



# THE YORKER

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**MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB**  
ESTABLISHED 1839

SEASON	PRESIDENTS	HON SECRETARIES	SEASON	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES
1839-41	NO RECORD	NO RECORD	1883-88	WEDDING WHEEL	HUGH TRUMBULL
1841-43	F.A. POWLETT	G. CROFTON	1888-91	FRANKLY WALKER	V.E. SANDFORD
1844-46	J. STEPHEN	N. WHITE	1891-93	DR W. BULLARD	---
1846-47	G. CAVERASH	JOHN COLLIER	1893-95	C.W. SANDOZ	W.A. JOHNSON
1847-48	---	W. HARRISON	1895-96	A.B. CHADWICK	---
1848-49	---	F.B. SANDOZ	1896-97	W. BULL	---
1849-50	---	HOPKINS TURNBULL	1897-98	W.H. HULL	---
1850-52	WILLIAM WEAVER	---	1898-99	---	---
1852-53	F.A. POWLETT	---	1899-00	DR DONALD CORRIE	---
1853-54	G. CAVERASH	---	1900-01	J.J. MITCHELL	---
1854-55	T.F. HAMILTON	---	1901-02	A.B. CHURCH	---
1855-56	G. CAVERASH	---	2000-05	---	STEPHEN GOUGH
1856-57	---	MELKOTH HALL	2005-06	---	---
1857-58	---	W. BUCKLE	2006-07	---	---
1858-59	---	A. BICK	2007-08	---	---
1859-60	---	J.K. BRIDGES	2008-09	---	---
1860-61	---	F.K. MILLS	2009-10	---	---
1861-62	---	T.F. WRAIT	2010-11	---	---
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**In This Issue**  
 The Mundy Family and the MCC  
 MCC Office Bearers' Honour Roll  
 Bluey Truscott, He Shall Grow Not Old – Part 2  
 Cricket's Contribution to Australia's Sporting Colours  
 Twenty Pennants Part 2, 1929/30 and 1932/33



# THE YORKER



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*The Yorker* uses the Style Guide for MCC Library Publications. A copy of this can be viewed and downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/mccyorker>. We always welcome submissions of articles and reviews for *The Yorker*, but please adhere to the new style.

Submissions can be made to The Editor, *The Yorker*, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to [library@mcc.org.au](mailto:library@mcc.org.au)

## COVER IMAGERY

Central image is of the Melbourne Cricket Club honour board, Founders' Gallery, Level 2 Members' Pavilion, MCG. (outside the MCC Committee Room).

The MCC officials surrounding it are (left to right, top to bottom): F.A. Powlett (president 1841-43 and 1850), W.J. Meek (president 1849-50), D.S. Campbell (president 1855-59), T. F. Hamilton (president 1859-68), D.C. McArthur (president 1868-77), Hon. J.G. Francis (president 1877-80), Sir W.J. Clarke (president 1880-86), F.G. Smith (president 1886-1900), Sir L.F.B. Cussen (president 1907-33), H. Trumble (secretary 1911-38), Sir E.F. Mitchell (president 1933-41), Sir A.E. Chadwick (president 1965-79), R. Murchison (president 1900-07), Dr. D.P. Corder (president 1985-92), Dr. R. Mailer (president 1941-43), H.I. Ebeling (president 1979-80), C.W. Simmonds (president 1957-65), Dr. W.C. McClelland (president 1944-57) and Sir B.J. Callinan (president 1980-85).

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## The Yorker Feedback to Issue 50

The response to issue 50 of *The Yorker* was extremely positive and resulted in the unearthing of some very rare documents. Firstly, having published 'The hunt for the first *M.C.C. News*' the Library generously received from Trevor Vincent the donation of two issues from the first run of this most elusive club publication: Vol. II, No. 4, 31 January 1920 and No.6, 28 February 1920 (pictured). They will be on display in the *175 Years of MCC Ephemera* exhibition this summer.



Secondly, the first instalment of Alf Batchelder's article on Keith 'Bluey' Truscott elicited some very positive feedback. Among these were the personal recollections of Dr. John Miller, a Melbourne High School Keith Truscott Scholar, who saw Bluey's famous game at the Punt Road Oval as a 12 year-old in May 1942. Bruce Thomas, another *Yorker* subscriber, alerted Alf through the MCC Library of a journal entry from a witness to Bluey's crash in the possession of his brother Ross. Their father Lieutenant Ken Thomas recorded that he saw Bluey only days before the black smoke of his crashed plane spiralled on the horizon. Alf transcribed this 'very significant little document' and it follows the concluding instalment of Alf's article. The MCC Library is grateful for to Bruce, Ross and Alf for its publication in this issue.



# The Mundy family and the Melbourne Cricket Club



Alfred Miller Mundy, a founding member of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

## The Children of Edward Miller Mundy II

Edward Miller Mundy II (1774 - 1834) (est. 1822 - 1834)	Edward Miller Mundy III (1800 - 1849) (est. 1834 - 1849)
m.	Frances Georgiana (1801 - 1817)
Nelly Barton	Henry (1804 - 1822)
	Maria (1805 - 1865)
	Augusta-Marian (1806 - 1827)
	Willoughby Frederic (1807 - 1834)
	Alfred Miller Mundy (1809 - 1877) (est. 1849 - 1877)
	Fitzherbert (c.1813 - 1847)
	Nelly (obt. 1818)
	Georgina-Louisa (obt. 1824)
	Charles Fitzroy (1819 - 1888)
	Meynell Horton (b. c.1829)
	Emma-Selina (unknown)
	Millicent-Emily (1822 - 1834)

On the 1838 'foundation' document of the Melbourne Cricket Club, brothers A.M. Mundy and C.F.M. Mundy are listed as two of the five founding members. The former's life is well documented but some mystery has surrounded the latter, including exactly who he was.<sup>1</sup>

The Mundy family of the 19th century was, like so many of that age, large and complex. The 'M' in both the brothers' names stands for Miller, which commenced as the prefix to Mundy in 1729 with the marriage of Edward Mundy and Hester Miller.

Edward may well have been the High Sheriff of Derbyshire but Hester brought the wealth of the Shipley Estate to this union and, as a consequence of this wealth, her surname.<sup>2</sup>

Shipley Estate, in the County of Derbyshire, was an ancient estate which obtained great wealth after the 16th century from coal mining activities. As a result, Shipley Hall was completed in 1799, a magnificent Georgian manor house. Ironically it was demolished in 1943 after subsidence due to coal mining had caused irreparable damage to the building.<sup>3</sup>

The first son and heir of Edward and Hester died in infancy but the second son, Edward Miller Mundy I, lived a long life from 1750 to 1822. He married three times, his first marriage being to Frances Meynell. They had six children with their first-born son and heir being Edward Miller Mundy II.

Mundy II's sister was Frances who married Lord Charles Fitzroy, whose son Charles Augustus Fitzroy was later to become the Governor of NSW, while his brother, Godfrey Basil Miller Mundy, had a son Godfrey Charles Miller Mundy who arrived in NSW in 1846 and became an aide to the Governor, his cousin by marriage.

Edward Miller Mundy II married his cousin, Nelly Barton, and they had 14 children, three of whom are of interest in the history of the MCC - Alfred Miller Mundy, Fitzherbert Miller Mundy and Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy.

The Derbyshire Council has provided the Mundy family tree and while it is by no means definitive with some incorrect and missing dates, including the incorrect birth dates of Fitzherbert Miller Mundy and Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy, it

does provide a basic summary of the Miller Mundy family and confirms the relationships that further research uncovered.<sup>4</sup>

Alfred Miller Mundy is the oldest of our trio of interest and was born in 1809. He truly was the 'golden' child even though he was the seventh born and the fourth son. There is a great deal of material about him but very briefly he arrived in Hobart in 1833 aboard the *Lyndoch* as a Lieutenant in the Twenty-first Regiment, the Royal North British Fusiliers.<sup>5</sup>

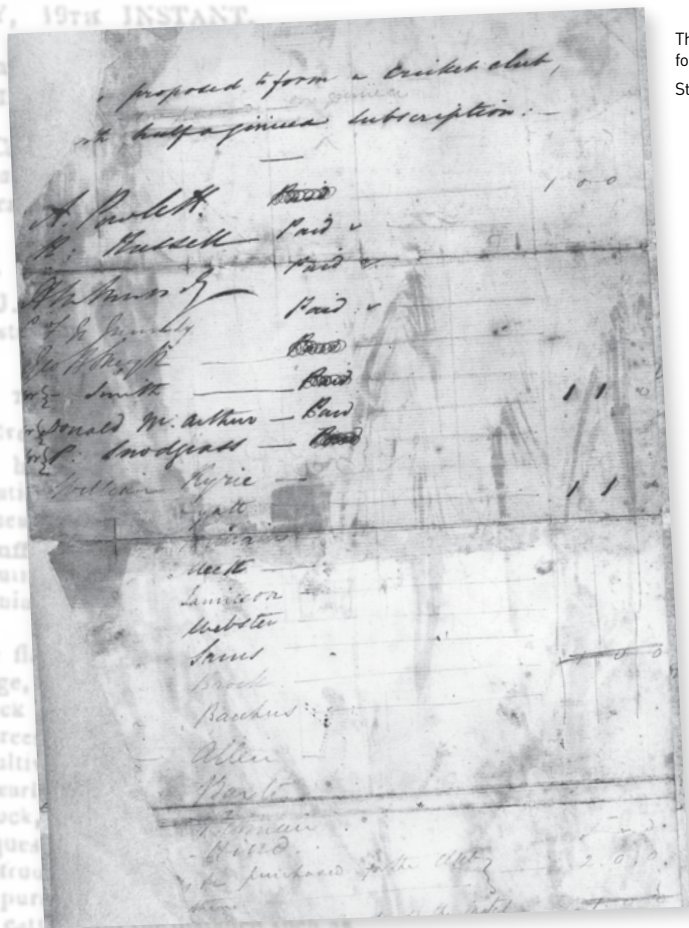
In 1835 he was made a magistrate and a Justice of the Peace.<sup>6</sup> Later he became commanding officer of the Mounted Police. He resigned this position in June 1838<sup>7</sup> and travelled to Melbourne where he was a founding member of the Melbourne Club, as well as the MCC. Within a year he had moved to Adelaide and in 1841 married Jane Hindmarsh, daughter of the former Governor of South Australia,<sup>8</sup> and later became Colonial Secretary of South Australia.<sup>9</sup>

In 1849 he returned to England as his eldest brother, Edward Miller Mundy III, had passed away. Edward had never married and did not have an heir to the Shipley Estate, and as Alfred's two elder brothers, Henry and Willoughby, had also passed away in 1822 and 1834 respectively, this left Alfred as the heir to the estate.

A truly Stephen Bradbury-esque occurrence, life in the upper echelons of South Australian society would have been quite acceptable but a long way behind the coal mine-fuelled riches and grandeur of Shipley Hall.<sup>10</sup>

The other Mundy on the MCC foundation document and our prime focus is C.F.M. Mundy. In some references his initials are given as C.F.N. but on close examination the third initial is nearly identical to the 'M' of Mundy. This was thought to be Charles Fitzherbert Miller Mundy, but as the family tree shows there is no such person.<sup>11</sup>

There is Fitzherbert Miller Mundy and his younger brother Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy. Born in 1813, schooled at Eton and then Oxford,<sup>12</sup> Fitzherbert married Eliza Moody in 1834<sup>13</sup> and arrived in Sydney on the *Warrior* in 1835.<sup>14</sup> His life in Australia was at the opposite end of the spectrum to his older brother Alfred.



The Melbourne Cricket Club's foundation document.  
State Library of Victoria

Fitzherbert bought land at St Vincent in southern NSW<sup>15</sup> and had an interest in horses,<sup>16</sup> riding his own horses<sup>17</sup> and 'Woodman' in races.<sup>18</sup> He had financial problems<sup>19</sup> and sold his property before moving to Victoria.

In Victoria he had land at Pyalong and eventually Red Bluff at Westernport (Corinella/Coronet Bay).<sup>20</sup> He drove cattle to South Australia for his brother Alfred (and fellow MCC founder George Brunswick Smyth)<sup>21</sup> and was a member of the Melbourne Club.

He again rode horses in Melbourne, riding 'Maid of Lorn' in a match race,<sup>22</sup> but still had financial problems, defaulting as a member of the Melbourne Club.<sup>23</sup> After his wife Eliza died in 1846 he drank heavily and died from delirium tremens in 1847.<sup>24</sup> He died intestate and was buried at the 'burial ground', the old cemetery on the Queen Victoria Market site.<sup>25</sup>

As a settler, the Melbourne Club and later the Pastoral Hotel (where he died)<sup>26</sup> were his home when in town and he would have found it difficult to regularly participate in cricket matches. It is unlikely that he was a member of the MCC. In all the references to him he is always referred to only as Fitzherbert Miller Mundy, F.M. Mundy or Fitzherbert Mundy.

