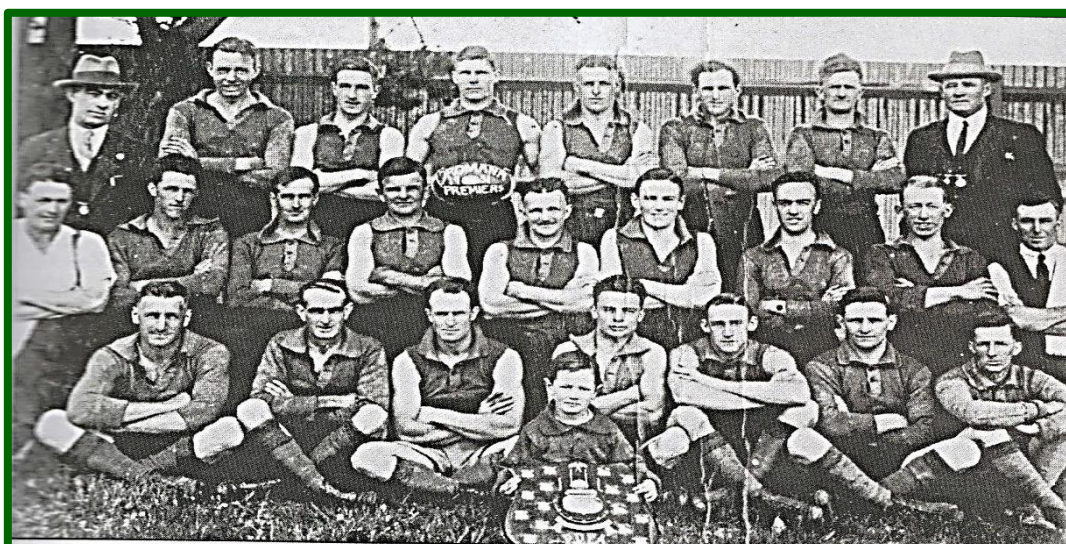


DROMANA FOOTBALL-NETBALL CLUB HISTORY

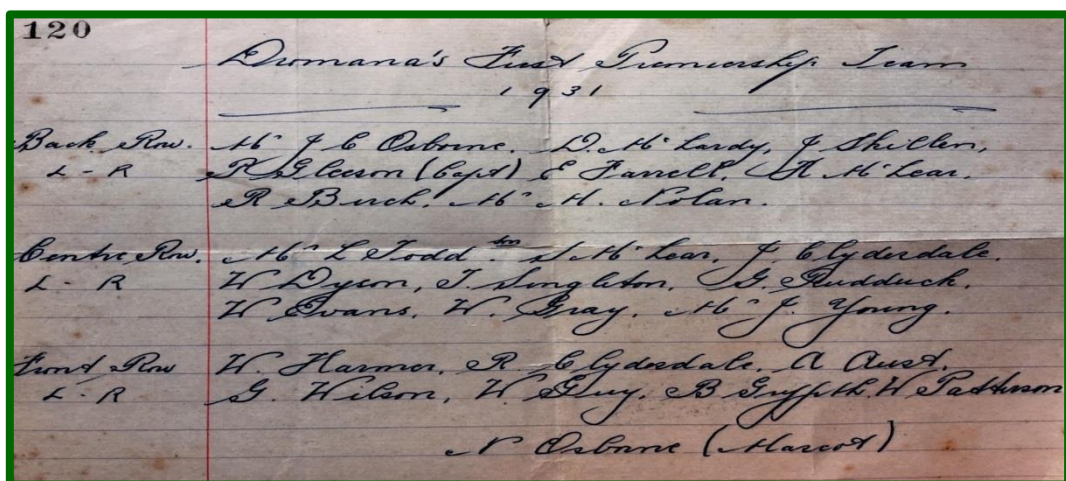


'DOWN MEMORY LANE'

