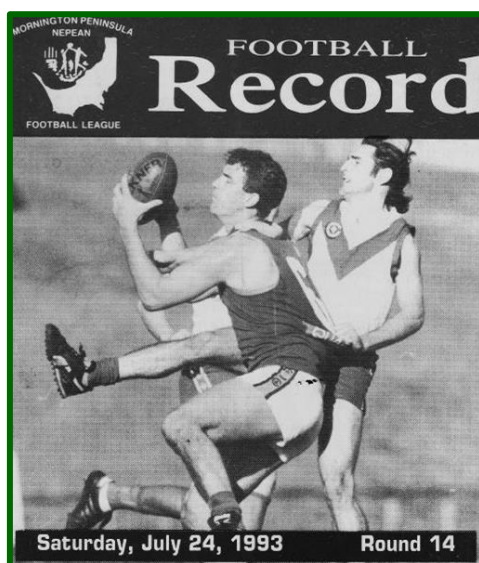


LOOKING BACK -1993

30 YEARS AGO AT PIER STREET

Reference: 2023/ 21



30 YEARS AGO AT PIER STREET

INTRODUCTION

Times marches on and the last thirty years have flashed by; and so much of the 1990's at DFNC has been forgotten or simply 'lost in transit.' It is true that the 'best view comes from after a hard climb'; and it is hoped that this article, regarding the 1993 season, will help readers appreciate the high and lows in a period of the club's history when wins were 'few and far between.'

1993 A SERIOUS SET BACK IN JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

In 1993, the MPNFL structure consisted of two divisions as shown below:

- MPNFL Division: 1- Rye, Mornington, Hastings, Edith-Aspendale, YCW, Seaford, Pines, Chelsea, Mt Eliza and Red Hill.
- MPNFL Division: 2-Dromana, Carrum, Crib Point, Somerville, Langwarrin, Sorrento, Bonbeach, Karingal, Tyabb, Frankston, Pearcedale and Rosebud.

Affiliates were expected to field senior, reserves and third teams in the competition. However, due to a variety of reasons, Dromana could not enter a Third XVIII team in 1991, 1993 and 1994.

In 1993, Dromana FC was in a malaise regarding this imperative aspect of community football; and that period of the club's history is a salutary lesson regarding the importance of fostering junior development. In 1993 without a Third XVIII team, Dromana FC paid a substantial price, in terms of building lists and recruiting young players, for the next three or four seasons.

Note: At the time of writing (August 2023) there are four clubs in the MPNFL that cannot field Third XVIII teams.

THE LEADERSHIP GROUP OF 1993

In 1993, the Senior Coach of DFNC was Paul Thomas. Paul, who had played with South Melbourne Under: 19's and Rosebud, had also made an impression in VFA football. He was an unassuming and modest coach; and very few supporters were aware that he had been a key player for Frankston in the 1984 VFL Grand Final against Preston. Although Frankston was well beaten that day, Paul had performed creditably and booted two of his team's 12 goals. In all, he played 16 games with Frankston and kicked 29 goals.

David Jordan, who was in his third season with Dromana, since crossing from Rye, was the Senior XVIII skipper. One of the club's finest full backs, Grant Turnbull, who had played 83 games since arriving at Pier Street in 1988, was nominated as the team's vice-captain. Regrettably, Grant played only two games in 1993 and was forced into early retirement because of serious injury.



David Jordan who was DFC captain in 1993

Grant Hitchener, who had played 98 Senior XVIII games with Dromana, was appointed at the Reserves XVIII Coach in 1993. It was an prudent appointment by the committee because Grant, who was as 'tough as teak', would in time develop into a stirring orator and rousing leader.

HISTORICAL NOTE ABOUT THE NAME 'GRASSHOPPER'

The club colours in those days were: A gold vee on a green background; and the club was known as the 'grasshoppers.' It is an unusual name but not rare for a football team ; and the following clubs are/were also known as the 'Grasshoppers'... Colbinabbin, Mohyu, Murchison, Navarre, North Albury, Rennie, Rokewood Corindhap, Tallangatta Valley, Yarroweyah and Coolamin Rovers in the Riverina FL.

