

'FROM THE ARCHIVES' DROMANA DEFEAT SOMERVILLE 1970

Reference: FTA: 2021/4



DROMANA DEFEAT SOMERVILLE ROUND: 3 / 1970

Following John Kelton's three year stint at Dromana, former VAFA star, Greg James, was appointed as the club's coach in 1970. It was a year of consolidation; and, although the club missed the finals, the improvement shown, during the season, gave hope of 'better and brighter things' to come. Several strong performances against the top-tier teams indicated that the club was heading in the right direction and on a march 'onward and upward.'

Re-building any club takes care, dedication, discipline and, above all, a collective positive mindset; and, in 1970, things 'clicked' and the groundwork for later success was laid. No doubt, as the season unfolded, the spirit(s) of the loyal and hard-working band of volunteers lifted and there was every reason for cautious optimism.

The season started with losses against Rosebud and Bonbeach; and the Somerville clash was crucial in getting the club onto the winners' board. Names listed with the seniors in 1970 day included Ray Brindley, Dave Williams, Ray Fyson, Glenn Fyson, Darryl Grogan, Col Matthews, Rob Work, Paul Cooper, Ian Haddon, Ken Myers, Andrew Emerson, Paul Marriott and Glen Fyson.

Dromana won by 44 points but, unfortunately, very little is known about the actual contest and the final details (as shown below) are the only guide to the game. As has been mentioned previously, comprehensive match reports in that era of local football were sporadic and often 'all too brief.'

FINAL SCORES:

Dromana 18.12 (120) defeated Somerville 9.22 (76).

- **GOAL KICKERS FOR DROMANA:** (*not complete in the newspaper review*)
Brindley 4 Ray Fyson 3 James 3 Gourlay Glenn Fyson Work and Bird.
- **BEST PLAYERS FOR DROMANA:**
George Gourlay was listed as the best player for Dromana while Marriott, Fyson Williams, Lechte and Work were named as 'prominent.'

FOOTNOTES TO THE 1970 SEASON



**Ray Fyson was a leading player
in the Nepean Football League in that era.**

- The Senior XVIII was competitive throughout 1970 and finished in fifth position on the ladder. Rosebud FC won the Nepean League flag by defeating Pearcedale that season.
- Readers may be interested to know that it was Rosebud's second premiership pennant subsequent to the club's formation in 1929. In 1933, Rosebud 'broke the ice' and claimed the PDFA pennant.
- In 1970, Ray Fyson (pictured above) won the Senior XVIII Best and Fairest award while Brian Griffith won the Reserves trophy. Greg James won the club goal kicking with 30 goals.
- Ray Fyson played 208 games with DFNC and won the Best and Fairest trophy on three occasions (1967, 1970 and 1981); and his brother, Glenn, took the award in 1971.
- The Reserves, led by Ron Choate, made the final series in 1970 which again underlined the improved depth of the club.
- Research shows that the number of senior games played by key players in 1970 were: Ray Fyson (18 games), Phil Marriott (18), Colin Matthews (18), David Gourlay (17), Dave Williams (16), Robert Work (14), Ray Brindley (13), Glenn Fyson (13), Greg James (13), Ken Myers (11), Paul Cooper(11) Alan Sullivan (11), Rod Kerr (11) and Daryl Grogan played 10 games in 1970.

- Other players who represented the club in Senior XVIII games that season included: Royden Webb (6 games), Rod Rose (9), Glenn Osborne (9), Ken Gary Lechte (5), Ian Haddon (3), Owen Griffiths (5), Brian Griffiths (5), Graham Gourlay (5), Andrew Emmerson (4), Peter Dempsey (6), Malcolm Constable (3) , J. Bird (3) and J. Evans (4).



Greg James coached Dromana FC in 1970

- In the fledgling local junior competition, Dromana won a title in the Under 12's Grand Final. On that day, Dromana defeated Crib Point.
- A further highlight, in that season, was that the social club (led by John Hellesey) raised a total \$1500 which was a 'tidy sum' for any small football club in those days.
- It is known that in 1970, club stalwart George Osborne was presented with a VCFL (Victorian Country Football League) Medallion for 50 years of service to football. It is now folklore, that after arriving from Newcastle, by horse and cart, with his family in 1919, George wasted no time whatsoever in becoming involved in the Dromana Football Club.
- George Osborne's arrival in the town was a blessing for the football club. George was a stalwart in DFNC history; and he and his family were instrumental in building the local club and contributing to the organization of Mornington Peninsula football. The ability of the DFNC to 'weather the storms' that frequently beset the club has always been a direct reflection of the time , energy and determination of local families (such as the Osbornes) and unpaid volunteers to 'stay the course' and 'win through.'
- Although Greg James stepped down, after only one season as club coach, he deserves lasting credit for the momentum that he generated to propel the club forward. As history reveals, in 1971, John Booker led the club to a fourth flag; and a long and patient wait was over.

NOTES ABOUT THE EARLY MATCH REPORTS

It is important for younger readers to remember that, in earlier days of Peninsula Football there were no digitized scores, 'apps', radio/TV programs and club/ league websites; and, consequently, local newspapers (e.g. **weekly** issues such as the 'Southern Peninsula Gazette' and the 'Frankston Standard'), with their restricted resources, were often unable to provide inclusive reports regarding all matches, local highlights and the various deeds of players and officials.

'Much went untold' in those days; and, as previously mentioned, chapters in the story of the DFNC from the 1950's, 60's and 70's are irretrievable; and, sadly, that the veracity of 'things past' can be elusive.

Pinning down the facts in certain eras at Pier Streer is difficult; and it was once said by a famous Scottish philosopher, Thomas Carlyle, that: '*History is the distillation of rumour.*' As far as football goes, Thomas' words have merit; and this is where all DFNC club members can assist in unearthing the truth regarding the formative years at Pier Street.

CLUB HISTORY- CAN YOU HELP?

DFNC is working determinedly to 'fill the gaps' in the club's history; and photographs, press cuttings, team sheets and other memorabilia are most welcome. There may be readers who have match reports/press cuttings, results, awards, milestones and other highlights from their years at Pier Street. Please feel welcome to forward such information to the club to have posted on the website for posterity.

One of the best ways to thank the hundreds of players, officials and volunteers, who have built DFNC, is to ensure that they are remembered by recording their contribution and endeavours for future generations to appreciate.

The above article was originally written for the club in 2014; and has been redrafted/updated and filed on the Dromana Football Club's website for future reference.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: NLA, personal files and DFNC publications.

Article reference: Dromana v Somerville - 1970 (Ref: FTA 2021/4)

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