality, having just won his third club best and fairest award. In 1956 he crossed to Devonport where his season was highlighted with selection in Tasmania's side for the Perth carnival. The 1957 season saw him back at East Devonport where he played on for

three more years before announcing his 'retirement'. However, he could not resist the lure of league football, and returned twice more, in 1964 and 1966, before hanging up his boots for good. Runner-up in the Wander Medal on two occasions, Webb also won the Alstergren Trophy, awarded to the NWFU's best player in each year's intrastate competition, in 1953. One imagines he would be an almost certain inclusion if East Devonport were ever to announce either an official club 'Team of the Century' or 'all time best' combination.

WELLINGTON (South Hobart, Railway)

Affiliated: TFA 1879-86; STFA 1887-95; STFL 1896; STFA 1897-1905

Home Grounds: Clare Street Oval; Battery Ground

Formed: 1876

Colours: Red, white and blue (previously red and black, and navy blue and white)

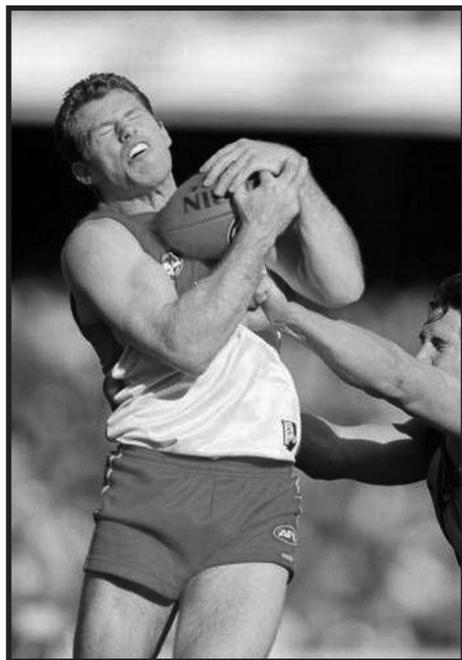
Premierships: 1881-2-3, 1887, 1889, 1893-4, 1895 (joint premier with City), 1896, 1900, 1903-4 (12 total)

Association Top Goalkickers: W.Cundy (7) 1879 & (7) 1880; K.Burn (14) 1885 & (11) 1887; C.Richards (9) 1889; T.Adkisson (9) 1890; J.Vimpany (12) 1893; G.Wright (12) 1894; J.Ayers (10) 1900; W.Lee (8) 1902; G.Somers (11) 1904 (11 total)

Railway Football Club was formed in 1876 and entered the Tasmanian Football Association in 1879, the competition's inaugural season. Over the remainder of the nineteenth century the club achieved more premiership success than any of its competitors. In 1897 it changed its name to South Hobart, and then to Wellington the following year. The club began the twentieth century as it had ended the nineteenth with flags in 1903 and 1904, but at the end of the 1905 season it went into permanent recess.

WESLEY VALE

Affiliated: NWFU 1910, but withdrew before playing a match.



Paul Williams

WILLIAMS, PAUL, who retired as a player at the end of the 2006 season, enjoyed a fine career with three clubs, highlighted by involvement in an AFL premiership with Sydney in 2005. When the Swans beat West Coast in that year's grand final, Williams was playing his 294th senior AFL game, making him the longest serving player ever to break through for a debut flag.

Originally from North Hobart, Williams impressed as a dynamic, long kicking centreline player and on-baller who was capable of turning a match off his own boot. He was recruited by Collingwood and made his AFL debut as an eighteen year old in 1991. In ten seasons with the Magpies, he played a total of 189 games and kicked

223 goals, and at his best was widely acknowledged as one of the finest running players in the game, with his ability to kick prodigious distances while moving at full pelt being arguably the most distinctive feature of his play. After being badly hampered by ankle problems during the mid-nineties he recovered to play some of his best football towards the end of the decade, although at the same time it emerged that he was becoming unsettled with life at Victoria Park. In 2001 he crossed to Sydney where his impact was immediate and considerable; he won consecutive club best and fairest awards in 2001-2 and in 2003 was included in the AFL All Australian team. However, far and away his most noteworthy achievement was participation in the aforementioned 2005 premiership team. After kicking 2 vital goals in the preliminary final win over St Kilda, Williams produced a typically effervescent, hard running performance on grand final day to amass 18 telling disposals and prove a constant thorn in the side of the opposition. Paul Williams went on to play a dozen games in his final season to take his tally at retirement to 306; he booted 307 goals.