Over the years, many ideas have been floated about the club's former moniker (i.e. 'Grasshoppers'). A definitive answer is elusive but Colin McLearn, who played 201 games with Dromana from 1946 until 1962, offered a clue to the question when he wrote...

"At some stage post World War: I, Dromana adopted the green and gold uniforms and as a child I barracked for 'The Grasshoppers'..." DFC 1996.

Perhaps, and this is only guesswork, the origin of the name can be traced back to the devastating grasshopper plague that ravaged the state in 1934. The newspapers carried countless stories about the infestations that had devastated Victorian agricultural/farming regions (see an example below). The Dromana Cricket Club is still proudly known as the Grasshoppers.



Left: 'The Argus' December 20th 1934. Page: 11; and on the right the current logo of the Dromana Cricket Club.

THE PLAYING LIST IN 1993

The players who represented Dromana in 1993 are shown below. The number of Senior XVIII games played in that season is shown in brackets.

Dave Jordan (18 games played in 1993) , Troy Arnott (18), Garry Fowler (18) , Mick Slocombe (17), Jack Bateman (16), Paul Thomas (16), Craig Burns (15), Phil Watson (15), Matt Woods(15), John Walker (14), Paul Basile (13), Gary Ormesher (13), Roger Arnott(12), Phil Reeves (12), Marc Corn (10), Stephen Currie (10), Tim Ryan (10), Chris Veale (10).



'Never-say-die'...Two of Dromana's popular and intrepid ruckmen during 1993. On the left: Noel Ormesher; and on the right, Jack Bateman. Both were tireless in their efforts to lift Dromana; and they never hesitated to take on 'all-comers' with resolve and spirit.



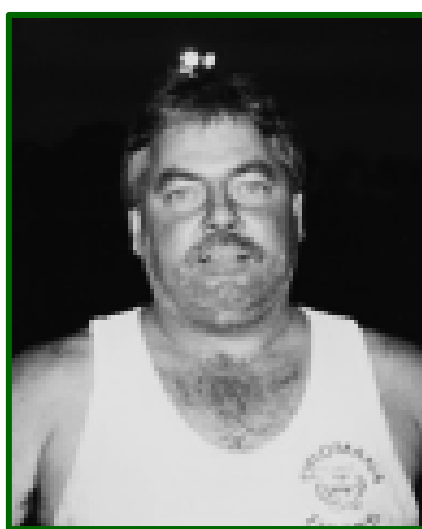
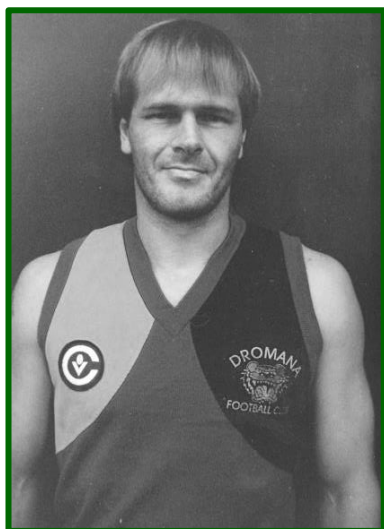
On the left : Two loyal team-mates, Aldo Corvi and Noel Corley, who battled hard each and every game during the tough 1993 season . On the right is Bryan Williams who was a talented and hard running backman. Bryan was admired for his sense of fair play and courage in contests. Bryan loved the game of football and, above all, playing for Dromana.

Terry Bateman (9), Steven Kerr(9), Darrell Fowler (8), Mark Warren (8) Trevor Rendall (7), Glen Clarke (7), Guy Kellett (6), Greg Bateman (5), Marty Fowler (5), Simon Morrice (4), Noel Ormesher (4), Bryan Williams (4) Brett Dunn(3), Trevor Law(3), Stan Michalas (3), Geoff Bligh(3).

Jim Sakellaridis (2), Andrew Scott(2), Neil Watson (2), Tim Lanyon (2), Jon Lanyon (2), Damian Park (2), Bob Bird (2), Grant Turnbull (2), Dale Murphy (1), Craig Compton (1), Aldo Corvi (1), Grant Hitchener (1) and Tim Whittorn (1).