If Fitzherbert is not C.F.M. Mundy, that leaves Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy as the prime candidate. The name is an exact fit with the initials on the foundation document but was he in Australia in 1838?

Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy was a career soldier in the Bengal Staff Corps and had attended Shrewsbury School.<sup>27</sup> There were



Melbourne in 1839.



letters waiting for him at the Hobart Post Office in 1839 addressed to Fitzroy Mundy Esq.,<sup>28</sup> indicating that he was expected.

He may have been going to visit Alfred in Hobart, unaware that he had resigned his commission and moved to Melbourne. An Ensign Mundy departed from Calcutta in February 1838 on the *Emerald Isle*<sup>29</sup> and in August of that year sailed for Port Phillip on the *Paul Pry*.<sup>30</sup>

'The New Annual Army List' shows that from 3 March 1835 to 1 July 1840 Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy's rank was indeed that of Ensign. He became a Lieutenant on 1 July 1840, possibly when he had returned to Bengal from Australia.<sup>31</sup>

The Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register in 1838 advised that 'Ensign Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy of the Thirty-fourth Regiment was permitted to proceed to NSW on medical certificate, and be absent from Bengal on that account for two years.'<sup>32</sup>

He was therefore in Melbourne in November 1838, perhaps persuaded by his elder brother Alfred to play cricket and join the MCC.

After Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy returned to India he rose through the ranks, eventually becoming a Lieutenant General, taking part in the Indian Mutiny and being mentioned in despatches. He returned to England in 1871 and died in 1888.<sup>33</sup> He is buried in the family vault of the Mundys.

He was survived by a son, Charles Francis Miller Mundy, and a daughter, Alice Millicent Miller Mundy. While no image of Fitzherbert has been found it is entirely possible, given Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy's longevity and military career, that either a painting or photograph of him does exist. The MCC Library would welcome news of such an image.

From this research it is reasonable to conclude that Charles Fitzroy Miller Mundy is the second Mundy on the foundation document and not his brother and Port Phillip settler Fitzherbert Miller Mundy.

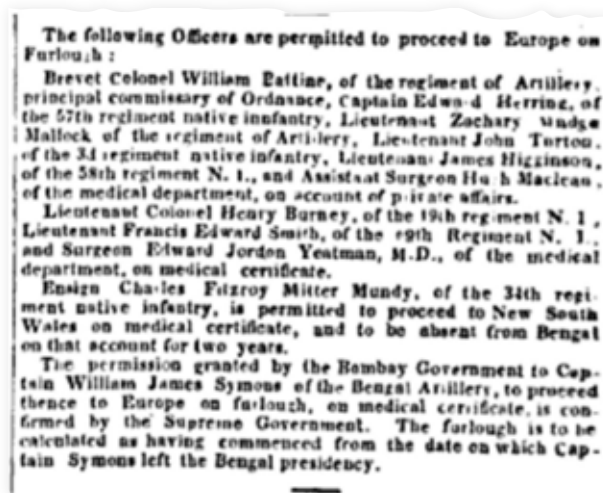
## James Brear

### End Notes

- Melbourne Cricket Club, foundation document. Copies held at the Melbourne Cricket Club and the State Library of Victoria.
- Miller Mundy Family Tree, Shipley Country Park, Derbyshire County Council
- www.heanorhistory.org.uk/shipley
- Miller Mundy Family Tree
- The Australian*, 21 October 1833, p.2
- Launceston Advertiser*, 26 March 1835, p.4
- Launceston Advertiser*, 28 June 1838, p.4
- Southern Australian*, 8 June 1841, p.2
- Southern Australian Register*, 19 October 1844, p.2
- South Australian*, 21 June 1850, p.3
- Miller Mundy Family Tree
- Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886*, Parker and Co., Oxford, 1888-1892.
- England and Wales Marriages, 1538-1940 (ancestry.com.au)
- The Sydney Herald*, 2 March 1835, p.2
- The Colonist*, 28 May 1835, p.7
- The Sydney Herald*, 5 October 1835, p.3
- The Sydney Monitor*, 26 May 1837, p.?
- The Sydney Monitor*, 23 September 1835, p.3
- The Sydney Herald*, 25 January 1838, p.1
- Port Phillip Herald*, 11 March 1847, p.5
- South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register*, 9 March 1839, p.7



Advertisement for the sale of Fitzherbert Miller Mundy's estate in the *Port Phillip Herald*, 11 March 1847.



C.F.M. Mundy is granted permission to travel to New South Wales in 1838. Detail from page 26 of the 'General Register' from the *Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register of Occurrences Throughout the British Dominions in the East, Forming an Epitome of the Indian Press for the Year 1838*, Samuel Smith & Co., Calcutta, 1839.

- The Australian*, 9 April 1840, Pg.3
- Ronald McNicoll, *Number 36 Collins Street: Melbourne Club 1838-1988*, Allen & Unwin/Haynes, North Sydney, 1988, p.29.
- Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages, Death certificate for Fitzherbert Miller Mundy
- The Melbourne Argus*, 2 March 1847, p.3
- Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate*, 5 March 1847, p.3
- Shrewsbury School Register, p.80
- Colonial Times*, 23 July 1839, p.8
- The Sydney Herald*, 14 June 1838, p.3
- The Australian*, 24 August 1838, p.2
- New Annual Army List 1880
- 'General Register', *Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register of Occurrences Throughout the British Dominions in the East, Forming an Epitome of the Indian Press for the Year 1838*, Samuel Smith & Co., Calcutta, 1839, p. 26.
- The Derby Mercury*, 18 July 1888, p.2



# Melbourne Cricket Club Office Bearers' Honour Roll



F.A. Powlett



D.C. McArthur



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB ESTABLISHED 1841					
SEASON	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES	SEASON	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES
1841-42	W. HILLIARD	W. HILLIARD	1842-43	W. HILLIARD	W. HILLIARD
1843-44	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1844-45	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1845-46	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1846-47	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1847-48	W. HILLIARD	W. HILLIARD	1848-49	W. HILLIARD	W. HILLIARD
1849-50	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1850-51	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1851-52	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1852-53	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1853-54	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1854-55	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1855-56	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1856-57	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1857-58	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1858-59	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1859-60	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1860-61	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1861-62	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1862-63	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1863-64	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1864-65	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1865-66	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1866-67	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1867-68	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1868-69	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1869-70	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1870-71	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1871-72	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1872-73	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1873-74	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1874-75	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1875-76	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1876-77	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1877-78	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1878-79	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1879-80	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1880-81	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1881-82	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1882-83	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1883-84	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1884-85	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1885-86	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1886-87	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1887-88	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1888-89	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1889-90	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1890-91	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1891-92	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1892-93	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1893-94	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1894-95	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1895-96	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1896-97	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1897-98	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1898-99	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1899-00	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1900-01	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1901-02	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1902-03	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1903-04	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1904-05	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1905-06	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1906-07	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1907-08	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1908-09	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1909-10	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1910-11	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1911-12	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1912-13	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1913-14	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1914-15	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1915-16	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1916-17	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1917-18	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1918-19	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1919-20	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1920-21	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1921-22	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1922-23	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1923-24	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1924-25	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1925-26	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1926-27	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1927-28	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1928-29	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1929-30	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1930-31	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1931-32	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1932-33	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1933-34	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1934-35	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1935-36	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1936-37	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1937-38	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1938-39	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1939-40	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1940-41	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1941-42	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1942-43	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1943-44	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1944-45	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1945-46	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1946-47	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1947-48	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1948-49	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1949-50	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1950-51	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1951-52	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1952-53	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1953-54	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1954-55	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1955-56	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1956-57	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1957-58	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1958-59	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1959-60	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1960-61	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1961-62	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1962-63	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1963-64	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1964-65	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1965-66	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1966-67	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1967-68	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1968-69	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1969-70	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1970-71	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1971-72	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1972-73	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1973-74	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1974-75	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1975-76	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1976-77	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1977-78	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1978-79	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1979-80	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1980-81	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1981-82	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1982-83	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1983-84	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1984-85	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1985-86	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1986-87	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1987-88	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1988-89	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1989-90	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1990-91	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1991-92	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1992-93	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1993-94	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1994-95	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1995-96	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	1996-97	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
1997-98	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	1998-99	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
1999-00	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	2000-01	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
2001-02	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	2002-03	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
2003-04	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	2004-05	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
2005-06	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	2006-07	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
2007-08	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	2008-09	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
2009-10	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	2010-11	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
2011-12	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	2012-13	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
2013-14	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	2014-15	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
2015-16	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	2016-17	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER
2017-18	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT	2018-19	F. POWLETT	F. POWLETT
2019-20	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER	2020-21	D. GARDNER	D. GARDNER



A.P. Sheahan



S.J. Gough

Placed in a prominent position in the Founders' Gallery at the entry to the Melbourne Cricket Club's Committee Room is an honour board that highlights the men who have performed the key management roles as president or secretary (now chief executive officer) since the first formal records were available (1841).

At the suggestion of the Heritage Department, a study of the succession of these office holders was undertaken in order to ensure that a complete and accurate record of the transition of office bearers was documented and held in the club's archives.

With more recent biographical source material available and greater access to genealogy records since the introduction of the Internet and the National Library of Australia's TROVE Program, it was felt that a review of existing data and the compilation of a definitive list of the key club servants would make a welcome resource for future reference.

The table produced would include (where known) the following:

1. The full name and initials of those recorded
2. The recording of dates of ascension and departure from office.

In conducting this exercise it became apparent that some of this detail was being recorded for the first time. Additionally, there have been omissions and errors uncovered.

The following table was derived from a number of sources but chiefly from the club's magnificent collection of operational minute books which date back to 1847. Minutes prior to 1847

and also those between April 1852 and January 1859 are missing from the club's archives.

In addition to the minutes, a study of public-domain material, published historical works and unpublished manuscripts held in State archives and at the club was undertaken – mostly focused around the missing periods. In combination, these resources provided a definitive table of the succession of office holders in the executive positions.

The study also highlighted broken terms of office where people standing in had not been credited for their contribution. Also uncovered were those who publicly filled in for office holders, usually because of ill health.

**NOTE:** The shaded sections of the table following include the two eras where committee minutes are missing from the MCC archive and both the club's archives and public-domain material have not yielded further accuracy or details in the dates of election or departure from office.

Where imperial or national honours have been granted on a serving office bearer, an additional line with their new title or post-nominal is included for continuity with the old honour board. However, the lists do not record honours received after a president or secretary has left office.

Should any reader have further information such as the middle names or initials of these men, or more hopefully the whereabouts of the club's missing minutes, we would greatly appreciate contact.

**Stephen Flemming**



**PRESIDENT**

**TERM**

No Record of service	1838 to 1841
F.A. (Frederick Armand) Powlett	1/11/1841 to 1843
J.W. (John Whitehill) Stephen	1844 to 1845
G. (George) Cavenagh	1845 to 2/10/1849
W.J. (William John) Meek	2/10/1849 to 5/1/1850
F.A. (Frederick Armand) Powlett <sup>1</sup>	5/1/1850 to 1/10/1850
G. (George) Cavenagh	1/10/1850 to 1852
T.F. (Thomas Ferrier) Hamilton	1852 to 1853
G. (George) Cavenagh	1853 to 1854
E.P.S. (Evelyn Pitfield Shirley) Sturt	1854 to 2/10/1855
D.S. (Daniel Stodhart) Campbell	2/10/1855 to 10/9/1859
T.F. (Thomas Ferrier) Hamilton	10/9/1859 to 5/9/1868
D.C. (David Charteris) McArthur	5/9/1868 to 15/9/1877
Hon. J.G. (James Goodall) Francis	15/9/1877 to 4/9/1880
Hon. W.J. (William John) Clarke <sup>2</sup>	4/9/1880 to 14/12/1882
Sir W.J. (William John) Clarke	15/12/1882 to 11/9/1886
F.G. (Francis Grey) Smith	11/9/1886 to 4/6/1900
R. (Roderick) Murchison	4/6/1900 to 19/2/1907
Justice L.F.B. (Leo Finn Bernard) Cussen <sup>3</sup>	2/4/1907 to 30/12/1907
Sir L.F.B. (Leo Finn Bernard) Cussen	31/12/1921 to 17/5/1933
Sir E.F. (Edward Fancourt) Mitchell KCMG, KC	13/6/1933 to 7/5/1941
Dr. R. (Ramsay) Mailer	24/6/1941 to 28/12/1943
Dr. W.C. (William Caldwell) McClelland	29/2/1944 to 8/6/1955
Dr. W.C. (William Caldwell) McClelland CBE	9/6/1955 to 30/5/1957
C.W. (Charles Wiffin) Simmonds	28/7/1957 to 18/8/1965
A.E. (Albert Edward) Chadwick MSM <sup>4</sup>	18/8/1965 to 31/12/1966
A.E. (Albert Edward) Chadwick CMG, MSM	1/1/1967 to 31/12/1973
Sir A.E. (Albert Edward) Chadwick CMG, MSM	1/1/1974 to 15/2/1979
H.I. (Hans Irvine) Ebeling MBE	20/2/1979 to 12/1/1980
Sir B.J. (Bernard James) Callinan CBE, DSO, MC	22/1/1980 to 21/8/1985
Dr. D.P. (Donald Pruen) Cordner	21/8/1985 to 20/10/1992
J.R. (John Robert) Mitchell	20/10/1992 to 18/11/1997
R.B. (Reginald Bruce) Church	18/11/1997 to 18/2/2003
D.C. (David Campbell) Jones AM, OBE <sup>5</sup>	18/2/2003 to 25/1/2004
D.C. (David Campbell) Jones AO, OBE	26/1/2004 to 20/2/2007
D.E. (David Edwards) Meiklejohn <sup>6</sup>	20/2/2007 to 25/1/2010
D.E. (David Edwards) Meiklejohn AM	26/1/2010 to 17/2/2011
A.P. (Andrew Paul) Sheahan	17/2/2011 to Present



1 Throughout this term F.A. Powlett was in most likely President in name only, as Vice President; Samuel Thorpe presided over almost all Committee meetings during this term

2 Sir W.J. Clarke Bt. Letters patent creating Clarke a Baronet were issued by Queen Victoria on 14 December 1882. *London Gazette*, 15 December 1882, p.6390.