WILSON BRIAN was arguably the finest 'home grown' field umpire in Tasmanian football history. Originally from Wynyard, he undertook a two season 'apprenticeship' as a boundary official before commencing as a central umpire in the NWFU in 1954. During the course of his career he umpired NWFU and TFL finals, intrastate fixtures and three matches at the 1958 Melbourne carnival. The last game at which he officiated was the 1966 state premiership decider between City-South and Hobart at York Park. Wilson was the first coastal umpire ever to be given control of such a match. After his career was over he continued to give service to the umpiring fraternity by undertaking two separate stints as non-running coach of the NWFU's field umpires.

WITZGERMAN, ROY was a quintessential, old-fashioned full back whose sole ambition every

Saturday afternoon was to prevent his direct opponent from scoring. Quite stockily built, and roughly 180cm in height, he played the game tough but fair, wearing the opposing full forward like an extra garment. His kicking off after a behind was a delight to watch, with his text book drop kicks often reaching the centre of the ground.

Witzerman made his TFL debut with New Town in 1945, the season which saw the inception of district football in southern Tasmania. He represented Tasmania at the 1947 Hobart carnival, and the following year, under the expert coaching of Roy Cazaly, was a member of New Town's grand final winning team against North Hobart, as well as of the victorious state premierships side. He later capped off an excellent year by winning the club's best and fairest award.

In 1949, in front of a then record grand final crowd of 15,086, New Town again won the premiership, with Roy Witzerman heavily instrumental in restricting opponents Hobart to just 4 goals for the match. Witzerman played in a third premierships team two years later after New Town annihilated North Hobart in the grand final by 71 points. In all three of his winning grand finals, Roy Witzerman was named high in the best players.

The 1952 and '53 seasons saw Witzerman at Devonport as captain-coach but he was unable to steer the Magpies to a flag. He did, however, represent the NWFU in intrastate football, and in 1953 he was best afield in a 7 point win against the TFL at his old, familiar stamping ground of the North Hobart Oval.

Witzerman returned home for one last season with New Town in 1954. His selection at full back in Glenorchy's (as New Town was renamed in 1957) official 'Team of the Century', announced in 2000, was presumably virtually automatic.

WOODSDALE

Current Affiliation: Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA) since 2003

Home Ground: Wallaby Park

Formed: 1902; into recess 2002; reformed 2003

Colours: Green and red

Emblem: Lions

Senior Grade ODFA Premierships: 1956-7, 1959-60, 1963, 1967, 1986, 1990-1-2-3, 1995-6, 1998-9-2000-1, 2008 (18 total)

In 2001 the Lions defeated Kempton by 10 points, 9.13 (67) to 8.9 (57), in the Oatlands District Football Association grand final. The victory gave them their fourth consecutive flag and a competition record seventeen in all. Between 1989 and 2001 they contested all thirteen grand finals and won ten of them. Yet the 2002 season saw Woodsdale, which was financially secure, forced to go into recess because it did not have sufficient players to field a team.

Thankfully, this hiatus in the story of a remarkable club was only fleeting. In 2003 the Lions resumed, and it was almost the stuff of fairytales as they performed superbly all season, only to fall at the ultimate hurdle against Mt Pleasant, a team they had beaten a fortnight earlier in the second semi final. Woodsdale was a foundation member of the ODFA when it commenced operations in 1952. The club contested its first grand final in 1954, but lost to Mt Pleasant by 3 points. Between 1956 and 1960 it played off in every grand final, winning all but one of them. Another sequence of five straight grand final appearances followed between 1963 and 1967, but this time Woodsdale found the opposition sterner, and managed just two wins.

The 1970s was the nearest thing to a nadir in Woodsdale's post-war history as the side failed to claim a single premiership, and only once made it through to a grand final. Since beating Tunnack in the 1986 grand final the Lions have been far and away the ODFA's most consistently successful team, with the most recent success coming in 2008 after a 9.12 (66) to 8.3 (51) grand final defeat of Swansea.