Other players listed with the club at Round: 1 1993 included:

Michael Scanlon, Noel Corley, Glenn McColl, Peter Buckley, Shane Matlock, Mark Rendall, Justin Fitzgerald, David Keane, Mick Broadhurst, Shane Bracegirdle, Scott McKenzie, Ron Gillies, Dean Harris, George Fasoulis, Mick Carter, Mick Dyson, John Whitwam, Stewart Andrews, Bill Saker, Dick Cornish, Wayne Kitchen and Steve Tobin.**



Left: John Walker played 14 Senior XVIII games with DFNC in 1993; and went on to play 86 games with the club. John was a reliable defender and was renowned for his team spirit. Right: Former classy rover Marty Fowler who received DFNC Life Membership in 2003.

A MASSIVE BLOW IN 1993 -STEVE TOBIN DEPARTS DFC.

In what could only be described as a huge setback for the club, Steve Tobin, an emerging young star at DFC was cleared to Sorrento at the 'eleventh hour' of the opening round of the 1993 season.



Steve was an irreplaceable loss for Dromana as he had won the club goal kicking award in 1991(63 goals) and 1992 (73 goals); and numerous local enthusiasts firmly believed that Steve would have found success at AFL level. He was a powerful and accurate kick (from any angle) and possessed 'hands of steel' in a contested marking duel.

As a youngster, Steve was one of the brightest stars on the horizon but, for reasons not openly explained, he opted to 'pack his bags and move on.' His clearance to Sorrento FC flabbergasted Dromana's officials and supporters and left a gaping hole in Dromana's attack.

Steve Tobin would once again prove his prowess by kicking a 'ton' (i.e. one hundred goals) for the lowly placed Sorrento team in 1993.

THE 1993 SEASON SUMMARY

The 1993 season kicked off on April 3rd; and Dromana was drawn to travel to Frankston to take on the Bombers at Bruce Park (as the club's home ground at Baxter Park was being upgraded).

Prior to the opening round, Paul Thomas had stated that Dromana's objective, in 1993, was to play finals football. Plans were laid, and the selected team looked balanced across all lines and, naturally, the supporters were optimistic about the new season.

However, things fell flat when Frankston eclipsed Dromana by 44 points. It was a sizeable margin but the 'Hoppers were competitive in at stages in the game. Frankston 19.21 (135) defeated Dromana 14.7 (91). Phil Watson, Garry Fowler and Paul Thomas each booted three goals; and the team was best served by Mick Slocombe on the half back flank, Craig Burns , Dave Jordan and a 'new comer' Roger Arnott from Mornington.

The old saying: *'Hope springs eternal'* came to the fore as the Grasshoppers looked to victory against Karingal. However, in an upset result, the 'Bulls prevailed with a surprising 14 point win over Dromana.

The Round: 3 clash against Rosebud was an unqualified reality check as the 'Buds took the 'Hoppers to 'the cleaners' to the tune of 144 points. Peter Fenby (who would later cross to Dromana) was dazzling and mesmerized the defence with his pack marking and aggressive forward play. Peter kicked eight goals and led the Dromana defenders a 'merry dance.' It was a thumping loss and disheartening day for the DFC supporters as they watched the 'Buds the dismantle their team. Within 100 minutes of football, the vision of playing finals in 1993 became blurred; and after three rounds, Dromana sat on the bottom of the Division: 2 Ladder.

A WIN AGAINST SORRENTO

Dromana broke the ice in Round: 4 with a 16 point win against Sorrento at Pier Street. With Steve Tobin firing for Sorrento, Dromana didn't have things all its own way. However, a dazzling nine goal third term that secured a badly needed victory for the Grasshoppers.



Craig Burns was the club's leading goal kicker in 1993

Young Marc Corn demonstrated his aerial and kicking skills with a six goal haul at full forward; and Paul Thomas who led by example chipped in with four majors. Other consistent players that day were listed as: Craig Burns, Roger Arnott, Dave Jordan, Jack Bateman and Troy Arnott.

Although Dromana triumphed, it must have peeved Dromana fans that Steve Tobin kicked seven goals for Sorrento and took his season tally to 28 goals after four rounds of football.