3 Justice Cussen was created a Knight Bachelor on 31 December 1921 during his term as President.

4 Dr McClelland received a CBE for services to sport in the 1955 Queen's Birthday honours list during his term as President.

5 During his term as President, Albert Chadwick MSM received a CMG in the 1967 New Years honours list and was made a Knight Bachelor in the 1974 New Years honours list.

6 During his term as President, David Jones AM OBE was promoted to AO in the 2004 Australia Day honours list.

7 D.E. Meiklejohn received the AM in the 2010 Australia Day honours list during his term as President.



Receipt provided by James Barnett of Henry Davis' store to D.G. McArthur for purchasing '2 Batts balls & Stumps' on 15 November 1838.

State Library of Victoria



**SECRETARY**

**TERM**

No Record of service <sup>1</sup>	1838 to 1841
G. (George) Cavenagh	1/11/1841 to 1843
W.V. (William Vine) McVitie	1844 to 1845
O.H. (Osmond Horne) Gillies	1846 to 1847
F.W. (Frederick William) Marsden	?/1847 to 1/10/1847
A.A. (Alexander Alan) Broadfoot	1/10/1847 to 30/9/1848
F.W. (Frederick William) Marsden	30/9/1848 to 2/10/1849
P. (Phipps) Turnbull	2/10/1849 to 1/10/1850
W.H. (William) Hull	1/10/1850 to 1853
M. (Melmoth) Hall	1853 to 1854
H.E. Stratford <sup>2</sup>	?/1854 to 30/9/1854
W.H. (William) McKenzie Jnr.	30/9/1854 to 2/10/1855
A.M. (Andrew Miller) Dick	2/10/1855 to 6/9/1856
J.W. (Joshua) Brookes	6/9/1856 to 1857
W.J.S. (William Josiah Sumner) Hammersley <sup>3</sup>	?/1857 to 19/9/1857
T.W. (Thomas Wentworth) Wills	19/9/1857 to 18/9/1858
T.F. (Thomas Fawcett) Wray	18/9/1858 to 8/9/1860
R.W. (Richard Wilson) Wardill	8/9/1860 to 5/9/1863
W.C. (William Charles) Biddle	5/9/1863 to 1/9/1866
W.H. (William Hopton) Handfield <sup>4</sup>	1/9/1866 to 4/9/1875
A.F. (Augustus Frederick) Robinson	4/9/1875 to 2/9/1876
R. (Robert) Johnson	2/9/1876 to 15/9/1877
W.H. (William) Handfield <sup>4</sup>	15/9/1877 to 4/10/1877
C.A. (Curtis Alexander) Reid	4/10/1877 to 23/4/1879
Major B.J. (Benjamin Johnson) Wardill <sup>5</sup>	23/4/1879 to 16/12/1910
S.M. (Sidney Maguire) Tindall	14/2/1911 to 16/11/1911
H. (Hugh) Trumble	30/11/1911 to 14/08/1938
V.S. (Vernon Seymour) Ransford <sup>6</sup>	18/1/1939 to 9/6/1954
V.S. (Vernon Seymour) Ransford MBE	10/6/1954 to 31/5/1957
I.W.G. (Ian William Geddes) Johnson MBE <sup>7</sup>	1/7/1911 to 30/12/1976
I.W.G. (Ian William Geddes) Johnson OBE	31/12/1976 to 30/12/1982
I.W.G. (Ian William Geddes) Johnson CBE	31/12/1982 to 25/2/1983
Dr. J.C. (John Charles) Lill	28/2/1983 to 1/3/2000
S.J. (Stephen John) Gough <sup>8</sup>	1/3/2000 to Present

1 Hugh Field's unpublished manuscript and research notes (MCC Archive) make reference to D.G. (Donald Gordon) McArthur's appointment as foundation Secretary in 1838.

2 *The Herald*, 30 September 1854. *The Argus*, 3 October 1854.

3 *The Argus*, 7 May 1857, 1 September 1857, 4 September 1857, 5 September 1857. *Bells Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle*, 12 September 1857, 19 September 1857.

4 William Handfield acted as MCC Secretary until the MCC appointed Curtis Reid as its first full time and paid. Secretary - prior to this the position was Honorary.

5 *The Argus* noted Wardill had 'recently resigned' having notified the MCC of his intentions to retire. *The Argus* 16 December 1910, 14 February 1911.

6 During his term as Secretary, Vernon Ransford was awarded an OBE in the 1954 Queen's Birthday honours list for services to the MCC.

7 During his term as Secretary, Ian Johnson MBE was promoted to OBE in the 1977 New Year's honours list and to CBE in the 1983 New Year's honours list.

8 Position changed to Chief Executive Officer.



# He Shall Grow Not Old

## Part II

Although LAC Truscott had made his first solo flight on 20 September 1940, many of his difficulties remained. His landing problems were never totally resolved.

According to Ivan Southall, his biographer, Bluey developed the technique of alighting 'twenty feet up, as regularly as clock-work, as smooth as silk, smug, until the ground leapt up and wrenched him down.' Ground crew reputedly 'closed their eyes in prayer when Blue came in to land.'<sup>1</sup>

Not surprisingly, his attempts at forced landings during his final weeks at No. 3 Elementary Flying Training School were described as 'weak with poorly executed side slips showing lack of judgment.' Flying on instruments, he was steady but went 'to pieces' when attempting to turn. In aerobatics, his loops were 'quite good', but stall turns lacked 'smoothness and accuracy'.

He was inclined 'to hold rudder on after nosing down into dive with result that the aircraft tends to spin. Recovers from this position but loses all sense of direction in so doing.' After his final test on October 16, Truscott was described as 'average', with a 'tendency to roughness'.<sup>2</sup>

A fortnight later, he was aboard the liner *Awatea*, bound for Canada and advanced training under the Empire Air Training Scheme. Bluey spent a freezing winter at No.1 Service Flying Training School at Camp Borden, Ontario.

His logbook shows that a striking number of his flights, in North American Yales and Harvards, involved practising powered approaches and landings, along with take-offs into the wind.

When he completed the course, which had provided his first experiences with night and formation flying, Bluey was described as a 'good type of pupil' who needed further practice in instrument take-offs. Though rated as an 'average' pilot and unsuitable for an instructional post, he was 'above average' in determination and initiative.

Recommended for a commission and assignment to a fighter squadron, he received his Pilot's Badge at Rockcliffe Air Station, Ottawa, on 11 February 1941. A fortnight later, Pilot Officer Truscott sailed from Halifax for England.<sup>3</sup>



Squadron Leader Keith 'Bluey' Truscott, D.F.C. and Bar.  
RAAF Museum

Now attached to the RAF, Truscott was sent from No.3 Personnel Reception Centre at Uxbridge to No.57 Operational Training Unit at Hawarden, in Wales, where he joined No.19 course on 10 March 1941. After four flights in a Miles Master, he took to the air in a Spitfire, the aircraft that would remain 'the object of unparalleled affection for the rest of his days.'

Bluey undoubtedly empathised with a fellow Australian who said that the first time in a Spitfire was 'like sitting astride a galloping horse. You have a "Now I'm in for it - this thing is not going to stop until it hits the moon" sort of feeling.'

Though the Spitfire's narrow undercarriage must have seriously tested Bluey's landing abilities, he developed with the fighter 'an affinity between man and machine that he had not known before.' As a result, his confidence and proficiency improved, to the extent that 'what happened near the ground was inconsequential by comparison - and better left unsaid!'<sup>4</sup>

On 5 May after 35.30 hours on the Spitfire, Bluey was posted to Lincolnshire, where 452 Squadron, the first Australian squadron formed in Britain during the war, was based at Kirton-in-Lindsay. For about six weeks, Truscott honed his skills with the Spitfire, practising attacks, air-to-ground firing and formation flying.

Gradually, operational duties crept into his time in the air, with the occasional interception as well as dusk and convoy patrols. Reporter Godfrey Blunden found at this time that the young Australians wanted 'to get into the fighting as soon as possible' because they truly believed that they could shoot down the enemy.<sup>5</sup>



Bluey with US Fifth Air Force personnel, May, 1942.  
MCC Library Collection



Amid a 'spontaneous, rapturous and sincere reception', Bluey leads the Demons against Richmond, 16 May 1942.  
Melbourne Football Club

In July, the squadron moved south to Kenley. Bluey had now logged 130 hours in Spitfires, mainly in the Mk.II. At 452's new base, Truscott was well aware that the Royal Air Force was now fighting a very different war to the one it had so desperately waged a year ago.

After 1940, the Luftwaffe assumed a defensive role as the RAF fighter pilots carried out sweeps and bomber-escort flights over France.

In doing this, the RAF was numerically superior but its pilots were handicapped by 'having to escort bombers, often in obsolete flying formations, and they were now at a further disadvantage in being over enemy territory.'<sup>6</sup>

On 9 August 1941, 452 Squadron was among three fighter wings supporting five Blenheims in an attack on the Gosnay power station. Codenamed 'Circus 68', the operation failed 'totally and miserably' in terms of bombing success. According to Ivan Southall, no fewer than 60 Messerschmitt 109s 'had sought out 452 Squadron.'

In the dogfights that ensued, the Kenley wing claimed to have destroyed five enemy fighters. In his logbook, Pilot Officer Truscott claimed that he brought down a Bf109E. The *Argus* reported that it was 'his most thrilling experience'.

The Melbourne Football Club wired its congratulations, urging Bluey to 'bowl 'em over'.<sup>7</sup> (Truscott's aircraft on this day was P7973, a Mk.IIa Spitfire that he used 11 times. It is now displayed in the Australian War Memorial.)

Elsewhere in the fray, Douglas Bader was brought down, reputedly in a collision, by what was believed to be a German fighter. In 2007, researcher Andy Saunders suggested that the exhausted wing commander probably fell to 'friendly' fire.

In his detailed review of Circus 68, Saunders found that 452 Squadron 'lost three pilots missing', including Sergeant Pilot Christopher Geoffrey Blomfield Chapman. Moreover, Saunders concluded that 'in the confusion of the action some pilots of 452 Squadron were engaged by their fellow squadron members'.

On this point, Saunders paid particular attention to Truscott, who had reported that, after sighting three Messerschmitts 500 feet above and behind him, he did 'a steep turn and temporarily lost sight of the 109s':

*When I looked ahead again the first 109 had apparently attacked and overshot and was about thirty yards in front of me. I took a five-second burst and observed a considerable part of his tail unit fly off. The 109 slumped forward and I noticed his elevators missing. He went down vertically.*

However, Saunders maintains that German records show 'no Messerschmitt lost that could possibly fit' Bluey's description of a Bf109 'going down with large parts of the tail missing.' Even more startling is Saunders' conclusion that, after losing sight of the German fighters, Bluey had 'suddenly found himself behind Spitfires of his own squadron'.

Believing that these were the aircraft he had turned to attack, he fired at one of them from short range, 'blasting the tail of the aeroplane with a five-second hail of fire.' Rather than bringing down a Messerschmitt, Truscott and two other pilots had 'all shot at the same aircraft which is very likely to have been Sergeant Chapman's Spitfire'.

If Saunders is correct, the incident was a tragic accident rather than carelessness on Truscott's part. In 'the confused mix-up of a dog-fight', a pilot 'had about three seconds in which to identify his foe'.

In making clear decisions and identifications, often in the harshest sunlight, Spitfire pilots were also hampered by the fact that they sometimes 'endured up to six times the force of gravity with no "G" suit'.

Furthermore, the sad reality was that, sometimes, 'the fear or the adrenalin-surged stress and absolute draining fatigue' of flying a Spitfire into combat made such accidents inevitable.<sup>8</sup>

On 12 August Bluey was promoted to Flying Officer. Since joining 452 Squadron, he had developed a close friendship with Brendan 'Paddy' Finucane, whose father had served under Éamon de Valera in the 1916 Easter Rising. At only 20, the Irish-born pilot was already a veteran ace. With his combat experience, he was Bluey's chief mentor.