1931- THE CLUB'S FIRST PREMIERSHIP



Back Row: G. Osborne(Sec), D. McLardy, J. Skillen, P. Gleeson, E. Farrell, H. McLear, R. Birch, M. Nolan(Pres)
 Centre Row: L. Todd(Trn), S. McLear, J. Clydesdale, W. Dyson, T. Singleton, G. Rudduck, W. Evans, W. Grey,
 J. Young(Trn)
 Front Row: W. Harman, R. Clydesdale, B. Aust, G. Wilson, W. Guy, B. Griffiths, W. Patterson.
 Mascot: N. Osborne



THE FIRST FLAG FOR DROMANA -1931

All premiership victories are memorable attainments in the life of a football club; and Dromana's pennant in 1931 was the pinnacle of the club's early years. Not only was it a classic 'from rags to riches' story but it was a fair and just reward for the dedicated labours of many local families who had:

- (i) Laid the foundations of the club.
- (ii) Given energy, time and money to maintain DFC's existence.
- (iii) 'Kept the faith' and supported the club through some very testing and dark times.

The above photograph of the 1931 team is 'no secret' because it has been given prominence in various DFNC's publications in recent years.

However, the lined notepaper, verifying the names of the players, is quite a 'nugget' in researching that era. The players' names were written on a page of a note book (obviously page number 120) and are of infinite value in identifying the team members of 89 years ago.

THE MATCH REVIEW IN 'THE WEEKLY TIMES'

Dromana won the 1931 Grand Final by eight goals and, in so doing, etched its name into football history. However, there may be younger readers of this website who may not know the 'finer details' of Dromana's unpredicted triumph over Somerville that day. It is a definitive story of the underdog 'getting off the canvas' to knock out the reigning champion.

'The Weekly Times' carried a comprehensive review of the game and it is reprinted below. The article gives a colourful account of the match and lists goal kickers and the better players for both Dromana and Somerville.



DROMANA PREMIERS

WELL-EARNED VICTORY

DROMANA won their first premiership at Mornington on Saturday, when they decisively defeated Somerville in the grand final match.

The excitement among Dromana barrackers was intense. Although Somerville won the final against Dromana, it was a different Dromana team that contested the grand final, as they played ideal football and never left the game in doubt.

Dromana's forward line was the weak link in the final match. This was greatly strengthened and in the first quarter Dromana scored 6-6 to 1-1.

The second saw even football, each team piercing the goal three times. It was in the third term where Dromana showed superiority Scoring seven goals to Somerville's solitary single, they had the game well in hand. Somerville, however, made a good effort in the last quarter, but found the opposition far too strong. Final scores were:— Dromana 16-19. Somerville 8-6.

The winners fielded a strong side, but the outstanding men were W Patterson and W Guy, both capable forwards.

Patterson kicked eight goals, some from difficult angles. Several seasons ago he was the best forward in the senior league.

Guy is the makings of a champion. Being a fine, deadly kick, and noted for his quick turning when' going for goal, he would hold his own in senior company By kicking five goals he brought his total for the season to 84, a splendid performance Patterson's total is 59.

Others prominent were B. Aust, who played a magnificent game roving and on the half-forward flank; S McLear (centre); G Gleeson and W Harman (following), E Farrell (half-back), and R Birch (back).

Somerville's form was far below that of the previous Saturday Their best player was Claude Harding, who saved many times at centre half-back. R. Jessup was prominent up forward scoring two sixers, and received good support from A. Telford and S. Clarke. W Craig, N. Unthank and J Wood were the best of the remainder.

Dromana will be presented with a pennant. Each player will also be handed a medal by the association. All football on the Peninsula is now finished, after a successful season.

Source: 'The Weekly Times' October 10th 1931. Page 60.

WEBSITE ARTICLES

Articles regarding Wally Guy, the Rudduck family, Bert Aust, George Osborne, the McLear family and Norm Osborne (the mascot) can be found on this website. A list of DFNC history articles from 2017-2020 can be seen at: <https://dromanafootballnetballclub.teamapp.com/newsletters>

BILL PATTERSON –THE SPEARHEAD OF DROMANA

On that historic day in 1931, Dromana's Bill Patterson was the 'hero of the hour' with eight goals and Wally Guy was also in the limelight with his superb skills and a 'bag of five.' Bill and Wally netted 81% of the team's goals that day.