THE 'WHEELS FALL OFF'-NINE CONSECUTIVE LOSSES

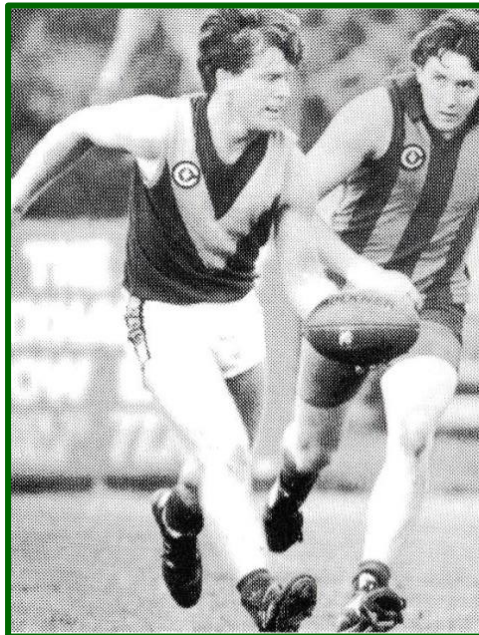
The next nine rounds of football were nothing short of a nightmare and the club experienced a demoralizing 'horror stretch.' Paul Thomas and his team found little joy in any of the results as the 'Hoppers received several one-sided and deflating drubbings as shown below in the scores from Rounds 5-13.

- Round: 5 Carrum 30.9 (189) defeated Dromana 6.5 (35)

- Round :6 Pearcedale 21.15 (141) defeated Dromana 12.8 (80)
- Round:7 Somerville 23.15 (153) defeated Dromana 7.11 (53)



Somerville's brilliant spearhead Peter Stapleton and Dromana's defender Trevor Rendell in contest in Round: 7 in 1993. Peter had played with Frankston (VFA) in 1991.

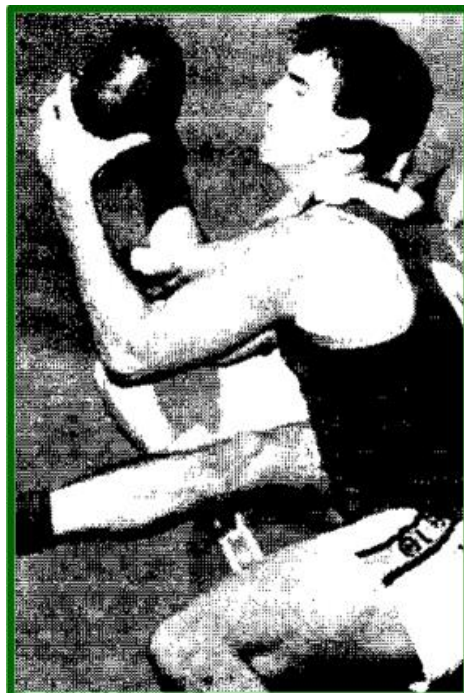


Above: Dromana's Troy Arnott in action at Somerville in 1993. On that day, Troy was named among the better players .Somerville won by 16 goals that day.

- Round:8 Langwarrin 19.16 (130) defeated Dromana 4.9 (33)
- Round:9 Crib Point 25.18 (168) defeated Dromana 7.2 (44)
- Round: 10 Bonbeach 11.22 (88) defeated Dromana 7.9 (51)
- Round:11 Tyabb 17.8 (110) defeated Dromana 9.12 (66)
- Round:12 Frankston 23.12 (150) defeated Dromana 12.10 (82)
- Round:13 Karingal 24.12 (156) defeated Dromana 6.10 (46)
- Round: 14 Rosebud 20.12 (132) defeated Dromana 7.2 (44)

It is impossible to 'sugar-coat' such a 'flat line' performance; and after 14 rounds, Dromana sat on the 11th rung of the ladder with just one win and a lowly percentage of 45.27 % Only Sorrento had fared worse to that stage of the season; and had not won a game (despite the fact that Steve Tobin had kicked 84 goals for his 'new' club). Paul Thomas was being tested as his team struggled to score against good backlines. As can be seen from above in ten rounds, DFC failed to kick eight goals in a game (i.e. two per quarter) on seven occasions.

Those readers who have played football know how testing things can be when a team sits at the 'bottom of the pile' as the fight for survival is exhausting. As is so often the case with under-performing teams, Dromana's plight was exacerbated by a long list of injuries, small numbers on the training track, poor gate receipts and, consequently, meagre financial income to support the club during the season.