In the air, the roommates developed a rivalry in which Truscott tried to keep up with Finucane's victories.<sup>9</sup> After the squadron



Truscott with Pilot Officer Eric Tainton, Flight Lieutenant Clive 'Bardie' Wawn DFC and Squadron Leader Peter Turnbull, commanding officer of 76 Squadron, Townsville, June 1942. RAAF Museum

converted to Mk.V Spitfires in mid-August, the pair scored heavily. By the end of the year, Bluey's logbook claimed 11 aircraft destroyed, three probables and two damaged.

The logbook contains stark reminders of the war's horrors. On 4 January 1942, Truscott recorded that, in an attack on the Somme Canal, he had machine-gunned German troops. The most surprising entry in the book, though, came on 13 October 1941 when he noted that, while escorting Blenheims to Arques, he 'shot one parachutist'.

Without details of the circumstances or his emotions, it is impossible to reach any firm conclusion about the incident, other than to note that pilots 'were seldom strafed in their parachutes'. (German ace Adolf Galland saw shooting at a parachuting pilot as 'an act of unspeakable barbarism'.)

Certainly, the incident is a sign that, inevitably, combat had hardened Truscott's nature. As Australian pilot Bobby Gibbes explained, 'the hell of aerial battle' changed young men: 'Only those who have experienced war, know what it means to live for days, weeks, months and even years, with the fear of violent death gnawing at your very guts ...'<sup>10</sup>

No doubt Bluey relied on his religious beliefs for some solace. Every day, he read his Bible and said his prayers at his bedside. Perhaps, like another pilot, he prayed that the Lord would 'Just give me this day please, please give me this day.'

On 8 November, three weeks after receiving the DFC for his 'great courage and determination', he needed all the divine intervention he could get. He had just shot down two Bf109Fs when he was forced to bale out 'for a coolish swim in the English Channel.' He returned to 452's new Redhill base to find the squadron "celebrating" his demise from the fund he had left for just that purpose.

Through the Marquess of Donegall, British redheads raised £5000 to pay for the replacement Spitfire. Back in Victoria, friends at Somers donated a new watch.<sup>11</sup>

In January 1942, Acting Flight Lieutenant Truscott was on leave in London. A telephone call left him 'white faced and incredulous'. Following the transfer of Wing Commander Bob Bungey, he was now 452's new commanding officer. As an acting squadron leader, he was the first EATS officer to attain such a position.

With Bungey gone, and Finucane posted elsewhere, Truscott was very much on his own but, as Finucane later wrote, he became a 'brilliant leader, with an uncanny gift of making boys follow him despite anything.'

Moreover, Bluey had become 'the outstanding Australian ace' and, thanks to considerable press publicity and Movietone newsreel appearances, 'the most celebrated Australian product of the Empire Air Training Scheme.'<sup>12</sup>

On 11 February, when the *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau* and *Prinz Eugen* dashed up the Channel from Brest, Bluey commanded three squadrons sent to attack the ships, with Paddy Finucane placing himself under his friend's orders for the occasion:

*I went down with Finucane to attack what I thought was a transport. I didn't realise it was a destroyer until AA guns opened up and knocked off the side of my cockpit. We both raked the ship with a 10 seconds burst. Some of our Australian pilots had never before fired against the enemy. I took the boys in at her because she was nearest, but it was a bit of a shock to find what she really was. The destroyer fired everything at us. We just cleared the decks and the last of our machines reported the destroyer in a bad way with silent guns and smoke pouring out.*

Truscott's 'fine fighting spirit' earned a Bar to his DFC. The award came after 452 was recalled 'to buttress the resistance of the Allied forces defending Australia'.<sup>13</sup> When the squadron left England in late March, it was credited with 68 enemy aircraft destroyed.

During its period in operation, 452 had shot down 'three times as many enemy aircraft as any other squadron in a similar period' and, for three months on end, was Fighter Command's top scorer.<sup>14</sup> Since January, Truscott had added a Bf109F and an FW190 to his logbook's claims, with a shared victory over a Heinkel 114.

On his return, the *Argus* described him as 'the leading Australian aviator of the present generation'. A contemporary even referred to 'the growing idolisation' of Truscott. A fellow pilot said that flying behind him in combat was among 'the most exciting and inspiring experiences' of his flying career and that Bluey was "one of the most wonderful shots I have ever seen."

News that Truscott hoped to marry Surrey lass Margaret Rees only made 'his position deeper in the hearts of Australians'. Reports that the acting squadron leader would be returned to the rank of flying officer ended when the Air Minister, Mr Drakeford, refused to consent to 'a reduction in rank of any R.A.A.F. officers who had returned from overseas.'<sup>15</sup>

Back in a rapidly changing wartime community, Bluey knew that he, too, had changed. He certainly understood how, on return, many servicemen felt 'strangers in their own land'. Maude Truscott felt that her son had 'grown older'.

Cricketer and pilot Ian Johnson later wrote that Bluey had done 'the craziest things but survived them all to enjoy the hard drinking, hard living life that was typical of all pilots who strove to hide their straining nerves behind the artificial superficiality that drink provided.'<sup>16</sup>

Once in Melbourne, his first love beckoned strongly. Overweight and out of condition, Bluey led the Demons against Richmond on 16 May, amid the most 'spontaneous, rapturous and sincere reception' ever seen on a football field.

Though he seemed happy, a friend suspected that Truscott 'was very emotional at the time', as he now 'knew what the world outside was like, and he didn't think much of what he saw.'



By the second quarter, he was struggling, complaining to George Smeaton, 'Making it a bit hot, aren't you? Might give a bloke a kick.'

Sympathetically, the Richmond man replied, 'If I go any slower, I'll be crawling after you on my hands and knees.' Later, Bluey managed a goal after Richmond skipper Jack Dyer dropped a mark. Given his respect for Truscott, Dyer had probably fumbled the ball deliberately.<sup>17</sup> In the uncertainties of 1942, the return of a hero linked with more carefree days had briefly lifted the city's mood.

Unfortunately, Truscott was 'subjected to such public attention as had never been given in Australia during this war.' To his embarrassment, he had little hope of privacy or time with his family.<sup>18</sup> John Wren's gift of £500 each for Bluey and Finucane brought more discomfort, as it was against King's Regulations. All too soon, he was at No.2 Operational Training Unit, Mildura, adapting to the sturdy P-40E Kittyhawk and lamenting that it wasn't his beloved Spitfire.

On 22 June in Townsville, Acting Squadron Leader Truscott made his first flight with the recently formed 76 Squadron. However, his rank quickly became an issue. Before moving to New Guinea, his commanding officer, Squadron Leader Peter Turnbull, reported that Bluey's 'unorthodox appointment' was 'a source of discontent':

*Although a Flying Officer without any experience against the Japanese whose actions are so different from those of other fronts, he has retained his acting rank so that he alone of the 30 pilots (apart from his Commanding Officer) is paid Squadron Leader rates. That is, he receives twice the pay of his fellow pilots.*

Though he had 'nothing but praise' for Truscott, Turnbull asked his superiors to clarify the divisive situation 'before the Squadron goes into action'. The fact that other 76 pilots had been reduced in rank made Bluey's position even more 'invidious'. A note in his records shows that, from August 1942, Flying Officer Acting Squadron Leader Truscott was regarded as a temporary flight lieutenant.<sup>19</sup>

At the end of July, when the squadron arrived in New Guinea, Keith Truscott had still not recuperated from his war in Europe. Battle fatigue had left him worn out and tired, slow in his actions and even a little vague.

Within three days of arriving at Milne Bay, he had flown eight operational patrols, setting a relentless pace that became quite desperate after 26 August, when the Japanese landed on the north-eastern shore of Milne Bay. In their push towards Port Moresby, they engaged Australian troops defending Milne Bay's muddy and mesh-covered airstrips.<sup>20</sup>

After the loss of Peter Turnbull in this critical struggle, Truscott took command of 76 Squadron. By the evening of the 27th, the Japanese were at one end of No.3 strip, while the Australians held the other. With the enemy so close that Gurney Field was 'surely untenable as an operational base', the Kittyhawks were twice withdrawn to the overnight safety of Port Moresby.

However, Bluey himself refused to leave. In their past campaigns, a lack of air support had made some of the Army's Seventh Division men feel neglected. Now, his presence inspired the Australian and American troops:



Wearing his Melbourne Cricket Club cap, Bluey enjoys some batting practice at Strauss in January 1943, with Flying Officer Eric Tainton behind the stumps.  
RAAF Museum

*... it was known amongst the soldiers that Bluey Truscott was still in residence. His very name spelt hope and defiance and an implicit belief that the Air Force would stay. Truscott was the legend, and whether he liked it or not, whether it was justified or not, the soldier saw the Air Force embodied in the person of Bluey Truscott.*

Corporal Jake Lindsay, from Georgia, told Bluey 'You deserve more praise than you will ever get. The American ackack thinks you are wonderful.' With the battle in the balance, the Kittyhawks of 75 and 76 Squadrons wore the rifling in their gun barrels smooth as they strafed the Japanese with 198,000 rounds of ammunition.

For the Australians, the struggle at Milne Bay was 'mutual support, the troops needed the air support to survive and the air force needed the troops to defend the strips.' It was a relationship that gave the Japanese their first land defeat of the war, leading General Kenney, commander of allied air forces in the south-west Pacific, to inform Truscott that the 'courage and determination' of the Kittyhawk squadrons had 'contributed materially' to the victory.<sup>21</sup>

During the battle, Truscott attacked enemy warships and barges. Several times, he strafed Japanese ground forces, once shooting '50 Japanese troops'. Over the following weeks, when operational patrols became his main duty, he machine-gunned a cruiser, with 'many strikes observed on decks', as well as firing on the Japanese headquarters on Goodenough Island. Exhausted, the squadron was withdrawn to Strauss Field, south of Darwin.

Defending Darwin, Bluey's duties were largely uneventful. When an opportunity arose, he remained full of competitive fire. Once he was so eager to get at Japanese intruders that he didn't wait for the order to 'scramble', but his Kittyhawk could not match his aggression.

For 10 minutes, he unleashed 'invocations to all the gods he knew' and exhortations: 'Giddy-up, you old ... Oh hell! I wish this damned gas-buggy could climb faster. Go on, climb, you b...' Next, he complained that 'the bloody Nip b... is about two thousand feet above me. He won't come down and I can't get up there... Come on down here, blast you.'



Finally, when he got the chance to fire, every bullet 'was accompanied by implications and swearing that would have made a bullocky raise his eyebrows.' On the ground, it was considered that 'if curses and pleas and threats and cajoling could have killed Japanese, the whole Pacific war would have been over that night.'<sup>22</sup> Some sources state that, while at Strauss, Bluey shot down a Japanese aircraft. Curiously, his logbook contains no evidence of this.

The question of his rank remained confusing. A note in his records states that, on 21 January 1943, just before 76 Squadron moved to Potshot in Western Australia, he was granted the acting rank of squadron leader, effective from 26 January 1942. However, another document lists him as a squadron leader from 1 October 1942.

When awards were announced on 27 March, Temporary Squadron Leader Truscott was Mentioned in Despatches for his deeds at Milne Bay. (His refusal to leave had perhaps precluded another medal.)<sup>23</sup>

By then, much of his flying was between Potshot and Onslow, so he must have welcomed the opportunity for some 'authorised low flying' and feint attacks. On 28 March Bluey and Pilot Officer Ian Loudon commenced a planned practice attack on a US Navy Catalina approaching Potshot.

Flying into the late afternoon sunlight, they found that 'the mirror-like surface of the sea and apparent false horizon' produced conditions that prevented even 'the keenest judge of height from deciding his altitude with certainty.'

When the Catalina had 'actually almost touched down', Loudon believed that it was still about 200 feet above the sea. He sensed trouble only when 'a fish jumped out of the water, indicating how low I was'.

As he 'pulled up steeply', he saw Bluey's aircraft hit the water 'at an almost flat angle'. The Kittyhawk 'bucked on the surface for fifty yards or so' and disintegrated, with flames coming from the engine cowls:

*About one hundred feet above my aircraft, it rolled on its back with the fire much fiercer, and dived almost vertically into the sea, causing a large fire on the water.*

As another pilot later commented, 'It was a cruel, cowardly way for Death to take its revenge on one who had cheated it for so long.' After surviving the dangers of operations against the Germans and Japanese, Keith Truscott had died in Australia during a practice exercise.

In 'a setting of sunshine and blue sky, with which he was so familiar', he was buried with full Air Force honours at Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth. He was 26.<sup>24</sup>

#### Alf Batchelder

RAAF Museum Volunteer

*With thanks to David Allen, Lynda Carroll, Dave Gardner, Peter Hunter, Ian Kerville, Mary Monaghan, Peta Phillips, Trevor Ruddell, Ann Rusden, Ray Smith, Lesley Turner, Murray Wallace, Andrew Willox and Monica Walsh for their generous assistance. AJB*

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# ‘A Hell of a Good Bloke: A Memoir by Ken Thomas’

Ken Thomas joined the Melbourne Cricket Club as a junior member in 1932/33. Early in 1943, as VX108193, Lieutenant Thomas was serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery at Potshot, on the shores of Exmouth Gulf where Squadron Leader Keith “Bluey” Truscott and the RAAF’s 76 Squadron were based from 21 January.

