

**TEN YEARS AGO**  
**2010**  
**THE TIGERS RUFFLE**  
**THE MAGPIES FEATHERS**  
**(Ref: 2020/15)**



Things can change quickly in football; and although DFNC played in the MPNFL Grand Final in 2008, it may surprise some readers that in 2010, despite winning 14 games, the Senior XVIII finished in eighth position on the ladder. It was quite a 'fall from grace' for a club which had participated in the 2009 finals series.

One of the hardest and most skilled mid-fielders, to have been recruited to Pier Street, Damon Lawrence, was in his second year as coach but the club had lost three valuable players to Queensland ( see below); and Sturt Keel also had transferred out. To add to the club's woes, the highly talented Chad Wilde had announced his retirement. Chad's strong brand of play and physical was extremely difficult to replace and his absence would prove to be a big loss to DFNC.



**One of the most skillful and courageous players  
to have donned the Tiger Guernsey- Damon Lawrence.**

'The Leader' newspaper journalist, Andrew McEvoy, penned the following preview to the 2010 MPNFL season in April that year...

***Coach: Damon Lawrence:***

***2009: 4th***

***Ins: Brett Anthony (Somerville), Ryan Hawkins (Sorrento), Braden Hyde (Horsham), Chris Baker, Justin McCleary, Andrew Morrison (Mornington), Josh Heinrich, Ryan Slocombe, Dennis Stubbs (Hastings).***

***Outs: Paul Minchington, Michael Hunter, Jarryd Hunter (all AFL Cairns), Stuart Keel, Scott Hines, Ricci Quinn, Chad Wilde (retired).***

***Key players: Adam Hunter, Rikki Johnson, Lawrence, Morrison, Brett Anthony.***

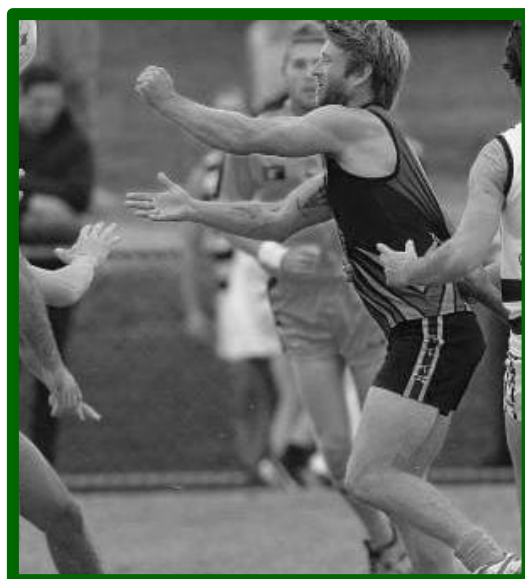
***Look for. . . A fit Dennis Stubbs to add muscle, and former Somerville coach Brett Anthony to inject class and experience into the midfield.***

***Coach says: "We should be around about again I would think. It's a matter of getting the new blokes to gel. We'll probably be a bit underdone to start with but we'll see how it goes."***

## **DISAPPOINTING LOSSES IN ROUNDS: 1 & 2**

Damon was correct in saying that: " We'll be a bit undone to start" as despite, the strong list, the Tigers early season form was 'nothing to write home about.'

Sorrento overpowered Dromana in the Easter Saturday 'blockbuster' by 21 points. It is no secret, that in all sport, success depends on several factors not only talent; and, after that disappointing loss, it was a case of 'back to the drawing board' for Damon and his leadership group.



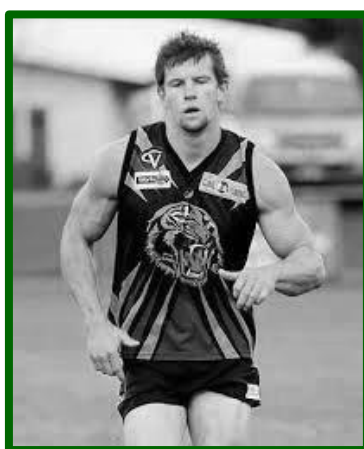
**Adam Hunter**

**A Life member at Dromana and was selected in the  
DFNC Team of the Era 1946-2015**

The following week, Somerville defeated DFC by two points; and without a win 'on the board' the encounter at Crib Point was seen as a crucial fixture to 'open the account' and get 'things moving' in the right direction.

The team line- up looked something like this on that day:

<b>Backs</b>	<b>C. Baker</b>	<b>J. Heinrich</b>	<b>P. McLean- Wilson</b>
<b>H'Backs</b>	<b>T. Wright</b>	<b>A. Hunter</b>	<b>D. Lee</b>
<b>centre</b>	<b>J. Terry</b>	<b>D. Lawrence</b>	<b>J. Wood</b>
<b>H/Forwards</b>	<b>B. Anthony</b>	<b>R. Johnston</b>	<b>B. Allen</b>
<b>Forwards</b>	<b>T. Banks</b>	<b>M. Gillis</b>	<b>A. Morrison</b>
<b>Rucks</b>	<b>S. Thomson</b>	<b>R. Slocombe</b>	<b>B. Dennis</b>
<b>Inter/change</b>	<b>C. Liardet J. Williams J. MCleary A. Burns</b>		



**Jarrad Wood – A talented midfielder**

## **THE MATCH REPORT**

It was a unusually hot autumn day and, in what could only be described as 'perfect beach weather', the Tigers 'jumped the gun'; and with superior team work and ball movement rattled on a string of early goals. The Magpies looked unsettled and struggled for possessions through the midfield.