WRIGHT, GRAHAM was an energetic, purposeful wingman who could be extremely damaging, and who enjoyed a fine, decade long career at the game's top level. Originally from Devonport, he was drafted by Collingwood, and made his senior VFL debut in 1988. Two years later he helped the Magpies to their historic, drought-breaking grand final victory over Essendon, and during the early '90s there were few more highly regarded wingmen in football. Late in his career he sustained a debilitating knee injury which robbed him of much of his pace, but he recovered sufficiently to play some useful football as a defender. His Collingwood career comprised 182 V/AFL games and saw him boot 106 goals. He played state of origin for both Tasmania and Victoria.

WYNYARD (Table Cape)

Affiliated: Various junior competitions 1880s-1923; Table Cape Football Association 1924-36; Burnie Football Association 1937-8; Darwin Football Association 1939-44; NWFU 1945-86; NTFL 1987-present

Club Address: P.O. Box 180, Wynyard 7325, Tasmania

Home Ground: Wynyard Recreation Ground

Formed: Circa 1885

Colours: Navy Blue and white

Emblem: Cats

NWFU Premierships: 1952, 1967, 1975, 1979 (4 total)

Wright Medallists: Jack Stewart 1930; E.O'Brien 1930 (tied for Medal)

NWFU Western Division Best and Fairest Award: Len Hayes 1945-6 (2 total)

Wander Medallists: Darrel Eaton 1953; Lloyd Robson 1961; Ricky Smith 1977 (3 total)

Ovaltine Medallists: Tony Flint 1987 (1 total)

Pivot Medallists: Nil

All Australians: Don Gale 1958 (1 total)

NWFU Top Goalkickers: R.Rocher (81) 1949 & (69) 1950; W.Baker (45) 1953 & (39) 1955; R.London (68) 1959 & (51)

1963; J.Coughlan (81) 1967 & (92) 1968; A.Hodgetts (69) 1974; K.Madden (83) 1977 (10 total)

NTFL Top Goalkickers: K.Taylor (141) 1987; G.Williams (80) 1995 & (60) 1999 (3 total)

Highest Score: 37.23 (245) vs. Burnie in 1946

Most Games: 243 by Terry Neal

Record Finals Attendance: 9,375 for the 1978 NWFU grand final at Devonport: Cooe 20.11 (131); Wynyard 13.30 (108)

The town of Wynyard, which currently has a population of roughly four and a half thousand people, nestles beneath the picturesque Table Cape at the mouth of the Inglis River in north west Tasmania. The club which now bears the town's name was originally in fact known as Table Cape, and is believed to have been formed around 1885. It spent its first four decades participating sporadically in a number of minor competitions. As of the 1925 season there were actually two separate clubs known as Wynyard after NWFU member club Yeoman decided to adopt the name. To make things even more confusing, Yeoman-Wynyard's reserves team competed in the Table Cape Football Association along with the original Wynyard Football Club. This state of affairs continued intermittently until 1945, when Wynyard was admitted to the NWFU and Yeoman-Wynyard, whether under duress or voluntarily is unclear, reverted to its original name.

Wynyard enjoyed a fair amount of lower grade success during the 1920s, winning five premierships from nine grand final appearances. After the war, the club was quick to find its feet in the NWFU. In 1948 it played off in its first NWFU grand final, losing narrowly to East Devonport, and as the 1950s dawned the club found itself blessed with arguably the finest list of players in its history. Among the champions to don the Wynyard colours during this era were 1953 Wander

Medallist Darrell Eaton, highly productive full forward Ray Rocher, triple club champion 'Bill' Baker, Glen French, Barry Flint, and the indefatigable Len Hayes, who "many saywas the most reliable footballer to pull on a pair of boots in the coastal competition".¹ With such talent at their disposal it is small wonder that the Cats as they were by this time known were finally able to break through for a flag, beating Ulverstone 9.12 (66) to 7.14 (56) in the grand final of 1952. Possible further glory was denied the club when the state premiership was not contested. It would be another fourteen years before Wynyard were finally given the opportunity to play off for the state title and the controversy generated by that 1967 encounter with North Hobart resonates to this day.