The soldier and the pilot were almost the same age, and had much in common. Ken Thomas had been educated at Melbourne Grammar, only a couple of kilometres from Bluey’s Melbourne High School. Both had been prefects, as well as playing in their school’s cricket and football teams. After leaving school, they had competed in amateur athletics. While Bluey represented various junior cricket teams, Ken had taken the field with the Hawthorn-East Melbourne Second Eleven. As a half-forward with 98 games for Old Melburnians and a keen Hawthorn supporter, Ken would certainly have appreciated Truscott’s reputation as a footballer.

On 14 August, more than four months after Truscott lost his life in a planned practice attack on a US Navy Catalina, Ken entered in his diary an account of his acquaintance with Bluey at Potshot and of the fatal crash and its aftermath. The MCC and the Friends of the RAAF Museum are most grateful to Ross and Bruce Thomas for allowing us to publish their father’s important memoir.

**Alf Batchelder**  
RAAF Museum Volunteer



Squadron Leader Keith ‘Bluey’ Truscott, D.F.C. and Bar.  
RAAF Museum

Bluey with his mother on page 1 of the Sydney Telegraph 15 May 1942.  
RAAF Museum

## Excerpt from the diary of Lieutenant K.A. Thomas, (VX108193) of the 4th Aust. Heavy A.A. Battery (AIF).

Entered 14.8.43

### Death of Squadron Leader Keith Truscott

Truscott’s first appearance in this area was on February 9 when he arrived in a Kittyhawk from Onslow to make arrangements for the arrival of his Squadron here. He commanded RAAF 76 Squadron, whose planes were of the P40E type.

During his stay of some seven weeks in this area he was extremely popular, and paid numerous visits up to the Gun Site. He was a hell of a good bloke, possessed of a breezy personality, was obviously a quick thinker and was most interesting when discussing modestly his exploits with 452 Spitfire Squadron overseas.

To give our gun crews practice, he (and his men) used give us splendid dive-bombing and strafing [sic] attacks. Their average speed as they would pull out of a dive some few feet over our heads was in the vicinity of 400 mph. One late afternoon, Truscott gave us a splendid exhibition of aerobatics, and finished up by flying upside down at low altitude above the sea.



Lieutenant Ken Thomas.  
Image courtesy Ross and Bruce Thomas.



Bluey's plane takes off on his last flight at Exmouth Gulf (WA) on 28 March 1943.  
RAAF Museum



Bluey's funeral St. George's Cathedral, Perth, on 1 April 1943.  
RAAF Museum



Keith 'Bluey' Truscott's grave at Karrakatta Cemetery Perth.  
A.E. "Bill" Langley Scrapbook Collection, MCC Library



The civilians at Bluey's graveside are most likely his parents.  
RAAF Museum

His untimely death came on March 28<sup>th</sup> – a couple of days after he had visited our tent in his Jeep with some of his fellow officers, Ian Loudon, Ron Kerville and a couple of others.

At 16.30 hours on March 28, the T.I. reported to me that smoke was coming from the sea apparently from a plane which had just crashed. I went out to the command post and took a reading on the black smoke spiral with the height and range finder. The position of the smoke was Bearing 144°, range 12000 yards – about seven miles distant from our Gun Site.

Immediately the operational phone rang to state that a Kittyhawk had crashed, and it was feared that the occupant was Truscott.

Truscott, as it turned out, was returning here from Onslow with Ian Loudon alongside in another plane. A Catalina was ahead of them, and they decided to fly beneath it, as their present height was about 500'. As Loudon told us later, the sea was glassy smooth, and it was difficult to discern the level of the sea from the horizon. This is apparently quite a normal circumstance and pilots under these conditions rely on their altimeters. As they executed a shallow dive to go beneath the Catalina, Loudon saw the ripple of a fish as it broke the water and he realised his craft was but a few feet above the water. He immediately pulled his craft into a steep upward grade and just missed the level of the sea. He said afterwards to me "I knew the boss didn't see the fish, and

without looking out to my starboard side, I knew he must hit the water." Truscott's plane did hit the water, bounced 200 feet into the air (and nearly struck Loudon's plane) then hit again and one wing flew off, then bounce or two and she settled down in flames.

Personnel of the USS seaplane tender "Childs" saw the accident from a couple of miles off and immediately searched the area without trace, and the Catalina they were attempting to fly under also searched without result. Before long, all types of small vessels were searching.

Ian Loudon, who had been with Truscott in Britain, Milne Bay, Darwin and now here, came up to see me a couple of hours later. He attempted to hide his grief, but he must have been pretty upset as he spoke of Truscott but in the highest possible terms. Two of his utterances to me were: "To think I was saved by a – fish", and "Well, that leaves only four of us out of the original 25 in England."

The USN located the wreckage on the sea-bed next day, and with the aid of a diver, Truscott's body was raised at 2030 hours. The plane, which was also recovered later, had settled down in an inverted position on the sea-bed.

A gloom was cast over the whole of the area as a result of his tragic and unexpected death. To think that this man had some fourteen kills in Britain to his credit, had baled out in the North Sea when shot down, and only a few weeks previously had shot down a Japanese

"Betty" bomber between Darwin and Melville Island, should meet his death like this. He had been carrying out some administrative work in Onslow that afternoon, having heard a couple of RAAF court cases, and was returning here across the Gulf to do some similar work when the accident happened.

Original intentions were to bury him here, and a lonely grave was dug some two miles inland in the bush. It was not used, and his body was eventually transported south in a RAAF Anson.

A simple ceremony was conducted near the USN base as his body was taken from there to the landing strip. Simultaneously five Kittyhawks from Truscott's Squadron flew in a beautiful formation overhead. These planes dipped in salute as they flew over the spot where his plane crashed, and then stirringly flew in the formation of a cross. It was most impressive but sad.

The following day, I went across to a spot near the landing strip, where the wreckage of his plane was dumped. It was obvious from the state of the wreckage he must have met instant death, though the cock-pit was in slightly better condition than the rest of the plane. Obtaining permission, I took from the plane the damaged reflector of the landing light. Some of us were given later some of the .5 ammunition from the plane. This was of course unserviceable after the submersion.

The Empire will mourn the death of this popular and able fellow.

# MORE THAN & GREEN & GOLD

## AUSTRALIA'S SPORTING COLOURS

## Cricket's contribution to Australia's sporting colours

We often hear Australian sportsmen and women talking of the pride they feel in wearing the green and gold for Australia.

The colours have become synonymous with reaching the pinnacle of your sporting career – of being named in the national team whether as a Test cricketer or a cycling champion, as a Wallaby, a Kangaroo, a Socceroo, a Diamond, as a junior or a masters athlete, a Paralympian or an Olympian, or a competitor in any number of sporting pursuits.

It's interesting to wonder then: How long have Australians been wearing the green and gold?

It's easy enough to recall the 1983 green-and-gold boxing kangaroo of the America's Cup, or the golden caps of the Australians in Kerry Packer's 1977 World Series Cricket competition.

Looking further into the past, there's the memorable green-and-gold sash on the white shirts worn by Betty Cuthbert and Shirley Strickland as they dashed around the MCG in the 1956 Olympic Games.

Some readers may already know that the first time the Kangaroos played in green and gold was in 1928<sup>1</sup>, while the Wallabies pulled on their first green jerseys in 1929 (complemented by gold bands on their socks).

It's generally believed by historians that green and gold has been in continuous use in Australian sport since 1899, when the colours were first worn by the Australian cricketers.<sup>2</sup>

The combination was soon picked up by the 1908 Australasian Olympians, when they were required (at fairly short notice) to create a uniform to wear in the parade of athletes as part of the newly-devised opening ceremony.

Olympians have worn the colours at each Olympiad since, with some notable exceptions due to the traditions of individual sporting disciplines (some martial arts, for example, wear white with the national flag on the shoulder).

The green and gold combination has not always been the first choice for Australian sporting competitors. There were plenty



Fig. 1. The Sydneysider Ned Trickett wore the pale blue and white colours of his home colony, New South Wales. NSM (N2013.59)



Fig. 2 'The Demon Bowler' Fred Spofforth is portrayed wearing the blue and white of the 1878 Australian cricket team. MCC Museum Collection (M12765)

of experiments with national colours before this preference for green and gold started to firm up in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century international sport was a rather ad hoc affair. Individuals competed in sculling, swimming, running and boxing according to geography and money as much as according to skill and proficiency.

Individuals challenged others for the crown of 'World Champion', and defended or won such titles accordingly. In the years leading up to Federation, Australians abroad tended to be recognised as 'colonials', and so our first world champion, sculler Edward 'Ned' Trickett, wore the colours of New South Wales – pale blue and white (fig. 1) – rather than representing Australia as a whole.

Team sport however, requires a different level of co-ordination, particularly touring teams. Since 1877, our representative cricket teams drew players from a number of the colonies and were therefore known as 'Australians', even before the nation was federated.

While Australian teams playing on our own shores wore the colours of the host colony (Victoria's dark blue at the MCG, for example), they designed and wore a unique Australian uniform for offshore tours. From 1878, these teams carried our first truly Australian colours and cover a variety of different combinations – some more sartorially successful than others.

The first touring team (of 1878) elected to wear the colours of the East Melbourne Cricket Club, pale blue and white (fig. 2). The colour blue was quickly associated with the team, and a poem celebrating their first Test win recounts how 'they met their foes and bravely fought / in favour of the Blue'.<sup>3</sup>

Upon their return to Sydney, the Australians were met by a city festooned with the team's colour: 'All through the day blue ribbon was in great demand... Blue ribbons were seen adorning the fair sex... even the whips of cabmen, omnibus men and draymen, as well as the harness of their horses, were decorated with the favourite colour'.<sup>4</sup>





Fig. 4. Red, white and blue Melbourne Cricket Club sash, late 19th century. The Australian cricket team wore the MCC colours for their 1886 Ashes tour. MCC Museum Collection (M14224) Photographer: Ponch Hawkes



Fig. 5. The colours and crest of the Australian touring cricket team of 1893, featuring the combined colonial colours of Victoria, NSW, South Australia and Queensland. AGOSOM Collection (1986.108) Photographer: Ponch Hawkes



Fig. 6. Blue and gold Australian team cap, worn by Charles Eady as a member of the Australian touring cricket team, 1896  
NSM (N2013.16.1) Kindly on loan from Tasmanian Cricket Museum  
Photographer: Ponch Hawkes



Fig. 3. Magenta and black colours of the second Australian touring cricket team, 1880.  
MCC Museum Collection (M10248)  
Photographer: Ponch Hawkes

The second team (1880) selected puce and black as their livery, and wore jackets and sashes in the colours. One of these sashes is held by the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum, and we think it's the oldest existing piece of Australian team uniform (fig. 3).<sup>5</sup>

The magenta colour has retained its strength through the years and seems, to the modern eye, to be quite a startling choice for the national team. However, spectators were unimpressed, calling the uniforms 'dingy'.<sup>6</sup> No doubt from a distance the thinly-striped blazers would have appeared a muddy brown. We can perhaps be glad that these colours did not achieve permanency in the wardrobe of Australian sport.

The third touring cricketers (of 1882) followed the military tradition of using colours to forge identity, and selected the colours of the 96<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot as their team colours – red, black and yellow.<sup>7</sup> Many supporters of the Australians attending the games during the tour wore the team colours to declare their allegiance.<sup>8</sup>

As the cricket tours continued through the following decades, the Australian teams selected a variety of colours – sometimes new, sometimes returning to old favourites. The team of 1884 chose navy blue, while the 1886 team wore the colours of their sponsors, the Melbourne Cricket Club (fig. 4).

The 1888 team reverted to the red, black and yellow colours of the successful 1882 tour. One commentator credits superstition for this choice, noting that the cricketers stayed in the same hotel and used the same colours in the hope of gaining some of their predecessors' successes.<sup>9</sup>

For 1890 we were back in navy blue (this time with gold trim) and in 1893 the team was presented with their colours by a sponsor who blended the colonial colours of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria (fig. 5).<sup>10</sup>

As one correspondent to *The Argus* wryly observed: 'The combination of colours, though striking, is certainly inartistic, but has the merit that it gives rise to no intercolonial jealousy.'<sup>11</sup>

In January of 1895, stirrings were afoot at the annual meeting of the Australasian Cricket Council to introduce a standard set of colours for the cricketers to wear whether playing on tour or at home, and the colour proposed was olive green.<sup>12</sup>

The council was reluctant to commit to such a notion without appropriate consideration, so the matter was referred to a committee. No evidence exists of that committee reporting back; and in the mean time the tour of 1896 returned to the elegant ensemble of 1890, dark blue caps and blazers with gold trim (fig. 6).

