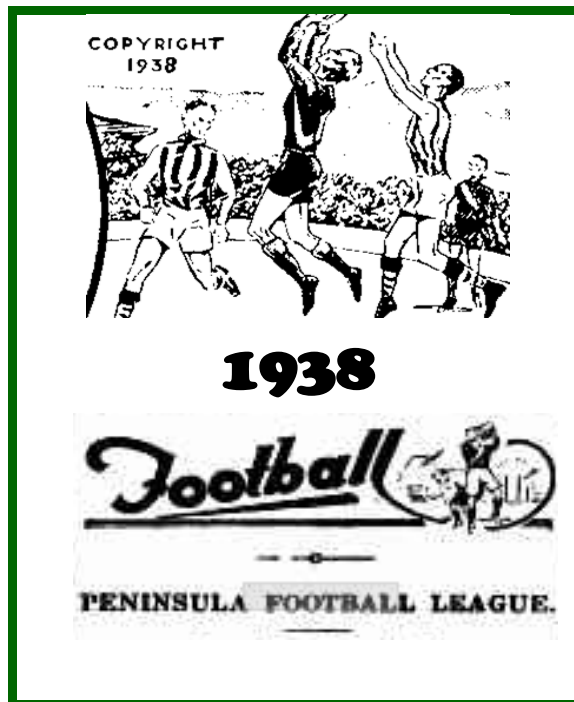


# **'CHANCES WENT BEGGING'**

## **THE 'B GRADE' FIRST SEMI-FINAL**

### **DROMANA V ROSEBUD-1938**

Reference: 2022/11



### **INTRODUCTION- 1938: POOR CONVERSION PROVES COSTLY**

Having claimed the pennant in 1937 (under the name of Dromana District FC), the Dromana team had shown enough promise in 1938 to feel optimistic about making its way into another Grand Final. The team had performed quite well throughout 1938 having won nine of its fourteen outings and was sitting third on the PFA 'B' Grade Ladder at the end of the Home and Away series. However, defeats by Tyabb-Hastings (Round: 10) and Red Hill in Round: 13 were ominous warnings in the looming battles.

Rosebud had battled its way into the finals (via a play-off: see below) with an impressive 26 point victory over Red Hill; and had consequently earned the right to 'face off' against Dromana in the Semi-Final at Hastings.

Lame excuses should never be used to explain poor performances in sporting contests but, judging from the final scores in the Semi-Final against Rosebud , there appears that wayward kicking for goal cost Dromana any chance for a tilt at a successive premiership title.

In that final, Dromana had twenty-two scoring shots to Rosebud's sixteen; and, as will be seen later in this article, when it mattered most, inaccuracy in front of goal, thwarted any hope of the team going deeper into the finals. The hackneyed phrase that 'bad kicking is bad football' seems true; and Dromana FC paid a heavy price for failing to convert its numerous opportunities in attack.

## THE BACKGROUND TO THE 1938 SEASON



In 1938, Mr J. Glourey was elected to the position of MPFL President and Mr Telford took on the central role of league secretary. Mr Birch and Mr Carrigg (see below) were Dromana's elected delegates to the MPFL that season. The structure of the MPFL in 1938 was again based on two divisions as explained :-

The affiliates of **'A' Grade** were: Sorrento, Hastings-Tyabb, Mornington, Frankston, Somerville, Seaford- Carrum and the Navy Dept. The **'B' Grade** competition comprised clubs from: Dromana, Balnarring, Baxter, Frankston, Rosebud, Red Hill, Pearcedale and Hastings- Tyabb.

**Note:** Frankston and Hastings-Tyabb entered teams in both divisions that season (which gave an indication of their relative depth).

### THE DROMANA LIST

The list of players who represented Dromana in 1938 included: S. McLear, R.Hosking, B. Aust, K. Greer, B. Temby, A. Hosking, V. McLaren, R. Birch, J. Shaw, McDougall, H. Lyng, M. Gourlay, A. O' Malley, G. McLear J. Cornish, V. Hazeldine, R. Wilson, A. Griffith, R. Griffith, (?) Sweet, V. Humphrey, H. McLear, and (?) Williams. It is believed that Sam McLear was the club captain throughout 1938.