Wynyard's 1967 NWFU premiership was won by 6 goals at the expense of Cooe. The Cats of this period boasted some highly accomplished players, including full forward John Coughlan, who booted 75 majors in 1967 and 88 the following season to top the competition's goal kicking list both years, John Neal who won the 1968 Alstergen Trophy as the NWFU's best player in the annual intra-state series, dual club best and fairest winner David Cox, Kayden Edwards, Geoff Gaby and Kevin King. Somewhat surprisingly, however, the Cats failed to build on their 1967 success, and other than a losing grand final against Latrobe in 1970 it would be another eight seasons before they again seriously challenged for the premiership.

In 1975 Wynyard once again had a strong team in which Ricky Smith was the undoubted star. Wander Medallist in 1977, Smith also won the 1976 Alstergen Trophy, was a regular Tasmanian interstate representative, and was four times voted the club's champion player. Against Ulverstone in that year's grand final the Cats won with a fair degree of comfort, 15.10 (100) to 12.8 (80), but the state premiership again eluded them.

Wynyard's fourth and final NWFU premiership came in 1979 thanks to a resounding 21.24 (150) to 15.7 (97) grand final defeat of Cooe. The previous year's flag decider had seen the Cats kick themselves out of contention in classic fashion, somehow contriving to lose by 25 points despite managing 43 scoring shots to Cooe's 31.

Since the Tasmanian football map was comprehensively re-drawn in 1987 Wynyard has competed in the NTFL, but so far without adding to its tally of senior premierships. The closest it has managed to get was in 1995 when it topped the ladder after the roster matches but lost the grand final by 30 points to Ulverstone. A second consecutive grand final in 1996 brought an even more emphatic defeat, again at the hands (or should that be claws?) of the Robins, this time by 62 points. Since then, the club has struggled, and by 2003 matters had become so dire that some felt that the club's very future was in jeopardy. With the senior team firmly entrenched at the bottom of the NTFL ladder, one of its senior players, the rather appropriately named Robert Hope, remarked "If we don't find ourselves a high profile coach and get some players here I can see the place falling over, which would be a tremendous shame. I think if it goes on for another year, we'll struggle to field a side".²

Some would suggest that calling it "a tremendous shame" is a gross understatement; the demise of a club of Wynyard's stature, pedigree and importance would constitute a veritable tragedy, both for the sport of Australian football, and for the community of Wynyard.

Footnotes

1 *A Century of Tasmanian Football 1879-1979* by Ken Pinchin, page 159.

2 Quoted in 'The Advocate', 23/7/03.

GLOSSARY

AFL ALL AUSTRALIANS: Players named in one of the 'Teams of the Year' selected after every AFL home and away season since 1991. (VFL/AFL 'Teams of the Year' selected prior to 1991 were not, at the time, referred to as having All Australian status, and are not so regarded here.) See also: All Australians.

AFL HALL OF FAME: As part of the Australian Football League's centenary celebrations a US style 'hall of fame' was instituted as a means of formally recognising the achievements of some of the greatest names in the history of the sport. Primarily focused on players who participated in the VFL, the list of initial and subsequent inductees nevertheless also includes a token selection of individuals whose primary (and occasionally sole) contributions to football were made in South Australia and Western Australia (but not Tasmania).

(S.L.) ALFORD MEDAL: Awarded to the fairest and best player in the NWFU for one season only, in 1937. See also: Cheel Medal, Royal Medal, Wander Medal, Wright Medal.

ALL AUSTRALIANS: An official All Australian team was first selected after the 1953 Interstate Carnival in Adelaide, and thereafter following the 1956, 1958, 1961, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 Championships.

Jack Clarke (East Fremantle and WA) and John Platten (Central District, Hawthorn and SA) share the record of having been chosen in four separate All Australian teams. Kevin Murray (VFL & WA), Darrel Baldock (Tas. & VFL), Peter Hudson (Tas. & VFL), Maurice Rioli (WA & NT) and Terry Daniher (VFL & NSW) have all been selected in All Australian sides after representing two different teams. See also: AFL All Australians.

(MAX) ALLEN CUP: Annual best and fairest player award in the Tasmanian Amateur Football League's Northern Division between 1948 and 1972. See also: W.C. Curran Medal.

ALSTERGEN TROPHY: The NWFU's best and fairest player award in Tasmania's intrastate competition between 1953 and 1978. See also: Commonwealth Jubilee Cup, Orchard Medal, Parry Medal, Ovaltine Medal, Wander Medal, Weller Arnold Medal.