Phil Watson-A power forward in MPNFL football. This photo was taken during the match against Karingal in 1993 and appeared on the front cover of the 'MPNFL Record.' Phil was regarded, by many observers, as the best centre half forward in local football in that era.

ROUND: 15: VICTORY AT LAST

As Winston Churchill once said: *"The definition of courage is going from defeat to defeat with enthusiasm."* Winston and Dromana had something in common; because both appreciated that the key to survival is to never *'throw in the towel.'*

The Round: 15 clash against Sorrento was branded by the media as the 'Battle for the Wooden Spoon'; and only one of the five tipsters gave Dromana any chance of victory. However, the naysayers were proven wrong as Dromana bounced out of the blocks and piled on seven goals before Sorrento had shifted into gear. Sorrento clawed its way back into the contest and led by one point at half time.

Dromana kicked five majors in the third term and the margin was 25 points at 'orange time'; and despite Steve Tobin's six goals it wasn't enough to get Sorrento 'over the line.' Paul Thomas (6 goals) and Craig Burns and Paul Basile booted three apiece and helped Dromana triumph by 35 points. It was a substantial win in the context of a tough season; and the smiles on the faces of the loyal band of Dromana supporters told the story.

The scores that day were:

Dromana: 7.2 9.3 14.6 18.7 (115)

Sorrento: 2.1 9.4 10.5 12.8 (80)

Goal kickers for Dromana: Paul Thomas 6 Paul Basile 3 Craig Burns 3 Marc Corn 2 Steve Kerr 2 Dave Jordan 1 Jack Bateman 1 and Matt Woods 1

Best players for Dromana: Paul Thomas Troy Arnott Jack Bateman Dave Jordan Craig Burns and Phil Watson.

By avoiding the humiliation of winning the wooden spoon, Dromana breathed a collective sigh of relief but both Sorrento and Dromana finished at the bottom of the ladder in what can best be described as a ‘forgettable season.’

Seniors	W	D	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
LANGWARRIN	15	0	2	1917	1267	151.30	60
CARRUM	13	0	4	2053	1324	155.06	52
BONBEACH	13	0	4	1946	1395	139.49	52
CRIB POINT	13	0	4	1911	1480	129.12	52
ROSEBUD	10	0	7	1830	1511	121.11	40
PEARCEDALE	9	0	8	1817	1528	118.91	36
SOMERVILLE	9	0	8	1807	1522	118.72	36
KARINGAL	7	0	10	1569	1678	93.50	28
FRANKSTON	7	0	10	1569	1875	83.68	28
TYABB	3	0	14	1304	2111	61.77	12
DROMANA	2	0	15	1155	2313	49.93	8
SORRENTO	1	0	16	1273	2147	59.29	4

The Division: 2 Ladder after 17 Rounds of football in 1993. Dromana had defeated Sorrento twice that season. The percentage of 49.93% tells a tale of woe that season

THE RESERVES – A SPIRITED EFFORT AGAINST THE ODDS

Under the leadership of Grant Hitchiner, the Reserves were competitive and finished the season in 8th place on the ladder with nine wins and a percentage of approx. 77%. The team exhibited spirit and endeavoured to meet the challenges (e.g. run hard both ways, communicate, encourage each other etc.) that Grant presented to the team each week.



Grant Hitchiner won the Howard Armstrong Medal in 1993.

Mitch Cullen (27 goals) and Marty Fowler were loyal team leaders and Bryan Williams rarely put a ‘foot wrong’ in the back pocket. Bryan was greatly admired by his team mates for the fair manner in which he played and his cheerful and positive attitude in all situations.

Other consistent performers throughout 1993 in the Reserves XVIII included: Travis Knight, Brett Dunn, Gil Matlock, Tony Woods, Chris Veale, Tim Ryan and John Whitwam and Aldo Corvi.

It should be noted that Noel Ormesher, a steadfast ruckman in reserves football in that era, went on to win three club Best & Fairest awards (1995, 2002 and 2003) and also received the Howard Armstrong Medal for the best player in the Reserves XVIII competition in 2002. Noel had a heart as 'big as Texas' and would often ruck unchanged throughout the entirety of a match.