### CLEARANCES IN 1938

In 1938, the Dromana District combined team, of the previous season, had been disbanded as both Rosebud and Red Hill had decided to 'stand-alone' in the local competition.

Consequently, there was a considerable degree of inter-club movement as players from the premiership team of 1937 returned 'home'. Some of the players who sought clearances to local clubs included:

- F. Volk to Red Hill FC.
- A Peters to Sorrento FC.\*
- P. Branchi to Sorrento FC.
- L. Kelly to Red Hill FC.
- P. Cleine to Red Hill FC.
- L.Wiseman to Red Hill FC \*\*

\* Articles regarding Albert Peters and Les Wiseman can be on this website.



Les Wiseman was cleared to Red Hill in 1938.

## THE KICK OFF TO SEASON 1938

The 'B' Grade competition 'kicked off' on May 21<sup>st</sup> and Dromana was scheduled to play Rosebud at home. It would have been a match to create a lot of local interest as Rosebud FC had some very talented footballers. Some of the family names listed with Rosebud that season included: Brady Cameron, Wong, Lacco, Jensen, Wood, Ragg, Nichols, Godfrey, Jennings, Freeman, Dowling, Ireland, Liversidge, Gibbon, Carter, Johnstone, Brown and Chadwick.

For a small-town newspaper, 'The Standard' went to great lengths to promote and publicize the MPFL. Match details (for most games) were published; and, in each issue, there was an entire page devoted to local football. The results of Dromana's fixtures throughout the Home and Away Series are shown below. In some cases, there were no scores / details recorded and, in one instance, the newspaper report was indecipherable due to the poor condition of the surviving copy.

<b>B GRADE MATCHES</b>	
<b>21st May:</b>	
Balnarring v. Frankston.	
Baxter v. Hastings-Tyabb.	
Dromana v. Rosebud.	
Red Hill v. Pearcedale.	
<b>28th May:</b>	
Hastings-Tyabb v. Frankston.	
Pearcedale v. Balnarring.	
Baxter v. Dromana.	
Rosebud v. Red Hill.	
<b>4th June:</b>	
Frankston v. Pearcedale.	
Dromana v. Hastings-Tyabb.	
Red Hill v. Balnarring.	
Rosebud v. Baxter.	

## THE RESULTS FOR THE 14 ROUND SEASON OF 1938

**PLEASE NOTE:** These results were compiled by searching through the various editions of the original copies of 'The Standard' and are not necessarily, the official MPFL results.

### ROUND: 1

Rosebud 9.7 (61) defeated Dromana 7.15 (57)

Goal kickers for Dromana: Sweet 4 Griffiths 2 Cornish

Best players for Dromana: Griffiths Hosking Wilson Williams Cornish

**ROUND: 2**

**Dromana 11.10 (76) defeated Baxter 4.7 (31)** No details published.

**ROUND: 3**

**Hastings –Tyabb 9.8. (62) Defeated Dromana 5.16 (46)**

No details published.

**ROUND:4**

**Dromana 13.8 ( 86) defeated Balnarring 10.17 (77)**

Goal kickers for Dromana: Not listed

Best players for Dromana: Wilson Williams McLear Hosking Griffiths Greer Humphries Sweet.

**ROUND:5**

**Dromana 10.9 ( 69) defeated Pearcedale 9.8. (62)**

Goal kickers for Dromana: Griffiths 6 Cornish 2 Temby Greer

Best players for Dromana: Wilson McLear (brothers) Hosking Humphries.