(WILSON) BAILEY TROPHY: The T(AN)FL's official fairest and best award between 1927 and 1929. See also: W.H. Gill Memorial Trophy, William Leitch Medal and George Watt Memorial Medal.

BALDOCK MEDAL: Name of 2 different awards given to: 1. the best player afield in the TFL Statewide grand final between 1989 and 2000; 2. the best and fairest player in the NTFL since the 2000 season. Named after former champion Tasmanian footballer, Darrel Baldock. See also: Ovaltine Medal and Pivot Medal.

(CHARLES) BROWNLOW MEDAL: Awarded annually since 1924 (apart from the period 1942-44) to the best and fairest player in the VFL/AFL as adjudged by the field umpires. Named after prominent VFL administrator, Charles Brownlow.

CARNIVAL(S): Name popularly bestowed on the interstate football championship competitions held periodically (every three to five years) between 1908 and 1972 in one or other of the Australian state capitals. Of the total of 18 such championship series conducted Victoria (or, more properly, the Victorian Football League) emerged triumphant on no fewer than fifteen occasions, with Western Australia victorious

twice and South Australia once. Following the 1972 Carnival interstate championships were conducted irregularly under varying guises, with the term 'carnival' being loosely attributable only to those of 1979, 1980 and 1988 when all matches took place in a single capital city. Other than the 1975 Adelaide/Melbourne series all championships have involved the application in some measure of 'state of origin' rules with a result that matches have generally been more evenly contested. In the ten championship series contested since 1975 victory has gone to South Australia and Western Australia four times each and to Victoria just twice, in 1975 when players represented the states in which they were currently playing, and in 1980, when state of origin principles only tenuously applied.

(CLUB) CHAMPIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA:

First held in 1888 in Adelaide between Norwood, premiers of the SAFA, and South Melbourne, premiers of the VFA, and thereafter sporadically on a similar basis until just before the First World War. The series was revived in 1968 in Adelaide when the premier clubs of SA and Victoria were again involved, and this remained the format until 1972 when the premiers of Western Australia and Tasmania were also admitted. The competition was superseded in 1976 by the NFL Championship series. A summary of all matches played in both eras of the series can be found here. See also: NFL Championship and Rothmans Channel 7 Cup.

CHEEL MEDAL: Awarded annually to the fairest and best player in the NWFU during the period 1923-29. (Winners are listed here.) See also: Alford Medal, Royal Medal, Wander Medal, Wright Medal.

(JOHN) COLEMAN MEDAL: Named in honour of the legendary Essendon full forward and awarded to the AFL's top goalkicker at the end of the home and away rounds.

COMMONWEALTH JUBILEE CUP:

Awarded to the winning team in the Tasmanian Intrastate Championships between 1951 and 1984. Details of the competition, including a list of winners, can be found on pages 83 and 84. See also: Alstergen Trophy, Orchard Medal, Parry Medal, Ovaltine Medal, Wander Medal, Weller Arnold Medal.

(W.C.) CURRAN MEDAL: Annual best and fairest player award in Division One of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association since 1997. Prior to that, it was awarded to the best and fairest player in the Tasmanian Amateur Football League's Northern Division from 1973 to 1991. See also: (Max) Allen Cup.

FINALS (SERIES): A series of matches held at the conclusion of the home and away rounds between a predetermined number of the top teams in the competition. Over the years, a number of different systems have been used, and indeed continue to be used. In very general terms, however, the systems favoured prior to the early 1930s tended to involve a straight knock out competition involving the top four teams in the competition with the highest placed team, or minor premier, having the 'right of challenge' if defeated in either the semi final or the final. Since the 1930s most Leagues have used variants on the Page-McIntyre system first employed by the VFL, SANFL and WANFL in 1931. The chief identifying characteristic of this system, irrespective of the number of finalists, was its conferring of the 'double chance' on a specified number of the highest placed teams. Individual club narratives contain further details where appropriate.

(PETER) FITZGERALD MEDAL: Annual best and fairest player award in the Old Scholars Football Association since 1986. See also: (Walter) Howard Medal.

