

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## DROMANA DEFEAT SOMERVILLE

### 1968

Reference: 2023/4



## 1968 DROMANA DEFEAT SOMERVILLE

The game against Somerville in Round: 18 in 1968 was one of the club's biggest wins for that season; and an indication of the team's balance and strength across all lines. In 1968, the club was coached by former South Melbourne ruckman John Kelton and the star studded line-up included Bob Castles (ex-Camberwell VFA), Brian Taylor, Brian McCormick, Steve Jolley (signed with Hawthorn in 1970) and Ray Fyson. Col Matthews was the vice-captain and Ron Choate (ex-Northcote-VFA) coached the Reserves XVIII that year.

The selected team against Somerville was...

<b>BACKS</b>	<b>IAN MATTHEWS</b>	<b>BRIAN TAYLOR</b>	<b>OWEN GRIFFITHS</b>
<b>HB</b>	<b>ROB WORK</b>	<b>BILL BRINDLEY</b>	<b>RAY BRINDLEY</b>
<b>CENTRE</b>	<b>PETER DEMPSEY</b>	<b>BRIAN MCCORMICK</b>	<b>NORM HAZELDINE</b>
<b>HF</b>	<b>ANDREW EMERSON</b>	<b>COLIN MATTHEWS</b>	<b>PAUL GREER</b>
<b>FORWARDS</b>	<b>GERRY TAGLIABUE</b>	<b>STEVE JOLLEY</b>	<b>BRIAN GRIFFITH</b>
<b>RUCKS</b>	<b>JOHN KELTON</b>	<b>BOB CASTLES</b>	<b>RAY FYSON</b>
<b>19<sup>TH</sup> &amp; 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>MERV KENNEDY</b>	<b>GLEN OSBORNE</b>	

In brief, the match was a one-sided affair as Dromana took firm control in the first quarter; and gave the Eagles little time or space to settle and find avenues to goal. Dromana's defence led by Brian Taylor and Bill Brindley was strong and uncompromising; and, as the score line indicated, kept the Eagles to just seven goals across four quarters.

A tall and talented teenager, Steve Jolley, dominated proceedings up forward and Brian McCormick provided constant drive from the centre. Gerry Tagliabue (see below) and Colin Matthews were busy and combined to register six goals and help DFC record a resounding victory 'to the tune' of 92 points.

Ray Fyson, who had claimed the club's Best & Fairest trophy in 1967, roved well and booted two goals. Ray was the 'number one' rover at Pier Street until 1981; and during his career would accrue 208 games in Senior XVIII Grade Football. Another player to shine in that victory was Peter Dempsey (see below). Peter went on to play a total of 67 games with DFNC.

Peter was named in the DFNC 'Team of the Decade' (1966-75). Glen Osborne (i.e. the son of former coach Norm Osborne) chipped in for a goal; and a well-known local identity, Andrew Emerson, who played 79 Senior XVIII games for the club from 1964 to 1971, booted two majors.

In summary, Dromana had hit top form at the 'business end of the season'; and had every reason to feel confident as the club prepared for the looming finals series. However, as the history books show, sometimes teams need a little more than talent to win a flag; and in 1968 it seems that bad luck plagued Dromana in the form of the timekeeper's clock (see the story below).

**Final scores: Dromana 20.20 (140) defeated Somerville 7.6 (48).**

**Goal kickers:** Jolley 4 Tagliabue 3 Matthews 3 McCormick 3 Emerson 2 Fyson 2 Osborne and Griffith.

**Best players:** McCormick Fyson Jolley and Dempsey.

## THE LOWEST POINT OF THE 1968 SEASON

1968 was a year that promised much but ended in bitter controversy in the First Semi Final against Rye. In a thrilling game, Rye kicked a goal in the dying seconds of the last term to claim a highly controversial victory. The final scores that day were: Rye: 14.20 (104) defeated Dromana: 14.17 (101).

Serious questions, regarding the protracted duration of the final quarter, were raised; and the upshot being that Dromana lodged an official protest. However, following a tense and drawn-out hearing, Nepean Football League Chairman, Syd Richards, dismissed the appeal; and Rye FC was awarded the win and a place in the preliminary final.

Dromana had nowhere else to turn and copped the decision 'on the chin.' The outcome of the appeal landed like a bombshell in the town; and it was a contentious end to the season; and took the gloss off a year of significant progress for DFC.

Under the inspiring leadership of Brian Rosenbrock, Crib Point won its third consecutive premiership; and Pearcedale's brilliant centre man, Boris Ogniew, won the 1968 Nepean FL Best & Fairest with 18 votes.

## FOOTNOTES NOTES REGARDING JOHN KELTON

1. John Kelton (born: 1937) coached Dromana for three seasons between 1967 and 1969. He started his football at Hampton and first came under notice as a player of some potential when he played with the South Melbourne Under: 19 team...

*"...and John Kelton, 6ft. 3in. 13st. and 17-year-old follower from Hampton Scouts, South considers it has secured two of the 'recruits of the year.' Source: 'The Argus' 13th July 1955.*

2. John played his first VFL game for South Melbourne in 1957 against Geelong at Kardinia Park. His team mates included the following Swans: Ron Clegg, Bob Skilton, Don Keyter, Kevin Hogan (Liam's Father-see below), Max Oaten, Brian McGowan and Hugh McLaughlin. South Melbourne won a 'nail-biter' by two points that day.