**ROUND:6**

**Dromana 8.12 (60) defeated Red Hill 6.9. (45)**

Goal kickers for Dromana; Griffiths 3 Cornish 2 Aust 2 Williams

Best players for Dromana: Griffiths Wilson McLaren

**ROUND:7**

**Frankston defeated Dromana** \*(Unfortunately, the final scores were illegible in that edition of the newspaper).

Goal kickers for Dromana: Aust McLear Hosking and others ???(Illegible)

Best players for Dromana; Wilson Aust Cornish Griffiths

B GRADE					
Hastings-Tyabb	7	7	0	0	28
Frankston .. ..	7	6	1	0	24
Dromana .. .. .	7	4	3	0	16
Rosebud .. .. .	7	3	4	0	12
<hr/>					
Balnarring .. ..	7	3	4	0	12
Red Hill .. .. .	7	2	5	0	8
Baxter .. .. .	7	1	6	0	4
Pearcedale .. ..	7	1	6	0	4

**NOTE:** As can be seen above, at the half way mark of the season, Dromana sat in third position on the 'B' Grade Ladder. The other teams in the 'Four' were: Hastings-Tyabb, Frankston and Rosebud. Pearcedale and Baxter had won only one game. While Hastings-Tyabb and Frankston seemed assured of finals action, Balnarring and Red Hill were still 'in touch' and had a chance to 'sneak into' the finals with seven rounds left to play. The beauty of an eight-team competition is that all clubs have a '50-50' chance to make the Final Four.

## ROUND: 8

**Dromana: 7.16 ( 58) defeated Rosebud: 6. 16 (52)**

No details published

## ROUND: 9

**Dromana: 10.9 (69) defeated Baxter: 3.6 (24)**

No details published.

## ROUND:10

**Hastings-Tyabb 17.16 (118) defeated Dromana 9.5. ( 69)**

Goal kickers for Dromana: Aust 5 Sweet Wilson Cornish

Best players for Dromana: Hosking Aust Mclear Wilson Williams McLaren McDougall

## ROUND: 11

**Dromana 11.9 (75) defeated Balnarring 1.10 (16).** It was difficult to decipher Balnarring's final score and this may be erroneous. No other details given.

## ROUND: 12

No details regarding Dromana FC were published in that edition.

## ROUND: 13

**Red Hill 9.19 ( 73) defeated Dromana 9.8 ( 62).**

Goal kickers for Dromana: Cornish 2 Ling 2 Gourlay Shaw Aust Hosking Birch

Best Players for Dromana: Wilson Cornish Gourlay McLear Hosking Griffiths

## ROUND: 14

No details regarding Dromana's last match were published in the newspaper.

## THE FINAL FOUR FOR 'B' GRADE IN 1938

POSITIONS OF CLUBS IN M.P.F.L.					
B GRADE					
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Hastings-Tyabb	14	14	0	0	56
Frankston .. ..	14	10	4	0	40
Dromana .. ..	14	9	5	0	36
Red Hill .. ..	13	7	6	0	28
Rosebud .. ..	13	7	6	0	28

Dromana finished the season with 9 wins (36 points). The defeat by Rosebud, in Round: 1, by less than a goal, must have been galling. However, the battle for fourth position had not been resolved as both Red Hill and Rosebud had finished with 28 points. Readers will notice that team percentages are not listed in the extract and, it appears, that in the league rules in that era, a play-off was required if teams had tied on the same number of wins.

**NOTE:** Under that system, it would be interesting if, for example, three teams (e.g. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) had recorded the same numbers of wins after 14 rounds.

**THIS SATURDAY**  
**A GRADE FINAL**  
**AT FRANKSTON**  
NAVAL DEPOT v. SORRENTO.  
**B GRADE RE-PLAY**  
**AT ROSEBUD**  
ROSEBUD v. RED HILL.  
WILL MEET RED HILL AT ROSE  
BUD TOMORROW  
TO PLAY OFF FOR FOURTH  
POSITION

## THE 'B' GRADE PLAY-OFF FOR FOURTH POSITION

The B Grade Replay for a finals berth was played at the Rosebud Oval on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September; and Rosebud 9.23 (77) defeated Red Hill 7.9 (51). There were no other details published about that game.