(W.H.) GILL MEMORIAL TROPHY: The inaugural TFL best and fairest trophy, awarded for one year only in 1925, and won by Lefroy's E. Smith. It was replaced in 1927 by the Wilson Bailey Trophy, there having been no TFL best and fairest award in 1926. See also: (Wilson) Bailey Trophy, (William) Leitch Medal and (George) Watt Memorial Medal.

(HORRIE) GORRINGE MEDAL: Inaugurated in 2002, the Horrie Gorringer Medal was awarded annually to the best and fairest player in the Premier Division of Tasmania's Southern Football League for just two seasons, before being replaced by the William Leitch Medal.

HARDENTY CUP: The NTFA's best and fairest award for one season only, 1924. See also: Hec Smith Memorial Medal and Tasman Shield Trophy.

(C.M.) HICKEY TROPHY: Named after the AFC's inaugural president, Con Hickey, and awarded to the champion state after each Australian interstate carnival series.

(PETER) HODGMAN MEDAL: Awarded to the best and fairest player in Tasmania's Southern Football League between 1996 and 2001, and to the SthFL's regional league best and fairest since 2002.

HOME AND AWAY (MATCHES): A series of matches between clubs in the same league competition, held primarily on those clubs home grounds, the outcomes of which are used to determine premiership ladder placings and eligibility to participate in the finals series. Also referred to as 'the minor round' and, in Tasmania, as 'roster matches'.

(WALTER) HOWARD MEDAL: Annual best and fairest player award in the Tasmanian Amateur Football League Southern Division between 1948 and 1995. During the period 1981-5 a Medal was also presented to the

best and fairest player in the Old Scholars Division. See also: (Peter) Fitzgerald Medal.

LEFROY MEDAL: Award inaugurated in 1953 to honour Tasmania's best and fairest interstate player of the year. The Medal was donated by the Lefroy football Club Old Players Association.

(WILLIAM) LEITCH MEDAL: Awarded annually from 1930 to 1934 and thereafter from 1945 until the demise of the Statewide competition after season 2000 to the best and fairest player in the T(AN)FL. The 2004 season saw the resurrection of the William Leitch medal to reward the best and fairest player(s) in each season's AFL Southern Tasmania Premier League competition. (Click here to view a full list of the winners.) See also: W.H. Gill Memorial Trophy, Wilson Bailey Trophy and George Watt Memorial Medal.

MAJOR ROUND: See 'Finals (Series)'.

DR. WM. C. MCCLELLAND TROPHY: Awarded annually 1951-90 inclusive to the VFL/AFL club with the best combined record in senior, reserve and under 19 ranks, and since 1991 to the AFL club which heads the premiership ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches.

MINOR ROUND: See also: Home and Away (Matches) and Roster Matches.

(A.W.) ORCHARD MEMORIAL MEDAL: The NTFA's best and fairest player award in Tasmania's intrastate competition between 1950 and 1978. See also: Alstergen Trophy, Commonwealth Jubilee Cup, Parry Medal, Ovaltine Medal, Wander Medal, Weller Arnold Medal.

OVALTINE MEDAL: 1. Award bestowed on the best and fairest player of the season in the Northern Tasmanian Football League from 1987 to 1996; 2. Awarded to the

NWFU's best player in intrastate matches in 1983 and 1984. See also: Baldock Medal and Pivot Medal.

PARRY MEDAL: Awarded to the NWFU's best player in intrastate matches in 1924. See also: Alstergen Trophy, Commonwealth Jubilee Cup, Orchard Medal, Ovaltine Medal, Wander Medal, Weller Arnold Medal.

PIVOT MEDAL: Award bestowed on the best and fairest player of the season in the Northern Tasmanian Football League from 1997 to 1999. (The winners are shown here.) See also Baldock Medal and Ovaltine Medal.

REFEREE MEDALS: Awarded by 'The Referee' magazine to the players adjudged fairest and most brilliant for each of the states competing at the 1914 Sydney carnival. The six recipients were: G.Heinz (VFL); J.W.Robertson (South Australia); A.Tapping (Western Australia); R.Robertson (New South Wales); J.Pennicot (Tasmania); P.Jones (Queensland). See also: Tassie Medal.

ROSTER MATCHES: See also: Home and Away (Matches) and Minor Round.

ROYAL MEDAL: Awarded to the fairest and best player in the eastern region of the NWFU in 1930. See also: Alford Medal, Cheel Medal, Wander Medal, Wright Medal.