Bill Patterson was Dromana's greatest forward in the period 1930-39; and he won the club's goal kicking awards in 1923-29-32-33-34 and in 1935. His potency as a key forward was widely recognised throughout the Mornington Peninsula. An interesting fact is that Wally Guy won the club's goal kicking in 1931 with 84 goals while Bill finished the season with 59 goals.

PETER GLEESON- THE BRILLIANT BACKMAN

The coach of the team in 1931 was Peter Gleeson; and during that season he had 'caught the eye' of the VFL scouts with his dazzling displays across half back. 'The Weekly Times' (January 23rd 1932) reported that Peter had signed with Hawthorn...

“ H. Johnson, the Sale follower; Luckins, a young Bairnsdale forward; and P. Gleeson, captain and half-back player, of Dromana. have signed up with the Hawthorn club for the coming season.”

There is no evidence to suggest that Peter Gleeson ever played with Hawthorn but the name 'Gleeson' is often mentioned in relation to match reports with Carrum FC in 1932 . As is well known, Wally Guy crossed to Carrum in 1932 and Peter may have also 'transferred out' with Wally. Carrum won the PDFA premiership that season and Wally was the captain and 'P. Gleeson' was part of that victorious team.

Further research indicates that a certain 'Gleeson' had trained with St Kilda in 1928 and perhaps that was Peter. However, Peter Gleeson is not to be confused with Phillip Gleeson who captained the Xavier College football team at around the same time More research regarding Peter Gleeson is justified; and any reader who can assist in tracking Peter's impressive football career is asked to contact Roger. Thank you.

MICHAEL BERNARD NOLAN- A DROMANA DYNAMO

The enduring contributions of the McLear, Carrigg, Rudduck and Osborne families to the life of DFNC are very well known and have been previously noted on this website.

Mr. M.B. Nolan (shown in the photograph below) was also a 'dynamo' at Pier Street; and his dedicated off-field organization and wholehearted involvement in club affairs were factors in the team's success in that era.

Sadly, many younger supporters have never heard of Michael Nolan but he was a dedicated and heroic figure in and around Dromana in the 1920's and 30's. His name first appears in the news in the mid 1920's in his capacity as a Dromana delegate to the PFA

Mr Michael Bernard Nolan, better known around town as Sergeant M.B. Nolan, was a highly respected police officer in Mornington and Dromana. He played with DFC in the 1920's and was captain in 1930. His name featured prominently in the affairs of the club in those days ; and, as a delegate to the PDFA, he had a 'powerful voice' and spoke with authority at league meetings.



Michael Bernard Nolan
A Dynamo at Dromana FC.

Little is known about Sgt M.B. Nolan following his departure from Dromana. However, after a lengthy search, it was discovered that he actually died at his residence at the Kensington Police Station in May 1945

“ The funeral of Sergeant Michael Bernard Nolan, 54 years, who died on Friday at Kensington Police Station, where he had been officer in charge for three years, will leave Holy Rosary Church, Kensington, to-day, for Fawkner cemetery, following Requiem Mass at 9 a.m.

Before being transferred to Kensington Sergeant Nolan had been attached to a number of country police stations, including Rochester, Mornington, Dromana, Numurkah and Seymour. He leaves a widow, four daughters and two sons, F.O. Francis Nolan (R.A.A.F.) and John, who served six years with the R.A.N. Tobin Bros, have charge of the arrangements.” Source: ‘The Age’ May 21st 1945 Page: 4.

It is known that Michael’s wife was named May and he had six children John, Francis, Langley, Marjorie, Mary and Judith (see below)...

NOLAN, — On May 18 (suddenly), at his residence, police station, Kensington, Sergeant Michael Bernard Nolan, dearly loved husband of May, and loving father of John, Langley, Francis (R.A.A.F.), Marjorie, Mary, and Judith. —Requiescat in pace.