Without a Third XVIII team, the bleeding of new players, via Reserves grade football, it was a difficult balancing act'; and Grant Hitchiner deserved kudos for the encouragement he gave to a crop of young and inexperienced players such as: Simon Morrice, Dale Murphy, Damien Park, Tim Lanyon ,Troy Hicks and Glen Clarke.

FOOTNOTES ON THE 1993 SEASON

- The President of the DFC in 1993 was Les Rowler (shown below) and the Secretary / Treasurer was Pam White. Both gave generously of their time and energy in undertaking their administrative duties.



- Les Rowler and Pam White were recipients of DFNC Life Memberships for their service; and tributes to them can be found elsewhere on this website.
- It is hard to summarize 1993 in one sentence; and it is probably a fair assessment that, like the curate's egg, there were some 'good parts and some bad parts' that season.
- From the available evidence, of the twelve teams in Division: 2, Dromana had the poorest performing defence and the least effective attack.
- Garry Fowler (shown below) was the most experienced player in the club that season; and he had 'chalked up' in excess of 120 Senior XVIII games by the end of 1993



- Dromana did not have one player in the top 35 players of the 'MPNFL Player of the Year' award which indicated the manner in which opposition players dominated proceedings
- Dromana did not have one player in the top 10 goal kickers. Whereas Steve Tobin, from the bottom team that season (i.e. Sorrento), kicked 100 goals.
- In the club championship, Dromana had a tally of just 22 team points (i.e. at Round: 17).
- It seems that not one DFC player was invited to train with the MPNFL interleague squad in 1993. Although DFC languished at the bottom of the ladder, nevertheless it seemed to be a harsh judgement, by MPNFL selectors because Roger Arnott, Paul Thomas, Dave Jordan and Phil Watson were four players who ranked with the very best in the league in 1993.
- Phil Watson and Dave Jordan reached 50 game milestones in 1993.
- The following players made their MPNFL senior debut with Dromana in 1993: Mark Warren, Trevor Law, Tim Lanyon, Guy Kellett, Brett Dunn, Damien Park, Glen Clarke, Greg and Terry Bateman, Troy and Roger Arnott, Paul Thomas, Andrew Scott, Paul Basile and Tim Ryan.
- At least six sets of brothers represented Dromana in 1993 (i.e. Arnott, Bateman, Ormesher, Lanyon, Fowler and Rendall brothers).
- Grant Hitchener won the Reserves XVIII competition Best and Fairest award in 1993.



Above: Guy Kellett played his first game with DFC in 1993. He would later coach the club.

- Roger Arnott won the Senior Best & Fairest award.
- Craig Burns won the Senior XVIII goal kicking award with 30 goals.
- Mitch Cullen took out the Reserves award with 27 goals (approx.).
- The Final Four in Division: 2 in 1993 comprised: Langwarrin, Carrum, Bonbeach and Crib Point.
- In an absolute thriller at Frankston Park, Langwarrin (14.13. 97) defeated Carrum (15.6.96) to claim the Division: 2 premierships.
- YCW won the flag in Division: 1
- Dave Cross, from Carrum FC, won the Division: 2 Best & Fairest award with 23 votes.
- Craig Neal also from Carrum amassed 120 goals to top the table in goal kicking for that season.



VALE JEFF HILTON 1972-2023

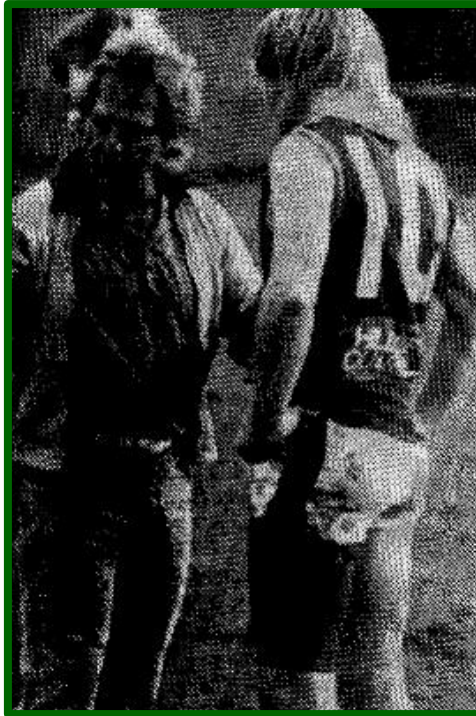


A 'local boy wonder' and a mercurial footballer at all levels of the national game.

