

# ‘FROM THE ARCHIVES’ DROMANA DEFEAT CRIB POINT 2004 Reference: FTA: 2022/3



## DROMANA DEFEAT CRIB POINT: ROUND 4: 2004

It is fair to say that the win against Crib Point in 2004, as described below, was another positive step on the ‘road to recovery’ for the club. Crib Point FC was established in 1933 and is a club well known for its ‘true grit’. A strong showing and success against the Magpies would:-

- (i) Indicate to sceptics that Dromana FC was on an upward trajectory  
and
- (ii) Substantiate the belief that ‘hard work on and off the track bears fruit.’

In 2004, Steve Paris (ex-Mornington) was the Senior XVIII coach and Lew Hindle (ex-Pearcedale) was the assistant coach. An encouraging aspect of the 2004 season was that the senior team boasted a handful of promising local youngsters (i.e. boys who had commenced their football with the Dromana juniors). In time, Clint Liardet, Luke Donnelly, Michael Hunter, Chad Wilde, Paul Minchington and \*Adam Hunter (see below) would become an integral part of the club’s renewal and rejuvenation.

On that day, Michael Gillis and Jared Terry were unavailable because of injury; and the club was also awaiting a clearance for \*Adam Hunter from the Frankston Dolphins (VFA). The team line-up was:-

<b>Backs</b>	<b>Luke Donnelly</b>	<b>Mark Holmes</b>	<b>Aaron Smith</b>
<b>H’ Backs</b>	<b>Brad Allen</b>	<b>Michael Hunter</b>	<b>Andrew Burnham</b>
<b>Centres</b>	<b>Glen Boyington</b>	<b>Craig Corfield</b>	<b>Tim Johnston</b>
<b>H’ F’wards</b>	<b>Clint Liardet</b>	<b>Rikki Johnston</b>	<b>Chad Wilde</b>
<b>Forwards</b>	<b>Dan Jennings</b>	<b>Adam Todd</b>	<b>Matthew Martin</b>
<b>Rucks</b>	<b>Rod Hayne</b>	<b>Steve Paris</b>	<b>Paul Minchington</b>
<b>I/C</b>	<b>Doug Haskett</b>	<b>Andrew Neville</b>	<b>Shaun Fletcher</b>

Briefly, in heavy conditions, the game was a battle of defences with Dromana holding an eleven point lead at half time. The tough and highly talented Craig Corfield (ex-Mornington) provided plenty of drive from the midfield; and former Sorrento star Glen Boyington held sway on his wing. With the aid of the breeze and Adam Todd's (ex-Mornington) accurate conversion for goal, Dromana kicked seven goals to the Magpies' two in the third term to set up a substantial win.



Paul Minchington (shown above) kicked three goals in another fine display of roving. Paul was one of the finest rovers in the club's long history. He played 154 games and was a key member of the 2013 DFNC premiership team.

Paul was Runner-up in the DFNC Best & Fairest award in 2005 and 2009; and he also won the prestigious Best Player in the Finals Series award in 2008.

Paul was selected in the 'Team of the Era (1946-2015)' and was a represented the MPNFL in several interleague fixtures. He had an illustrious career in Queensland football; and, in later years, starred for YCW (MPNFL). Paul is one of five Minchington brothers who played football for DFNC.

Andrew Burnham picked up three votes for his sterling performance in defence that day; and it was arguably Andrew's finest game for the club. Andrew, who had arrived at Pier Street in 2002, played 14 Senior XVIII games and won three major awards with the club: 2002 ( Encouragement trophy-Reserves ), 2003 (Most Determined-Reserves); and, in 2005 , Andrew was Runner-up in the Reserves Best and Fairest award.

The Johnston brothers were in the 'thick of things' and Aaron Smith gave an indication of his leadership skills in defence. Tim Johnston enjoyed a stellar season in 2004 and came second to Michael Hunter (see below) in the senior vote count that season.

In summary, the Tigers were relieved to have triumphed in tough conditions; and that decisive victory, over Crib Point, gave the club a much needed boost. The win was an additional flagstone on a forward path but, as history shows, 'Rome wasn't built in a day' and neither was DFC ... It took the club another nine seasons to reach the 'peak.

The unqualified highlight of the 2004 season was the 'bleeding' of young players; and the familiar saying: *"The seeds of success lie in the dreams of youngsters"* was plainly demonstrated at Pier Street in that era of DFNC history.

## FINAL SCORES.....

**Dromana 15.12.102 defeated Crib Point 12.8.80.**

**Goal kickers for Dromana:** Todd 5 Minchington 3 R. Johnston 2 T. Johnston  
Jennings Paris Martin

**Best Players for Dromana:** Burnham Smith Minchington Donnelly T.Johnston  
Paris, Allen Corfield Hunter Boyington

## FOOTNOTES REGARDING MICHAEL HUNTER

As can be seen from the above line-up, Michael Hunter was the centre half back that day. Michael Hunter won the Club's Senior XVIII Best and Fairest in 2004. It was one of three Senior Grade Best & Fairest Senior trophies that he won for the club (the others were in 2003 and 2005). Michael played 140 games for DFNC and was selected in the back pocket in the club's 'Team of the Era (1946-2015). Michael's extensive list of awards at DFNC includes:

- 2000:Best First Year Player-Third XVIII
- 2001:Best Team Man-Third XVIII
- 2002:Best & Fairest-Third XVIII
- 2003:Best & Fairest-Senior XVIII
- 2004:Best & Fairest-Senior XVIII
- 2005:Best & Fairest-Senior XVIII
- 2007: Coach's Award-Senior XVIII
- 2009: Most Consistent-Senior XVIII
- 2013: Best player in Finals-Senior XVIII
- 2017 : Life membership of the DFNC



Michael Hunter was regarded as one of the most reliable defenders at Pier Street for over a decade until struck down by cruel knee injuries. This photograph, of Michael (circled in red) and his teammates, was taken following the premiership victory in 2013. Gavin Artico, the triumphant coach of the team that day, is seen also holding the cup. DFNC champion, Rikki Johnston is next to Gavin.

## **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/ cuttings from their years at Pier Street. Please feel welcome to forward such to be posted on the website for generations to come to appreciate.

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 in building a community football club. Thank you-Roger 2022.



## **REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION**

Sources: Local newspapers- personal files -DFNC & MPNFL records.

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