It's generally agreed among sports historians that the first Australians to wear a green and gold uniform to represent Australia were the tenth Australian touring cricketers of 1899. They appear to have set the standard for all subsequent Australian cricket teams, both at home and abroad.

The colours were worn at home for the first time in the 1901/02 series. The pavilions at Adelaide Oval in January 1902 were 'gay with flags, and amongst them fluttered for the first time the green and gold of the Australians, the most conspicuous of them all, if not the most artistic.'

Australian sporting colours can be defined as far more than simply green and gold, a topic investigated in the National Sports Museum's new exhibition *More than Green and Gold: Australia's Sporting Colours*.

The exhibition captures the origins and evolution of our sporting colours, from these 19th century experiments with the national colour palette through to the contemporary use of the colours to define the broader Australian identity.

The display includes early uniforms from a variety of sports, tracing the historical use of colours to identify and define our national sporting teams. The next edition of *The Yorker* will include a dedicated section examining many of the key objects from the exhibition.

The exhibition also looks beyond sporting uniforms to investigate when and how the sporting colours jumped across



The opening of the More than Green and Gold: Australia's Sporting Colours exhibition at the National Sports Museum, MCG.

an invisible divide and became the official national colours used to represent Australia in political, social and cultural contexts.

The passion and pride of Australian sporting success has driven these colours into the broader consciousness where they can inspire patriotism, sometimes the cringe of jingoism or of a national fashion disaster, but most strongly they elicit a sense of shared identity bonded by the gum tree green and wattle gold.

### Helen Walpole

The National Sports Museum is located at Gate 3, MCG, Yarra Park, Jolimont and is open daily from 10am (check [www.nsm.org.au](http://www.nsm.org.au) for details). Access to view *More than Green and Gold: Australia's Sporting Colours* is included in standard museum entry. The exhibition is open through to 20 April, 2014.



Green and gold hatband worn by Frank Laver as part of the Australian cricket team uniform, 1909.

AGOSOM Collection (1987.1850)  
Kindly donated by Mr A A Graham  
Photographer: Ponch Hawkes

### End Notes

- 1 *The Brisbane Courier*, 18 June 1928, pp.7-8.
- 2 Prominent sports historians Peter Sharpham, Richard Cashman and Charles Little have all researched this topic and nominate the Australian cricketers of 1899 as the first to select green and gold as their competition colours. Peter Sharpham, 'The Origin of the Green and Gold', *Sporting Traditions*, 1994; Charles Little and Richard Cashman, 'Ambiguous and Overlapping Identities Australasia at the Olympic Games 1896-1914', *Sport, Federation, Nation*, Cashman (ed.), Walla Walla Press, Sydney, 2001. Further research has not uncovered evidence of earlier instances of the colours, though it can't be definitively ruled out.
- 3 W.H. O'Connor, 'Australia's Victory', *Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser*, 23 November, 1878.
- 4 *The Argus*, 9 August 1878, p.7.
- 5 While older garments exist from individuals, the *team* nature of this item makes it particularly significant.
- 6 *The Queenslander*, 27 November 1880, p.686. It is worth noting that at the time pink was not considered a feminine colour.
- 7 The 96<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot were a particularly renowned regiment of the British Army. Raised in 1798, they experienced glory in the Battle of Alexandria in 1801, were deployed aboard convict ships en route to New South Wales and Tasmania, and served all around the British Empire. The regiment merged with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1881 to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, which may indicate why the colours were resurrected by the Australian cricketers the following year. See also *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 June 1888, p.9.
- 8 *The Argus*, 7 August 1882, p.6.
- 9 *Warwick Argus*, 19 May 1900, p.5.
- 10 The production of the colours was funded by Samuel Hordern, Commodore of the Prince Alfred Yacht Club of NSW.
- 11 M.E.B., 'The Australian Eleven Colours', *The Argus*, 10 May 1893, p.7.
- 12 *South Australian Register*, 9 January 1895, p.7.

# Jimmy 'Diddley' Young's certificate

Throughout the 2013 football season a recent addition to the MCC Library's collection has been displayed adjacent to the Melbourne Football Club's old boardroom table. This framed, exquisitely illuminated certificate was donated to the Library by the family of its recipient, the champion 19<sup>th</sup> century footballer James Young.

It was presented to Young by the South Melbourne Football Club in 1902. Among its illustrations are watercolour and gauche vignettes of South Melbourne's bowls green and their Lake Oval grandstand. Young is also painted in his prime wearing a South Melbourne red and white hooped jerkin.

A contemporary photograph of a much older Young is also shown mounted within a laurel wreath held by the goddess Victory. Victory herself is shown with a scroll that is gushing in its appraisal of Young's 'sterling qualities and manly efforts for the game of football and for your club in particular'.

A seagull mascot heads Victory's scroll with a banner emblazoned: 'On the ball sea gulls'. The seagull is one of the earliest representations of a South Melbourne mascot (the club was labelled the Swans in 1932). A football is in the bottom left corner of the certificate and upon it are South's five premierships years of the 1880s and 1890s.<sup>1</sup>

The certificate was not presented to Young for his recent achievements. His playing days ended eight years earlier and the certificate hoped that when he is 'falling into the sere and yellow leaf of life you will with pride look back upon the days when you were so worthily fighting the battle of the ball for the red and white'.

Though he was remembered fondly in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, today he is largely forgotten. Even his 1947 obituary noted that he was 'probably unknown to most of the present generation'.<sup>2</sup> So who was this once famous footballer who is now so poorly remembered?

Born in 1856, James Alexander Young debuted with Albert Park in 1877. He was popularly known as 'Jimmy' or 'Diddley', but the *Footballer* of 1880 also called him 'The Little Wonder'. The *Footballer* described him as 'a most reliable player; always bests his man, gets his run and his kick, returning to his place instantly; plays well to his men, is always cool, good kick, and can travel'.<sup>3</sup>



In 1880 Albert Park amalgamated with South Melbourne and Young played for South until his retirement in 1894. Unfortunately player statistics before 1889 are patchy, but football historian Mark Pennings has deduced that Young played a minimum of 23 games (35 maximum) for Albert Park and at least 194 games of a possible 210 for South Melbourne.

His career total of 217-245 games would place Young among the 10 most prolific footballers of the pre-VFL era.<sup>4</sup>

Young achieved much in his 18 years of top-flight football. He was a five-time premierships player with South (1881, 1885, 1888-90) and a respected clubman. He vice-captained South in 1883 and captained the club in 1884.

Such was the esteem in which he was held that during the half-time break against Melbourne on 26 May 1883 (Queen's Birthday) he received

a tea and coffee service in appreciation for his dedication to South's cause.

Ranked among the best players of his era, he played a total of eight games for Victoria, the equal most in the pre-VFL period. He played in Victoria's first inter-colonial game on July 1, 1879 against South Australia and also travelled to Adelaide the following year with the first Victorian touring team.

Following his football career Young managed a cab business and later became a hotelier in Beaconsfield. He had a son Harold and a daughter Georgia. Harold inherited the certificate and it in turn was inherited by his daughter Jean.

After her passing the MCC received an inquiry from her husband Jackson Glenister. Jackson told us that one of his wife's wishes was that her grandfather's certificate be donated to the MCC. The MCC Library is honoured to display it in Jean's memory.

## Trevor Ruddell

### End Notes

- 1 One premierships year on the football is wrong. South won in 1881 and not 1880. Their VFA premierships years are 1881, 1885, and 1888-90.
- 2 *South Melbourne Record*, 8 February 1947.
- 3 Thomas P. Power (ed.). *The Footballer: An Annual Record of Football in Victoria*. Boyle and Scott, Melbourne, 1880, p.29.
- 4 Correspondence with Mark Pennings February 22 2013. Pennings counted all matches from 1877-84, games against VFA and Ballarat clubs from 1885-88, and VFA matches from 1889-94.



Replica of E.E. Bean Shield presented to the Melbourne Cricket Club for winning the 1929/30 District premiership. To commemorate Bean's contribution to Victorian cricket, the Victorian Cricket Association commissioned a shield in his honour for competition among District first XIs over a period of 12 years commencing in 1929/30. The shield was retained by the VCA, with replicas presented to the winning clubs. Melbourne won the shield six times. Ironically, Bean a long-serving powerbroker in Victorian and Australian cricket, harboured a deep-seated animosity towards the MCC throughout his career.

MCC Museum Collection (M12483)



Bullion embroidered badge presented to Hans Ebeling as a member of Melbourne's 1929/30 premiership team.

MCC Museum Collection (M5820)



Vernon (left) and Lisle Nagel. Identical twins, the Nagels were both prolific wicket-takers for the club during the interwar years. Between them, they captured 733 wickets at just under 16 runs apiece, Lisle playing in five premierships teams and Vern three.

MCC Museum Collection (M1631)

# Twenty Pennants:

## The Melbourne Cricket Club's First XI Premierships since the commencement of District Cricket

### Part 2 – 1929/30 and 1932/33

Following what were, in effect, "back-to-back" premierships in 1914/15 and 1919/20 – in the intervening seasons official competition was suspended because of the First World War – the Melbourne Cricket Club's First XI did not win another flag until 1929/30.

This marked the start of the most successful era in the club's history, during which it won six premierships in the space of nine years. The second instalment of the Yorker series on the club's pennant-winning seasons looks at the first two of these premierships, in 1929/30 and 1932/33.

Having won the 1919/20 premiership, the Melbourne Cricket Club's First XI endured a frustrating period throughout the remainder of the 1920s, reaching the semi finals six times only to be defeated on each occasion by Prahran in 1920/21, North Melbourne in 1922/23, Northcote in 1923/24, Hawthorn-East Melbourne in both 1925/26 and 1927/28 and Fitzroy in 1928/29.

Despite its relative lack of success, however, the MCC gained some fine recruits during this time, most notably Hans Ebeling and the Nagel twins, who would go on to play significant roles during the club's golden era in the 1930s.

Ebeling, who joined as a 17-year-old from Caulfield Grammar in 1922/23, soon emerged as a fast-medium bowler of

considerable ability and went on to capture nearly 450 wickets for the club, heading the bowling averages six times from 1923/24 to 1935/36.

A fine leader both on and off the field, he captained five premierships-winning teams in the 1930s and gave distinguished service to the club as a committeeman and vice-president, eventually becoming president.

He represented Victoria between 1923/24 and 1937/38, leading the state to two Sheffield Shield victories in the mid-1930s, and in his sole Test appearance, at the Oval in 1934, he was a member of the Australian team that defeated England to win back the Ashes.

The Nagels, identical twins, were recruited from Brighton, Vern joining the First XI in 1926/27 and Lisle in the following season. Standing around 193cm in height, both were outstanding fast bowlers who, between them, captured well over 700 wickets for the club.

Lisle topped the bowling averages seven times from 1931/32 to 1940/41, while Vern did so in 1932/33. Lisle played in five premierships sides and Vern, whose career was interrupted by injury, in three. Both played for Victoria, with Lisle making a single Test appearance, against England at Sydney, in 1932/33.



Another significant arrival was Test and New South Wales all-rounder Hunter "Stork" Hendry, who was recruited in 1924/25. Employed by the club as pavilion clerk, a position once held by Warwick Armstrong, he was appointed captain in 1926/27 but at the end of the 1928/29 season he left to become captain-coach of Richmond, thereby missing out on playing in an MCC premierships side.

During his time at Melbourne he accomplished two feats unequalled in the history of the District competition. In 1925/26 he became the only player to hit five consecutive hundreds and three seasons later he achieved the unique all-round feat of scoring a double-century and taking 10 wickets in the same match (230 not out and 4/43 & 6/23 against Northcote).

Other capable newcomers in the 1920s were Keith Campbell, who first played in 1923/24 and kept wickets in five of the club's six premierships-winning teams in the 1930s and Joe Thomas, an aggressive left-handed batsman from Bendigo, who was only 18 when he first played in 1928/29. He won the batting average in 1930/31 and played in four premierships sides.

These gains were offset by the loss of some outstanding players, notably Warwick Armstrong and Bert Ironmonger. Armstrong, 40 years of age when he captained the 1919/20 premierships side, made his last District appearances in 1925/26, although he did not play regularly after returning from the 1921 tour of England.

In an extraordinary career with the club which commenced in 1900/01, he compiled 8197 runs, including 23 hundreds, at 67.18 and captured 451 wickets at 13.73. The name Armstrong did not disappear from club scoresheets, however, as his leg-spinning brother Tom, 10 years his junior, made frequent First XI appearances until 1929/30 and was the leading wicket-taker in 1927/28.

Ironmonger left after the 1920/21 season in order to take up a business opportunity in Sydney. When that venture proved less successful than anticipated he returned to Melbourne late in 1922 but instead of returning to the Melbourne Cricket Club he joined St Kilda, where he teamed with Don Blackie to form a remarkably successful bowling combination which helped that club win six premierships over the ensuing seasons. In eight seasons with Melbourne he had captured 360 wickets at just 12.11 apiece.