A SAD MONTH AT PIER STREET

As Graham Stelling posted on the Team App, August has been a grim month at DFNC with the news of the passing of Geoff Bollard (ex-DFNC player and Reserve XVIII Coach in 1980), Gordon Hilton (former match day official and active member) and, then on Wednesday 11th August, the sudden death of former Dromana player and popular local identity Jeff Hilton (i.e. Gordon's youngest son).

At the recent match day against Pines (12/8), former teammates of Jeff Hilton were deeply saddened, some in distinct shock, with the news that he had passed away at the 'young age' of 51.



One of the earliest photographs of Jeff Hilton at DFNC. Jeff, the talented teenager, is shown talking with the-then Senior XVIII Coach, Barry Evans in 1988.

Jeff was an innate sportsman ; and all those who saw him play football in those early years will never forget his masterly skill , his poise/balance, uncanny reading of the play and, of course, his raw courage in contests. Jeff was a stylish footballer who relished tough situations and the heat of battle.'

A TRIBUTE TO JEFF HILTON

Jeff Hilton's football career took him on a circuitous journey from Dromana to St Kilda/Melbourne in the AFL from 1991-96; and then onto Peel Thunder (WAFL) for a season. Jeff also played at Rye and Beaconsfield and it is well known he then returned for another stint at Pier Street.

Several clubs at which Jeff played have posted homages to his time with them; and each accolade underlines how much he was appreciated as a club member and valued as a player.



The talented teenager - Jeff Hilton as many will remember him at Dromana in 1988.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFF HILTON

The following tribute was written for the DNC History Page in 2018; and has been reprinted below for our younger and 'newer' members to enjoy and gain an appreciation of Jeff's exceptional sporting ability.

"In the win at Bonbeach in 1988, teenager Jeff Hilton kicked three goals and gave an early indication of his ability at senior level. Jeff's brother, Greg, was a well-known personality in Mornington Peninsula cricket and football circles, and had played and coached at DFNC.

Like Glenn Kendall Jeff Hilton starred in school football; and most people, who saw the young blonde haired student, dominating lunch time matches at Dromana State School knew that he was destined for greater things. Jeff was a natural athlete with extraordinary hand-eye coordination and physical strength. Most observers would agree that Jeff was virtually peerless at all levels of junior football (i.e. MPJFL).

Jeff made his senior debut for DFNC in 1988 and played a total of 34 games (in two stints) at Dromana. It was not surprising that AFL clubs were attracted by his distinctive style and flair; and he was recruited to St Kilda in 1991. Jeff made his debut for the Saints in Round:11 in 1991 against Hawthorn. He was just 19 years of age and impressed all onlookers with 18 possessions (14 kicks and 4 handballs), three strong tackles and one goal.

It was indeed a striking debut in a team that boasted such household names as Nicky Winmar, Tony Lockett, Nathan Burke and Danny Frawley. St Kilda downed the Hawks by 26 points on that occasion.

Jeff Hilton's name is to be found amid three former giants of the St Kilda Football Club- Robert Harvey, Tony Lockett and Stewart Loewe. Source: 'AFL Record'- 1992.

After an imposing start to his league, Jeff's two seasons at St Kilda realized only six senior matches; and in at the end of 1992 he was crossed Melbourne via the National Draft at pick 99. Neil Balme, who was the coach at Melbourne in that period, 'liked what he saw' in the golden-haired recruit.

In his first game with Demons, Jeff booted three goals and 'gave off' three effective handballs. He looked accomplished and composed on that occasion; and he went on to play 43 games and kick a total of 23 goals with Melbourne FC. Season 1995 seems to have Jeff's best year at AFL level as he played 19 games and polled five votes in the Brownlow Medal. Only Jim Stynes (15 votes), Gary Lyon (9 votes), David Neitz (8 votes) and

Shaun Smith (7 votes) collected more votes for the Demons' that year.

It was a notable achievement in his career and underlined his vast potential in AFL football. However, Jeff's time at Melbourne was perplexing; and in 1996 he played just five games. Jeff's last AFL game was against North Melbourne at the MCG; and it was a most 'forgettable match' for the Melbourne fans as the Kangaroos demolished the Redlegs by 113 points. Sadly, Jeff's AFL career ended on a controversial note...