It is difficult to gauge if the Saturday 'furlough' for Dromana would prove to be beneficial. Often, a week's rest can aid teams but history shows that there are no fixed rules. Finals football often throws up surprises as Hastings-Tyabb would discover as the series unfolded that season.

## THE MATCH REVIEW AS PUBLISHED IN THE 'STANDARD'

**Rosebud Win Semi-  
Final**  
DROMANA v. ROSEBUD  
AT HASTINGS

Source: 'Frankston- Somerville Standard' September 16<sup>th</sup> 1938 Page: 6

### **ROSEBUD WIN SEMI-FINAL**

#### **DROMANA V. ROSEBUD AT HASTINGS**

*(By "Full Back")*

*" THE first semi-final of the B grade was played between the above mentioned teams on the Hastings ground on Saturday last, and after a rather poor game, Rosebud ran out winners by 9 points. It was an ideal day for football. The ground was in very good order after the heavy rains of the previous day, and speaks well for the great improvements carried out at the Hastings Park.*

*The attendance was fair considering the counter attraction at Mornington and the gate takings amounted to over £9, and compares favourably with the takings at B grade finals of previous years. Both teams were fully represented, and each took the field confident of victory, and a good game was looked forward to; but unfortunately the standard of play was not the best, being*



mostly of a scrambling nature, but the Rosebud team making the most of the opportunities, safely held their opponents and won the day. Dromana had 22 scoring shots to 16 by Rosebud, so were very unlucky in kicking for goal."

The final scores that day were: Rosebud 9.7 (61) defeated Dromana 6.16 (52). Unfortunately, there were no goal kickers or best players listed in that match report . The teams can also be seen in the original extract ( below).

**Rosebud Win Semi-Final**

**DROMANA v. ROSEBUD**

**AT HASTINGS**

(By "Full Back")

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Both teams were fully represented, and each took the field confident of victory, and a good game was looked forward to, but unfortunately the standard of play was not the best, being mostly of a scrambling nature, but the Rosebud team making the most of the opportunities, safely held their opponents and won the day.

Dromana had 22 scoring shots to 16 by Rosebud, so were very unlucky in kicking for goal.

**Rosebud.**—E. Wong, A. Lacco, H. Downing, G. Gibbon, M. Freeman, F. Jennings, S. Wood, C. Brady, E. Cameron, R. Ragg, W. Jensen, B. Brown, H. Lacco, G. Wong, J. Johnstone, L. Godfrey, A. Ireland, T. Chadwick, C. Carter (19th man).

**Dromana.**—S. McLearn (capt.), R. Hosking, R. Griffith, H. McLearn, J. Cornish, G. McLearn, B. Temby, A. Hosking, B. Aust, K. Greer, V. Hazledine, A. Griffith, J. Shaw, R. Wilson, H. Lyng, M. Gourlay, R. Birch, V. McLaren, A. O'Malley (19th man).

**Quarter time scores:—**

1st: Rosebud 1-4, Dromana 2-5.  
2nd: Rosebud 6.1, Dromana 0.3.  
3rd: Rosebud 4-2, Dromana 2-4.  
1th: Rosebud 1-4, Dromana 2-4.