Another significant departure was Fred Vaughan, who retired at the end of the 1922/23 season. A fine top-order batsman, he had represented the club for 20 seasons, compiling 7112 runs, including 20 hundreds, at 40.64. He died suddenly in 1926, aged 49.

\* \* \*

By 1929/30 only four members of the 1919/20 premierships team, Vernon Ransford, Horrie Sandford, Basil Onyons and Keith Tolhurst, were still playing in the club's First XI.

Ransford, whose stylish left-handed batting had earned him 20 Test caps before the war, was not quite as prolific a runscore afterwarwards, although he continued to appear in first-class matches until 1927/28, when he was 43 years of age. He won the MCC's batting average for the fifth and last time in 1922/23, and in 1927/28, when he recorded the last of his 19 First XI hundreds, he finished second to Onyons.

Appointed captain for the 1929/30 season, he announced his retirement at its conclusion, having scored 7348 runs at 49.31 for the club since making his debut in 1902/03. Following an

unbroken spell on the MCC committee from 1913/14, he was appointed secretary in 1939, a position he occupied until his retirement in 1957.

Sandford, whose unbeaten century steered Melbourne to its first District premierships in 1914/15, was seen at the time as a potential Test player. Although he failed to fulfil this expectation, possibly the result of his war-time experience – a shrapnel wound left him with a permanently bent left arm – he scored heavily for the club throughout the 1920s. A dashing opening batsman with excellent footwork, he topped the batting averages three times from 1920/21 to 1928/29. Perhaps surprisingly, he played only 10 times for Victoria.

Onyons, who first played for the club in 1904/05, was a very sound batsman who regularly went in first with Sandford. A consistent runscore at club level, he headed the batting averages in 1923/24 and 1927/28. Unlucky to play only 11 times for Victoria, for he finished with a first-class career batting average of 62.31, he struck four Shield hundreds when called up to the state side at the age of 41 in 1928/29.

Tolhurst, a stylish top-order batsman who made his First XI debut in 1914/15, had an inconsistent record but was nevertheless a highly capable player who won the batting average in 1921/22 and did so again in the premierships season of 1929/30. He played eight times for Victoria and later gave long service to the MCC as a committeeman, vice-president and cricket delegate.

### The 1929/30 premierships

After finishing the home-and-away season in fourth place, Melbourne eventually broke its semi-final hoodoo when it accounted for reigning premiers University and went on to defeat St Kilda in the final to win its third District premierships.

The 1929/30 season saw the admission of a 14th team, VCA Colts, thereby eliminating the need for a bye which had been a feature of the competition since the promotion of Northcote in 1907/08. In a format that remained largely unchanged until the 1970s, the season was expanded to 13 rounds, enabling each side to play each other once, comprising 11 two-day and two one-day matches, the latter being played on Melbourne Cup Day in early November and Foundation Day (now Australia Day) in late January.

Following the departure of 'Stork' Hendry, Vernon Ransford, now 45 years old and in the twilight of his career, was appointed captain, with another veteran, Basil Onyons, as his deputy.

Melbourne began its campaign quietly, losing to University in the opening match, and by Christmas had recorded only one victory, at which point it appeared unlikely to qualify for the finals. Its record improved significantly after the break, however, and after winning five of its seven remaining matches, including an outright victory against the Colts, it edged out South Melbourne to finish in fourth place.

The most successful batsman was Keith Tolhurst, whose unbeaten 151 against Carlton in November was one of only two centuries scored during the season. However, he dropped out of the side after Round 10 because of impending marriage and did not play in the finals.

The only other hundred was recorded by Horrie Sandford who struck 101 not out against Essendon in the last round when he and Joe Thomas (68 not out) took part in an unbeaten third-wicket stand of 168.



In the previous match, Sandford had made 84 (out of a total of 176) against South Melbourne to set up an important win. The 19-year-old Thomas, who compiled five half-centuries in the home-and-away program, finished second in the batting averages.

With 47 wickets for the season as a whole, Hans Ebeling was the mainstay of the attack, the best of his three five-wicket hauls being 6/41 against the Colts. The next highest wicket-taker was teenage googly bowler Larry Cordner, a second cousin of the famous brotherhood. Replacing Tom Armstrong as the club's first-choice spinner after Christmas, he finished second in the bowling averages with best figures of 7/62 against Hawthorn-East Melbourne.

Melbourne's semi final opponent was second-placed University, the match being played at the MCG on April 5 and 12. Both sides were without leading players. Melbourne's Tolhurst was away in Colombo on his honeymoon while skipper Ransford, whose highest score for the season had been 35 in the opening round loss to University, had not played since Round 11, Onyons taking over the captaincy. University was weakened by the absence of its star all-rounder, Ted à Beckett, who was en route to England with the 1930 Test team.

Batting first in perfect conditions, University recovered from a poor start to make 231 with Ebeling (4/51), Vern Nagel (3/30) and Cordner (2/65) sharing the bowling honours. With conditions still favourable for batting, Melbourne was untroubled to pass University's total on the following Saturday, to end its long sequence of semi final losses. Onyons (57), who shared a bright opening stand of 73 with Roy Freemantle, and Sandford (52) were top-scorers in a total of 322.

In the other semi-final, at St Kilda, the home side easily accounted for Fitzroy with Don Blackie and Bert Ironmonger taking four wickets apiece as the visitors were bundled out for 114.

The final between Melbourne and St Kilda began in perfect weather at the MCG on Easter Saturday. St Kilda, which relied heavily on its formidable duo of Blackie and Ironmonger, was without the services of its best batsman Bill Ponsford who, like à Beckett, was on his way to England for the 1930 Ashes series.

Before 5000 spectators on the opening day, St Kilda batted first in perfect conditions after winning the toss. In a bright display they ran up a competitive total of 283 in 247 minutes with Reg Ellis and George Wilson both recording half-centuries. Cordner, although inaccurate at times, took the bowling honours. With 70 minutes left to bat before stumps Melbourne began well, but lost Onyons to the second-last ball of the day.

The match resumed on Easter Monday in dull but fine weather, with just over 4000 spectators present to watch an enthralling contest. With spinners Blackie, Ironmonger and Ellis doing all the bowling, wickets fell steadily and although Thomas, Sandford and Lisle Nagel all made useful contributions, Melbourne was in desperate straits when its eighth wicket fell at 201, with 83 runs needed to overhaul St Kilda's score.

Sandford and Lisle Nagel all made useful contributions, Melbourne was in desperate straits when its eighth wicket fell at 201, with 83 runs needed to overhaul St Kilda's score.

At this point Vern Nagel, whose highest score for the season to date was 11, joined keeper Keith Campbell at the crease. Batting with caution and punishing the occasional loose deliveries, the pair carried the score to 266 by the tea interval without further loss, by which stage 18 runs were needed for a first innings lead.

The pair continued to bat steadily against a tiring attack after the break until, with one run needed to tie, Campbell, who had batted two hours for 39, was run out when he backed up too far.

Amid great excitement, the last man Cordner, who was handicapped by a fractured finger on his right hand as a result of a fielding mishap on the opening day, survived the remainder of the over, leaving the hero of the hour, Nagel, to score the winning runs.

Last out, Nagel top-scored with 56 in 129 minutes with five fours. St Kilda's skipper, Bert Cohen, was criticised for using only three bowlers, despite the innings lasting almost 120 (eight-ball) overs.

With a day's play remaining, St Kilda made a desperate attempt to save the game. Endeavouring to force the pace in its second innings in the hope of achieving an improbable outright victory, it found quick scoring difficult against negative "leg theory" bowling by Ebeling and the Nagel twins.

But following half centuries from Ellis and Hec Oakley, it closed its second innings mid-way through the last day in the hope that Melbourne might collapse in the 165 minutes remaining. Following the early loss of Sandford, however, Onyons and Thomas both recorded unbeaten half-centuries before

the match was called off. There was a double triumph for the MCC, as its second XI (for the third time in a row) also won the premiership.

\* \* \*

Under the leadership of Keith Tolhurst, Melbourne finished sixth in 1930/31 and was beaten by St Kilda in the following season's semi-final. A remarkable feature of this match was that Melbourne, which trailed by 104 on the first innings after having to bat on a rain-affected pitch, dismissed St Kilda for just 17 in its second innings, Lisle Nagel taking 5 for 10 and Ebeling 4 for 7.

1929-30 FINAL  
MELBOURNE v. ST KILDA  
Ground at Melbourne (M.C.G.) on Easter Saturday, April 12, 1930.  
Melbourne won by 107 runs.

St Kilda		Melbourne	
B. Cohen	114	R. Sandford	52
B. Ironmonger	47	V. Nagel	56
D. Blackie	35	K. Campbell	39
G. Wilson	30	L. Nagel	11
H. Oakley	27	H. Ebeling	47
J. Ponsford	21	L. Cordner	65
R. Ellis	17	R. Onyons	57
T. Black	16	R. Tolhurst	11
W. G. Phillips	15	R. Freemantle	57
W. G. Phillips	14	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	13	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	12	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	11	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	10	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	9	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	8	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	7	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	6	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	5	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	4	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	3	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	2	R. Sandford	52
W. G. Phillips	1	R. Sandford	52

MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 1929-30

Batting & Fielding		Bowling	
Player	Avg	Wkts	Avg
R. Sandford	52.0	11	16.7
V. Nagel	56.0	5	18.2
K. Campbell	39.0	1	28.0
L. Nagel	11.0	1	17.0
H. Ebeling	47.0	11	16.7
L. Cordner	65.0	5	18.2
R. Onyons	57.0	5	18.2
R. Tolhurst	11.0	1	28.0
R. Freemantle	57.0	5	18.2
R. Sandford	52.0	11	16.7
B. Ironmonger	47.0	11	16.7
D. Blackie	35.0	5	18.2
G. Wilson	30.0	5	18.2
H. Oakley	27.0	5	18.2
J. Ponsford	21.0	5	18.2
R. Ellis	17.0	5	18.2
T. Black	16.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	15.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	14.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	13.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	12.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	11.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	10.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	9.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	8.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	7.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	6.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	5.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	4.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	3.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	2.0	5	18.2
W. G. Phillips	1.0	5	18.2



Melbourne needed 122 runs to win with 144 minutes remaining, but persistent rain thwarted its chance of victory, and the match was abandoned with its second innings score at three for 21.

Melbourne welcomed three outstanding newcomers in 1931/32, Bill Ponsford (from St Kilda), Len Darling (from South Melbourne) and footballer-cricketer Percy Beames who had played a few times for South Melbourne while a schoolboy in Ballarat.

Ponsford, Victoria's leading batsman and a Test player since 1924/25, proved a great acquisition. In his seven seasons with the club he was a member of five premierships sides and won the batting average five times. Darling, a dashing left-hander who later appeared in 12 Tests, played in two premierships and won the batting average in 1931/32.

Beames, better remembered today for his outstanding prowess on the football field, was also an outstanding middle-order batsman who must be considered unlucky to have played only 18 times for Victoria. A member of four MCC premierships sides, he finished on top of the club's batting averages seven times from 1938/39 to 1945/46 and by the time of his retirement only Warwick Armstrong had made more runs for the club.

### The 1932/33 premiership

Melbourne entered the 1932/33 season with a new captain, Hans Ebeling, who commenced an outstanding reign in which he led the club to five flags in six seasons. Unusually, no semi finals were scheduled this season, the two top-placed sides at the end of the home-and-away season moving straight into the final.

A three-way battle involving Melbourne, St Kilda and Richmond ensued, with each winning 10 home-and-away matches to finish well clear of the other clubs. With its wins including outright victories against Northcote, Carlton and Prahran, Melbourne headed the ladder, with St Kilda, which won one match outright, in second place. Richmond, whose wins were all on the first innings only, missed out on a place in the final.

Although Ponsford and Darling, who both represented Australia in the summer's infamous Bodyline series, were seldom available because of representative calls, Melbourne possessed a strong batting line-up, headed by Sandford, Beames, Thomas and Charles Gardner, the last-named an attractive right-hander who appeared for the first time. The main strength lay in bowling, however, as Ebeling and Lisle Nagel were in outstanding wicket-taking form all season, Ebeling taking a career-highest 62 wickets and Nagel 49.

Their success overcame the absence of Vern Nagel who, after capturing 22 wickets at negligible cost in the first three matches, was out of action for the remainder of the season with injuries that included a broken rib. Alec Hurwood, a medium-paced off break bowler from Queensland who had played for Australia two seasons earlier, joined the side after Christmas after coming to Melbourne on business.

The season began with an outright win over Northcote at the Albert Ground after Vern Nagel took eight for 11 to rout



1932/33 premierships team.

Standing: C.A. Gardner, A. Hurwood, L.E. Nagel, V.G. Nagel, J.R.M. Crockett, H.R. Hill, P.J. Beames.

Seated: W.H. Ponsford, J. Thomas, L.S. Darling, H.I. Ebeling (captain), E. K. Tolhurst, R.S. Jewell, G.F. Margitich.