"Despite showing glimpses of brilliance he could never cement a permanent place in the Melbourne line-up and left at the end of 1996. Hilton later claimed that he had sought a release from the last year of his contract to join Footscray during the trade period, and that a swap had been arranged for Bulldog Darryl Griffin before Footscray's board overruled their football department and vetoed the trade. Hilton was then delisted by the Demons." Source: 'Demonwiki'

Jeff Hilton was 24 years and 60 days when he departed company with Melbourne. In all, he had played 49 senior AFL games (6 games with St Kilda and 43 with Melbourne) and booted a total of 29 goals.

A statistic that has been ignored regarding Jeff's league career was that he averaged 5.08 handballs per game (with a game high of eleven at Geelong in Round:1 1995).

It should be remembered that it was during a period when handball was used less as an 'attacking weapon' than in today's football. As a comparison at Melbourne in that era : Alistair Clarkson averaged 5.15handballs across his entire AFL career, Jim Stynes (6.60), Jeff Farmer (3.57),David Neitz (2.73), Steven Tingay (5.85) and Todd Viney (8.36).

Jeff's statistics in that aspect of AFL football supports the claim that he was an unselfish and team-orientated footballer.



During his league career, Jeff was reported on three occasions; and his AFL Tribunal record is as shown below...

- *Round 9-1995 v Collingwood –Striking-3 Match Suspension*

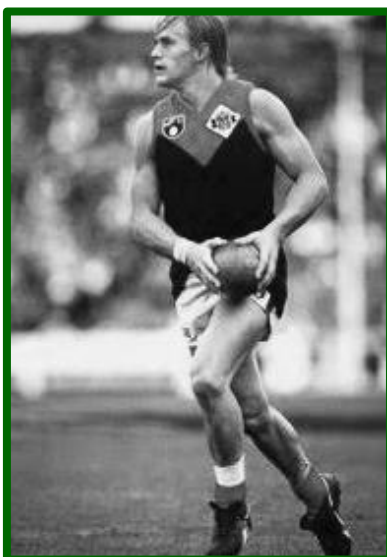
- Round: 3 1996 v St Kilda-Wrestling-\$2000 fine.
- Round: 15 1996 v Richmond-Striking-Not Guilty

Following his departure from Melbourne FC, Jeff crossed the Nullarbor and played football with Peel Thunder in the WAFL. In 1998 Jeff 'returned home' and played 10 games with Dromana; and then he was cleared to Rye FC where, despite debilitating injuries, showed patches of sheer brilliance.

In summary, Jeff Hilton is best remembered for:

- His unbounded potential and utter dominance in junior ranks.
- His unique personality and 'laid back' approach to life and sport.
- His creative team play and high-level ball skills.
- His battle to overcome chronic injuries throughout his AFL career.

Jeff was selected on the half-forward flank in DFNC Team of the Decade (1986-1995)."



Jeff Hilton: 1972-2023

R.I.P

CAN YOU ASSIST WITH DFNC HISTORY-SEASON 1993?

Unfortunately, there appears to be no comprehensive record of award/trophy winners from the 1993 season. Perhaps someone reading this article may be able to help in this regard. If you (or someone you know) was a recipient of a DFC trophy in 1993 please contact Roger or Graham so that details can be entered into our club files.

Player's name:

Name of the 1993 award:

MPNFL Grade (i.e. Senior or Reserves):

Any other details related to the award:

Thank you for your assistance in regard to this matter.



THANK YOU TO PAUL BAILEY.

Sincere appreciation to former DFNC player, Paul Bailey, for his recent donation of photographs which were taken at the 1987 DFC Presentation Night. The photographs will be posted in 2024. Paul is still a very keen supporter of the club and rarely misses watching the team(s) in action. Thank you Paul for the photos.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: MPNFL records-DFNC files-DFNC History Page- personal notes and records.-Jade Arnold (Kellett)-AFL websites (St Kilda/ Melbourne)-Peel Thunder (WAFL).

Article reference: 'Looking Back to 1993 & Tribute to Jeff Hilton'. Reference: 2023/21.

Researched and written for DFNC by: Roger Spaul- August 2023

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