With Michael Gillis and Toby Banks (pictured) busy up forward; and with Chris Baker leading a strong defence, the Tigers led by three goals at quarter time. In only his second game with DFC, Ryan Slocombe was imposing and supporters soon realized that the club had secured a 'prize recruit' from Hastings FC.



Three former Mornington players Andrew Morrison, Brad Allen and Michael Gillis formed part of an effective Dromana 'forward six.'

The Tigers powered away with eight majors in the second term.

As the game unfolded, the situation didn't get any better for Crib Point as Rikki Johnston 'got into the act' with a couple of 'long bombs.' Braeden Dennis, Jared Terry and Adam Hunter continued creating chances for the Tiger forwards; and the third term was 'one-way traffic' at the Tigers piled on seven goals while restricting the Magpies to a mere three.

Brett Anthony, who had arrived at Pier Street with a 'strong resume', was impressive; and his experience was obvious, at given times, in the second half. Michael Gillis chipped in with four goals and proved his worth up forward that day.

**NOTE:** A brief tribute to Michael Gillis can be found below this match report.

As the quarter-by-quarter analysis indicates, Crib Point outscored the Tigers in the last term but Damon Lawrence was pleased with the improvement shown by his team. Overall, it was a convincing and much needed victory for the Tigers.

Ryan Slocombe was named Dromana's best player that day; and, in time, he would prove to be a dedicated clubman and versatile footballer of the Senior XVIII. Ryan played 64 games and was selected in the DFNC 'Team of the Decade 2006-2015.' Ryan was also a key member of the club's 2013 premiership team.



Young Luke Herrington, from Crib Point, won substantial praise for his six goals 'against the odds'; and, in time, Luke would become a steadfast player for his club. Loyalty really counts in football; and Luke has 'stayed the course' and given the Magpies admirable service during his long career. At the time of writing this article (2020), Luke had played 181 senior XVIII games for Crib Point FC.

## THE MATCH DETAILS

### Quarter by quarter scores:

<b>Dromana:</b>	5.4	13.6	20.13	23.15 (153)
<b>Crib Point:</b>	2.4	5.5	8.6	13.8 (86)

### Goal kickers for Dromana:

Johnston 4, Gillis 4, Banks 3, Slocombe 3, Anthony 2, Burns, Liardet, Terry, Dennis, Lee, McCleary and Wood.

**Best players for Dromana:** Slocombe, Johnston, Baker, Banks, Anthony and Lee.

**DFC Award Winners:** Ryan Slocombe, Chris Baker, Brett Anthony and Rikki Johnston.

It was hoped that the win at Crib Point would 'kick start' the Tigers to better things in 2010, However, as history shows, it was to be a frustrating and disappointing season.

The following week was the ANZAC DAY clash against Rosebud. A huge crowd witnessed a dour battle at Pier Street but, unfortunately, the Tigers 'fell short' by eight points in another disappointing performance. Early hopes for 2010 turned to disquiet as the Tigers tried find the reason for such enigmatic performances. One stand-out highlight, on that day, was that Toby Banks won the ANZAC Day Medallion for his strong showing.

In 2010, the club's Best and Fairest trophy was won by Rikki Johnston. It was his second major win. Rikki's first was in 2007; and he also took out the award in 2010 and 2011. Bill Peagram won the Reserve XVIII trophy while young Tom Carter won the 3<sup>rd</sup> XVIII award.

## A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GILLIS

When Michael Gillis arrived at the club from Mornington, as a teenager , he was regarded as an aggressive and skilled midfielder but, for some reason, his played most of his football in defence for DFNC.

With the departure of the club's champion goal-kicker, Simon Goosey, at the end of 2008, Michael's move 'up forward' proved to be sound thinking by the selectors.



Michael would be the first to admit that he was 'no Simon Goosey' but, when selected to play at full forward, Michael never took a side step or opted to find an 'easy way' out of a physical contest.

Michael had three qualities that made him a dangerous forward on 'his day': (i) His direct leading, (ii) His strong 'one grab' marking and (iii) His accurate conversion from within 35 metres. During his time at DFNC Michael won four awards in Senior Grade Football: Coach's Award (

2002 & 2008), Encouragement Award ( 2003) and, in 2004, he was presented with the Most Determined Player trophy.

Michael is best remembered for his spirited exhibition in the 2008 Grand Final against Sorrento. His gritty performance, in a day when there were no 'beg your pardons', displayed his raw courage and his determined attitude in hard-hitting and rugged games. In a senior career at Dromana, which spanned from 2002 until 2016 , Michael Gillis played 139 games.

## REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records- DFNC Handbook-Personal files.

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