**John Kelton Dromana's popular Senior Coach in 1968 is shown on the left and Kevin Hogan is on the right. Kevin's son, Liam, played 43 games for Dromana; and was selected in the MPNFL Team of the Year in 2011. Liam played in the club's premiership victory in 2013.**

3. John Kelton also played in the VFL 1957 Night Series. He was 19th man for the Swans against Carlton at the Lake Oval. John usually played in the ruck and he went onto play 21 games for South Melbourne and kicked 4 goals. His last VFL game was against Melbourne in Round: 14 in 1960.
4. John was 23 years of age when he retired from VFL football. Following his time with the Swans , he played 27 games with Sandringham FC in the VFA (1961-62) and then crossed to Parkdale in the Federal FL.
5. From all accounts, John Kelton was a popular coach at Dromana; and he led the club to a Grand Final against Rye in 1967. As has been documented, Rye won by 17 points that day. Dromana also played in the finals series in 1968 ( see the comments above)
6. In 1970, Greg James (ex-Ormond VAFA) was appointed to the position of coach but John stayed on at DFC as a player and then assumed the role of club secretary before relocating to Darwin.

## **FOOTNOTES REGARDING BRIAN GRIFFITH**

1. Brian Griffith kicked one goal that day. He played 193 games with Dromana; and he and his family were loyal and steadfast volunteers and supporters of the club for decades.
2. It is stated elsewhere that Brian played his first senior game at the age of 13 and amassed in excess of 250 senior and reserve games.
3. His awards included Most Consistent, Most Improved Player and Most Unselfish plus he was the Runner-Up in the DFC Best & Fairest in 1960.
4. Brian was selected in the 'Team of the Decade' (1946-1955); and as skipper of the 'Team of the Decade' (1956-1965). He was also named as a member of 'The Team of the Era' (1946-2015).
5. Brian coached the Senior XVIII in 1962 and the Reserves in 1970; and after retiring from playing he served on the DFNC committee which again exemplified his loyalty and unselfish spirit.

6. Brian played a significant role in the club's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations (in 2016); and his knowledge of the local community and families was valuable in the documenting the history of earlier years.
7. Brian's Father (Rupert) played 185 games with DFNC and his Uncle Bert 'clocked up' 115 games with the club.



Brian Griffith is a club stalwart and a glowing example of the importance of families in community football. Many younger members may be unaware of the Griffith family's involvement in the club. Brian and his Father played a total of 378 games for DFC.

### GERRY TAGLIABUE: EX-SOUTH MELBOURNE



The players secured are John Wynn (Nyah West), well-proportioned 6ft. 1in. centre half-back; Gerald Tagliabue, 6ft. centre forward from Swan Hill; and Kevin Anlezark, 6ft. 3in. ruckman from Kerang. The latter is only 19, but already has built up a fine reputation in the country.

This is thought to be a photograph of Gerald Tagliabue training at South Melbourne in 1954. Sources: 'Sporting Globe' March 17<sup>th</sup> 1954 Page: 3 and 'Record' October 31<sup>st</sup> 1953.

As can be seen in the results above, Gerry Tagliabue kicked three goals against Somerville that day in 1968. It is believed that Gerry is most likely Gerald Tagliabue (ex-Swan Hill FC) who had played with South Melbourne from 1956 until 1959.

Gerald's time at South Melbourne coincided with John Kelton's career; and VFL archives show that when John made his debut with the Swans (against Geelong at Kardinia Park in Round: 10, 1957) Gerald was playing his ninth Senior VFL game.

Gerald went on to play 32 games and kick six goals for South Melbourne. He was just 23 years of age when he played his last game for the Swans against Melbourne at the Lake Oval in Round: 18 in 1959. A certain 'Gary Tagliabue' played with the Wagga Tigers and Whitton in the 1980's.



## CAN YOU HELP REGARDING PHOTOGRAPH FROM 1954 ?



This above photograph was found in the 'Weekly Times' and has been posted on the DFNC website in the hope that all the players can be identified. It is known that Ken Brown, who was coach in 1954, is in the front row. Bob Moorehead is also in the front and perhaps Colin McLear and Norm Osborne are also in the image but it is hard to be certain due to the 'time worn' print. Any readers who can help in naming any players and officials are kindly asked to contact Roger or Graham. Thank you.

## A QUESTION REGARDING PETER DEMPSEY ?



**Any connection? Jack Dempsey ( South Melbourne ) and Peter Dempsey( Dromana).**

Can any reader confirm that Peter Dempsey (as mentioned above) is a relation of Jack Dempsey ( 1919-2006) who played 45 Senior XVIII games with South Melbourne ( 1941-47)? Jack was one of South Melbourne's best players in the ill-famed 'Bloodbath' Grand Final against Carlton in 1945.

Jack was recruited from an 'unstated' country club ( perhaps Drouin FC ); and it is known that he played with the famous Tom Roulent at South Melbourne in 1946. Tom Roulent is the brother of former DFC player Vin Roulent. Jack Dempsey served in World War:2 and later played with VFA clubs Coburg and Preston (1947-48).

## **CAN YOU HELP BUILD DFNC HISTORY?**

As has been stated previously, the club would appreciate photographs of former players and teams of the 1960's. At this time, we are trying to unearth photographs of the following DFC players: Peter Dempsey, Paul Greer, Ray Brindley and Norm Hazeldine. Any assistance would be appreciated. Thank you, Roger ( March 2023).



## **REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION**

Sources: National Library of Australia -Gary Ferguson-'The Weekly Times'- DFNC records-personal files-AFL websites-South Melbourne FC history.

Article reference: 'From the Archives' Ref: 2023/4 v Somerville 1968.

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

DFNC website administrator: Graham Stelling.

Email contacts: [historian@dromanatigers.com.au](mailto:historian@dromanatigers.com.au) or [website@dromanatigers.com.au](mailto:website@dromanatigers.com.au)