**Final scores: Rosebud 9.7, Dromana 6.16.**

## FOOTNOTES TO THE 1938 SEMI-FINAL

1. Dromana's scores, throughout 1938, indicate that the team's inaccuracy in front of goal was not uncommon. Wayward kicking in Round: 1 (Rosebud), Round: 3 (Hastings-Tyabb) and in Round: 8 (Rosebud) indicated frequent poor conversion rates that season.
2. The umpire appointed to the above game was Mr Holden. He received praise for his good control and consistency in his decision making.
3. The other match officials were: Messrs Jinette and Jones (time-keepers), Kerr and Haddock (boundary umpires) and the goal umpires were Mr House and Mr Cubbitt.
4. In that Semi-Final, Dromana, three McLear brothers took the field. They were an amazing trio as Sam played 218 games with DFC, Henry (234 games) and George McLear played 207 games with the club.
5. George McLear also played three games with Richmond in 1914; and another brother, James, played with Essendon in 1919.
6. According to the records of DFNC, the offspring and relatives of the McLear family played a total of senior 3059 games with Dromana in the period 1908-1980. 'Three cheers for the McLears' would seem apt.
7. Readers will notice that Wally Guy was not mentioned in the above match report. Wally played with Sorrento in the 'A' Grade division of the league in 1938.
8. Wally had a stellar season in local football; and finished third in the Kirton Medal for the Best and Fairest Player in the 'A' Grade competition. As is well known, Wally was a one the finest players to have ever 'pulled on a boot' in Peninsula football. Wally also broke in to VFL ranks and played 8 games with North Melbourne in 1934.

**PETER CURRIE WINS KIRTON  
MEDAL  
FOR SECOND SUCCESSIVE  
SEASON**

**FOR** the second season in succession Peter Currie, who is a player in the Mornington team competing in the M.P.F.L., has won the Kirton Medal, with R. Copley of Naval Depot running second, and a tie between H. McComb (Frankston) and W. Guy (Sorrento), for third place.

Points scored by the players are as follows:—

Currie, 16 points; Copley, 13, McComb and Guy, 12 (equal).



9. At that moment, far from the tranquil hamlet of Dromana, Adolf Hitler was causing disturbing unrest and would soon plunge Europe into war. Some of the men who had played for DFC in that 1938 Semi-Final would be wearing 'different colours (e.g. khaki) within a year or two.



Source: 'The Border Star' (Queensland) April 1<sup>st</sup> 1938 Page: 3

10. Further to the above, Dromana footballers known to have enlisted to undertake military service during World War: II included: Bert Aust, Reg Birch, Bill Gourlay, Alf O'Malley, Vern Humphrey, Reg Bevis, Elgar Pittock, Gordon Jennings, Vin Hazeldine, Eric Pritchard, Peter Branchi, Ernie Myers, Rupert Griffiths, Les Wiseman, Spencer Brown, Reg Bailey, John 'Jack' Clydesdale, Norm Osborne and Ern Rudduck.



**John 'Jack' Clydesdale who served with the RAAF during World War: II. At least six members of the Clydesdale family wore the DFC colours. Jack's sons Jim (77 games) and Kevin (94 games) played in the DFC 1950 premiership team.**

11. The Second Semi-final between Hastings-Tyabb and Frankston was played at Dromana Oval the following weekend. In a surprise result, Frankston claimed the 'B' Grade pennant with a spirited, seven point victory over the Hastings-Tyabb combine. It was a stunning win as Hastings-Tyabb had gone through 1938 undefeated. Frankston won the premiership in both divisions that season.

That Hec. Downing, of Rosebud club, has won the Whitlock medal which is donated annually by Mr. Gordon Whitlock of Hastings, life member and past president and delegate of the P.F.L., for the best and fairest player in B grade of the league. We extend our congratulations to Mr. Downing and also to Rosebud club.