(HEC) SMITH MEMORIAL MEDAL: 1. Awarded every year between 1935 and 1941 to the best and fairest player in the TANFL. (The recipients are listed here.) 2. Awarded annually from 1965 to 1986 to the best and fairest player in the NTFA. (Winners shown here.) See also: Hardenty Cup and Tasman Shield Trophy.

(NORM) SMITH MEDAL: Named after the legendary Melbourne coach who led the Demons to six flags in the 1950s and '60s,

and awarded annually since 1979 to the best player in the VFL/AFL grand final.

SUCCESS RATE: Throughout the book, a team's success rate is deemed to be the percentage of games won over a given period, with a draw being deemed to represent half a win.

TASMAN SHIELD TROPHY: Awarded annually during the period 1925 to 1965, with the exception of the years 1942 to 1944 inclusive, to the player adjudged fairest and best in the NTFA. (The winners are shown here.) See also: Hardenty Cup and Hec Smith Memorial Medal.

TASMANIAN INTRASTATE

CHAMPIONSHIP: See Commonwealth Jubilee Cup.

TASMANIAN STATE PREMIERSHIP: After being conducted on an unofficial basis for several years this contest, between the premier teams of the NTFA and T(AN)FL, first received official sanction in 1909. Thereafter it was held more or less annually, apart from the two world wars, until its demise in 1978. In 1954 the NTFA and TANFL premiers were joined by their NWFU counterpart. A list of winners appears on page 165.

(ERIC) TASSIE MEDAL: Awarded to the outstanding player at each interstate carnival or Australian interstate championship series held between 1937 and 1988 with the exception of 1975. Eric Tassie was a South Australian football administrator who served with distinction on the Australian National Football Council.

TASSIE MEDAL: AFL Tasmania's bewildering choice of name for the new Tasmanian Football League's annual best and fairest player award. Not to be confused with the original Tassie Medal. See also: (Eric) Tassie Medal.

VFL/AFL NIGHT SERIES/PRE-SEASON COMPETITION: So far, this competition has passed through three distinct phases of development. During the first phase, between 1956 and 1971, it was an end of season knock out competition, played under lights at South Melbourne's old home ground of Albert Park, between the eight VFL clubs which failed to qualify for the finals. (The sole exception to this was in 1957, when all twelve clubs competed.) The competition was immensely popular at first, with average crowds of over 20,000 per match, but by the late 1960s attendances had been cut in half and public interest was minimal. In 1977, a re-vamped competition emerged, no longer exclusively involving night matches; it was sponsored by Amco-Herald-Channel Seven, and, over the course of the next ten seasons, featured teams from throughout Australia as well as the twelve traditional VFL clubs. Since 1987, following the admission of Brisbane and West Coast to the VFL, the competition has entered a new phase with entry restricted to the member clubs of the VFL/AFL and, from 1988, taking place entirely during the pre-season period. The competition is currently sponsored by National Bank Australia and known as the NAB Cup. A summary of grand final results in the night series/ pre-season competition can be found [here](#).

WANDER MEDAL: 1. NWFU best and fairest award between 1948 and 1986 (winners shown [here](#)); 2. Award for the TANFL's best player in intrastate matches in 1948, 1949 and 1950 (winners listed [here](#)). See also: Alford Medal, Cheel Medal, Royal Medal, Wright Medal.

(GEORGE) WATT MEMORIAL MEDAL: The TANFL's annual fairest and best award between 1935 and 1941. ([Click here](#) for a list of all winners.) See also: W.H. Gill Memorial Trophy, Wilson Bailey Trophy and William Leitch Medal.

WELLER ARNOLD MEDAL: The TANFL's best and fairest player award in Tasmania's intrastate competition between 1953 and 1978. See also: Alstergen Trophy, Commonwealth Jubilee Cup, Orchard Medal, Parry Medal, Ovaltine Medal, Wander Medal.

WRIGHT MEDAL: Awarded to the best and fairest player in the western region of the NWFU from 1930 to 1932. (The winners are shown [here](#).) See also: Alford Medal, Cheel Medal, Royal Medal, Wander Medal.

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- General Works
- Tasmanian Football
- Club History
- Biographical/Autobiographical
- Newspapers and Periodicals

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