Source: ‘The Argus’ May 19th 1945 Page: 2

DEATH OF SGT. M. B. NOLAN.

Residents of Dromana and Mornington were greatly shocked on Friday week when they learned of the sudden death of Sgt. M. B. Nolan, who was stationed at those centres some years ago.

Sgt. Nolan was in charge of Dromana police station for several years, and took keen interest in various town activities. He was a keen sport, and played football for the Dromana Club. Later he became president, and the team was one of the best ever fielded at Dromana. Sgt. Nolan was well-known to the Peninsula Football League, and did quite a deal to help along the game on the Peninsula. Later Sgt. Nolan was appointed to take charge of the Mornington police station, where he was also held in high esteem, and became president of his favorite sport—football. The club experienced a splendid season.

In his younger days the deceased was a particularly fine athlete, and was an exponent of outstanding ability. On leaving Mornington he took charge of the Rochester police station. At that town he took a leading role in helping various patriotic objects, and was instrumental in raising a huge sum. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and took over the Kensington police station.

One of his sons is Flying Officer Frank Nolan, who has just returned after active service. Another son, Jack, served in the R.A.N. on HMAS Hobart. A daughter, Miss Marjory Nolan, was on the teaching staff at Mornington State School for a time, and is now at Geelong. Miss Langley Nolan is attached to nursing staff at Alfred Hospital. There are also two other daughters.

The deceased was 54 years of age, and had served for 30 years in the police force. He was an active worker in the interests of servicemen, and represented the Northern Districts of Victoria in the Fathers' Association.

The funeral, which was largely attended, took place at Fawkner Cemetery.

Numerous Peninsula folk attended. From Mornington were - Messrs. Bob Bishop, H. Bean, J. Adams and Lang Butler.

Source: 'Frankston Standard' May 31st 1945 Page: 2

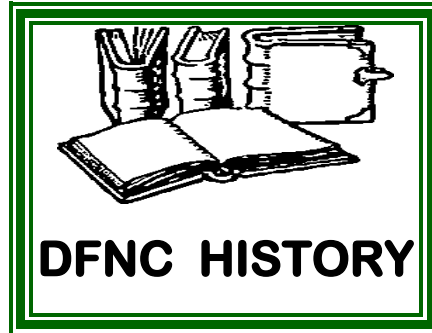
THE 'NOLAN' NAME - MORE INFORMATION WANTED.

M.B.Nolan was a most significant figure in local history; and the name 'Nolan' 'bobs up' quite often in researching football connections. At least twelve Nolan's played VFL/AFL football; and perhaps Bernard Nolan (who played 84 game with Melbourne and captained the Redlegs in 1909) may have lineage to the 'stalwart of Dromana.'

It is extremely difficult to verify if Michael Nolan was, in any way, related to Frank Nolan who played with Hawthorn in 1934 or Jack Nolan who played nine games with North Melbourne in 1926. Frank Nolan served with 2/3 Anti-Tank Regiment in New Guinea during World War: II.

Finally, It would be also interesting to know if M.B. Nolan was related to Brunswick's champion defender Barry 'Gabby' Nolan who won the Liston Medal in 1978. Barry captained Brunswick in 1978-80-81-82-84-85 and also coached the 'Wicks to VFA Second Division premierships in 1980 and 1985.

CAN YOU HELP TO BUILD THE DFNC ARCHIVES?



Over the past few years, the History Committee of the DFNC has been trying to place on record as much as possible about the people, games and events of the club since its inception more than 100 years ago.

It is hoped to gather club memorabilia such as photographs, programs, publications, membership tickets, press cuttings, awards and team sheets to place on permanent record on the club's website. Hopefully, in this way, our club's rich history can be preserved and enjoyed by future generations.

One of the best ways for any club to show its appreciation, to those members who 'paved the way' in earlier days, is to record their contribution to strengthening and maintaining the club. Your assistance in building the club's archives is valued. Thank you. Roger Spaul for DFNC – March 2020.