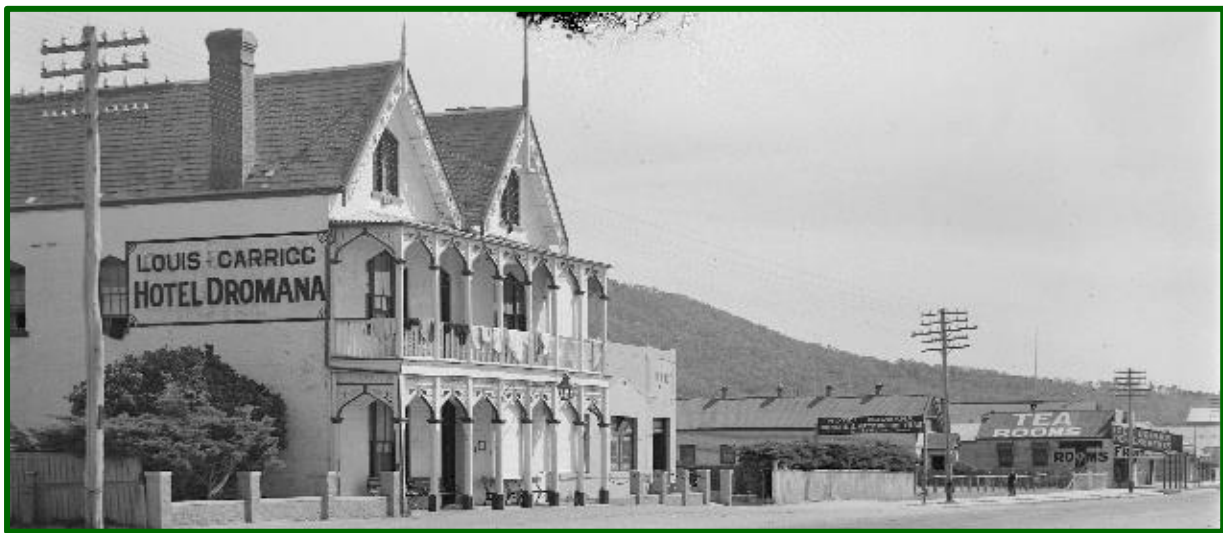
12. Hec Downing, of Rosebud FC (see above) won the Whitlock Medal for the Best and Fairest in the 'B' Grade competition. Hec was touted as a brilliant forward and it was known, that in the match against Balnarring that season, he booted 11 goals.
13. The above Semi-Final was played on the 10<sup>th</sup> September; and readers may be interested to know, that, on that same day Carlton defeated Geelong in the VFL Semi-final by 32 points. In a superb exhibition at full forward, Carlton's Ken Baxter booted 8 goals. Carlton went onto to win the flag that year (see photograph below).

### **HISTORY IN THE MAKING: 96,834 ATTEND THE 1938 VFL GRAND FINAL.**

Football history was made in 1938. Carlton overcame Collingwood by 15 points to win the 1938 Grand Final and a record crowd of 96,834 witnessed the spectacle. Jim Park, who starred for the Blues that day, died on active service in New Guinea in February 1943.



**Caption text: DIGGINS, A HERO: Besieged by delighted Carlton supporters all eager to pat him on the back, Brighton Diggins, Carlton's captain and coach, made slow progress from the field after his team's victory in the League Grand Final on Saturday. He was then seized and carried shoulder high to the dressing room. Source: 'The Argus' September 25<sup>th</sup> 1938 Page:22**



Louis Carrigg was the DFC Treasurer and one of the club's two delegates to the MPFL in 1938. According to the available archives, Louis was the DFC President from 1925-28 and again in 1930-31. As can be seen in the above photograph, Louis was also the proprietor of the Dromana Hotel for several years. Louis Carrigg features in an article on this website (Reference: 2021/13). Source of the above photograph: Valentine Postcard Series.



## OBITUARY

### MR. LOUIS CARRIGG.

Mr. L. Carrigg, who was well known throughout the Peninsula, died at his residence in Dromana on Tuesday. Mr. Carrigg was the proprietor of the Hotel Dromana and for several years occupied the position of president of the Dromana football club. He also represented his club at the delegates' meetings on numerous occasions. Mr Carrigg leaves a widow and a daughter. Burial took place at the Dromana cemetery on Wednesday.

Louis Carrigg who played a significant role in maintaining the club for over two decades. The recently discovered obituary, as shown above, also refers to Louis' active involvement with the Dromana Football Club. Source: 'The Standard' January 17<sup>th</sup> 1941. Page: 3

## REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: MPNFL archives -NLA - Rosebud Library -Personal files.

Article reference: 1938 First Semi Final Dromana v Rosebud. (Ref: 2022/11)

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