Insets: H.C.A. Sandford, M.W. Rayson.

MCC Museum Collection (M574)

the visitors for 51 in their second innings. In the next match Ebeling and the Nagel twins dismissed the Colts for 55 to set up an easy first innings win in a match reduced to one day because of rain. Losses to St Kilda and Richmond (despite Ebeling taking 12 wickets) slowed the momentum, but thereafter the side was undefeated.

In an outright win against Carlton, Lisle Nagel (10 for 82 for the match) and Ebeling (8 for 83) bowled unchanged through both innings and they repeated the performance in a one-day match against Prahran on the ANA holiday, Ebeling finishing with match figures of nine for 29 and Nagel nine for 53. In an exciting finish to the Prahran match, Melbourne achieved its third outright win for the season off the last possible ball when keeper George Margitich clung on to a brilliant catch.

The highest score was recorded by 41-year-old Sandford who struck a magnificent 179 not out against Essendon on Cup Day when he and Tolhurst (62), who did not play regularly, put on 214 for the first wicket. Later, Sandford made 117 against Collingwood, his 14th and last District hundred, while Beames (126) and Gardiner (103) both recorded their first District hundreds in a third-wicket stand of 212 against South Melbourne.

Melbourne clinched a place in the final by defeating Fitzroy at the MCG in the final home-and-away match. In a keen contest, Melbourne, batting first after winning the toss for the only time during the season, made 268 with Ponsford, in just his third club appearance for the season, top-scoring with 85. Fitzroy was dismissed for 236 in reply with

Hurwood, in his best performance during his short stay with the club, taking six for 76.

The final between Melbourne and its now traditional rivals, St Kilda, began on the Eight-Hours Day holiday, Monday 25 March and continued over the next three Saturdays. It is doubtful if two more powerful teams have contested a District final.



Hans Ebeling, Captain of the 1932/33 premierships team, he was an outstanding fast-medium bowler who captured 447 wickets for the club at just over 16 runs apiece. He captained another four MCC premierships sides in the 1930s and later gave outstanding service to the club as an administrator. MCC Museum Collection (M12719.7)



**1932/33 FINAL**  
**MELBOURNE v. ST KILDA**  
Played at Victoria Cricket Ground on March 23, April 1 & 8, 1933.  
Melbourne won the first innings. Total: 48/246.

St Kilda		Melbourne	
J. G. Ponsford	100	J. G. Ponsford	100
M. J. Anderson	100	M. J. Anderson	100
T. A. Beckett	100	T. A. Beckett	100
L. E. Ebeling	100	L. E. Ebeling	100
V. Nagel	100	V. Nagel	100
D. Blackie	100	D. Blackie	100
H. Hurwood	100	H. Hurwood	100
T. L. Lisle	100	T. L. Lisle	100
J. J. Margitich	100	J. J. Margitich	100
K. Campbell	100	K. Campbell	100
B. Ironmonger	100	B. Ironmonger	100
E. Bromley	100	E. Bromley	100
J. J. Mackay	100	J. J. Mackay	100
C. A. Giffen	100	C. A. Giffen	100
A. J. Page	100	A. J. Page	100
T. L. Lisle	100	T. L. Lisle	100

**MELBOURNE 1st XI AVERAGES 1932/33**

Batting & Fielding	
M. J. Anderson	100
J. G. Ponsford	100
T. A. Beckett	100
L. E. Ebeling	100
V. Nagel	100
D. Blackie	100
H. Hurwood	100
T. L. Lisle	100
J. J. Margitich	100
K. Campbell	100
B. Ironmonger	100
E. Bromley	100
J. J. Mackay	100
C. A. Giffen	100
A. J. Page	100
T. L. Lisle	100

Eight players with Test experience took part, including five who had played in the recently-concluded Ashes series, Melbourne's Ponsford, Darling and Lisle Nagel and St Kilda's 50-year-old Bert Ironmonger and 20-year-old Ern Bromley.

Three ex-Test players, St Kilda's Ted à Beckett and Don Blackie and Melbourne's Hurwood, also took part, while each side contained a future Test representative in Ebeling and 'Chuck' Fleetwood-Smith. Of the 22 players who took part, only four failed to appear in a first-class match.<sup>1</sup>

In bitterly cold weather on the opening day, only 66 minutes of play took place before a fierce storm drove the players from the field. In that time St Kilda, having won the toss and batted, got away to a sound start with openers Jack Perraton and Bill Anderson putting on 45 without loss.

The match resumed in glorious weather on the following Saturday before 5776 spectators. Following the early loss of Perraton and Tom Lahiff, St Kilda made painfully slow progress, adding only 148 runs for the loss of six wickets before shadows from the Grey Smith Stand resulted in a successful light appeal.

The best partnership was 67 for the third wicket by Anderson and the promising Hec Oakley, but wickets fell steadily thereafter, including that of Test player Bromley for only 2. Anderson batted with dogged determination throughout the day to be 92 not out at the close.

More glorious weather greeted players and spectators on the following Saturday when a crowd of just over 5000 saw St Kilda add 41 runs to its overnight total to be all out for 234. First to go was Anderson, who fell to Ebeling soon after reaching a well-deserved and chanceless 100. He batted for nearly five and a half hours and hit three fours.

Lisle Nagel then mopped up the tail to take the bowling honours. Best support came from John Crockett, a 28-year-old medium pacer who had played on-and-off since 1926/27, and the economical Ebeling, who conceded little more than two runs per (eight-ball) over during several long stints at the bowling crease.

Melbourne made a shaky start, losing Sandford and Darling for 39, but Ponsford and Thomas then became associated in a third-wicket stand which took the score to 130 by stumps without further loss.

On the final day, Melbourne lost only one more wicket before it overhauled St Kilda's total, that of Thomas (49) who fell to Ironmonger at 159 to end a 120-run partnership. Ponsford

and Beames then added 78 in a fluent fourth-wicket stand to ensure victory.

Putting the ordeals of Bodyline behind him, Ponsford went on to make 136. Cutting and pulling with power and precision against a strong attack, he batted for 261 minutes and hit 11 fours. With the match won, the later batsmen hit out, the brightest contribution coming from Lisle Nagel who struck 62 in 76 minutes with 11 fours.

à Beckett, who kept a good length throughout, took the bowling honours for the losers, although many felt its best bowler was left-arm chinaman exponent Fleetwood-Smith, despite the fact that he failed to take a wicket.

Ponsford, who batted only five times, took the club's batting award with 353 runs at 88.25, while Vern Nagel, whose 22 wickets were taken in the first three games, won the bowling. The principal match-winners, however, were Ebeling and Lisle Nagel who between them captured 111 wickets at under 12 runs apiece. Behind the stumps, Margitich, who displaced the experienced Keith Campbell, played his part in the team's success with 25 dismissals.

With its strong attack about to be further strengthened by the acquisition of the brilliant but erratic Fleetwood-Smith, the Melbourne Cricket Club was on the verge of a golden era.

To be continued...

**Ken Williams**

**End Notes**

1 The four players who never appeared in first-class cricket were Melbourne's John Crockett and George Margitich and St Kilda's Bill Anderson and Tommy Lahiff. Crockett was a son of famous Test umpire Bob Crockett and later ran the bat-making company founded by his father. Margitich, a wicketkeeper from South Australia, was also a fine full forward for the Melbourne Football Club whose 73 goals in 1930 stood as a club record until it was overhauled by Norm Smith eight years later.

Anderson, whose 100 in the 1932/33 final was his only District century, was a prolific runscore in Geelong cricket for many years and represented Victorian Country sides against touring teams from England and India between 1928/29 and 1947/48. He also played for Geelong in the VFL.

Lahiff, a capable top-order batsman with St Kilda for six seasons and later a stalwart in the lower elevens at South Melbourne, is better known as a feisty footballer who played with Port Melbourne in the VFA and Essendon, South Melbourne and Hawthorn in the VFL. He later became a much-loved radio commentator.





MCC Members' entrance during the 1977 Centenary Test. Image courtesy Ann Rusden

HM Queen Elizabeth II, followed by Sir Albert Chadwick, Ian Johnson and HRH Prince Phillip in the MCC Pavilion for the Centenary Test. Image courtesy Alf Batchelder.



## My 40 Years with the MCC

As the Melbourne Cricket Club celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 15 November 2013, I will be celebrating my 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member of staff.

I remember that day so well and also the day I came into the hallowed ground to have my interview with the late Mr Ian Johnson. It was a Saturday morning and Victoria was playing South Australia with Ian Chappell (who scored 83 that day) at the wicket. As a cricket fanatic and just back in Australia after short stints working at The Oval and Lord's, it was awe-inspiring to meet Ian Johnson.

So my first day at the office was 15 November 1973. The MCC's staff totalled nine people and only three of us were women. The assistant secretary was Maurie Gibb, already a long-serving staff member and a former Melbourne footballer. It was a far cry from the number of staff we have today.

During subscription season, we had four or five volunteers to assist us with distribution of medallions and ladies tickets. The members and waiting lists were a series of huge cylindrical circles kept in a large safe – one always hoped the door stayed open – with alphabetical coloured cards for members and waiting list candidates.

Christmas Eve was very special for the staff. We congregated at the back of the main area for sandwiches and drinks. This was where we would pepper Mr Johnson with questions about his crickering career and he would regale us with fascinating stories of the greats of yesteryear.

On match days we always closed the office and The Lodge at the Main Members Entrance was the hub for everything, and I mean everything. We held player tickets, initially sold visitor tickets, fielded inquiries and problems and used the most involved 'plug in' telephone system you could image.

We had the Corps of Commissionaires at the Members Entrance each match day – lovely chaps but not the trained security guards we employ these days. One Test match day we had underestimated the crowd very badly (Melburnians are definitely the world's greatest sports lovers).

Queues were everywhere and some quick thinking was certainly required. The MCC committee went into action. We had some very influential gentlemen manning the turnstiles

and reporting to The Lodge with their pockets full of money. As always, we got the crowd in safely and this was a topic of conversation for quite some time.

Everything happened from The Lodge. Even a young policeman entered it holding a live duck that had been put over the fence when Greg Chappell was having a terrible run of 'ducks' in 1981/82. I was horrified to be told that I was designated the 'Keeper of the Duck' until a wagon arrived.

Well, the duck squawked and left 'messages' for me everywhere, even when I tried to give it water. People coming to the window could only hear this constant squawking and looked at me very strangely. That duck was escorted to the Botanical Gardens in a police wagon, where I am sure its descendants live today.

I was in The Lodge during the Centenary Test match when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip arrived. Prince Philip, ever the sportsman, arrived 30 minutes early and it was a frantic call to Mr Johnson to tell him the Prince was on his way to the Committee Room.

I might add Mr Johnson did not believe me at first. Commonwealth and State Police all gathered in The Lodge (rather crowded) and two way radios were announcing 'Entering Brunton Avenue...' and I was told to leave The Lodge immediately.

I cried 'I will never be able to see Her Majesty now and you're making me leave, I'm a royalist (as if I would be a security risk!).' After some very fast talking, I was allowed to stand at the closed door of The Lodge (almost nailed to it) and was delighted to see HM Queen Elizabeth II walk by under the iron glare of the security police.

That Centenary Test match was a very special time for me even though I only saw three overs bowled. For the previous two years, I had assisted Mr Hans Ebeling with the organisation of that special week. I had always loved cricket, but learnt so much from this great man about the history of the game. I am forever indebted to him.

Football has produced many memories and I am proud of my record of working and viewing two of the three drawn grand finals (I couldn't make the first one in 1948!). The 1977 and



The newly established office space in the Pavilion in 1973.  
*Melbourne Cricket Club News Letter*, No. 53, July 1973, p1.  
MCC Library Collection



Peta Phillips working with MCC Library volunteer Ross Perry in 2007.

2010 draws were unexpected. They caused much excitement and a very hectic week for staff.

But it wasn't just cricket and football. The very first pop concert we hosted was David Cassidy in 1974, and that really was different to what we were used to. We queried whether the ground could sustain all these youngsters running all over it. It did. The Military Tattoos, first held here in 1979, roused the souls of everyone with just a hint of Scotland in their veins. The sight of a lone piper on top of the scoreboard was stirring. The Pope held an Ecumenical Service at the 'G' in 1986, too. Irrespective of your faith this was an incredible and special time for the MCG.

But certainly one of the most moving experiences I have witnessed at the MCG has been the 'Pink Ladies' nights. It was special to see so many women and men, who have experienced breast cancer, join forces with their friends to give support to those who are suffering and give thanks for those who have survived.

There have been many changes over the last 40 years, to both the ground and the stands. The club has ensured the MCG has kept pace with world stadia trends. State-of-the-art spectator and playing facilities are now expected for each and every event. Security has expanded greatly, corporate areas, catering facilities and our staff's skill base have all changed and grown to meet the expectations of the times.

The installation of the light towers in 1984 was an amazing time. Trouble within the union movement brought turmoil to the ground and a police office was alongside mine. Each day, mounted troopers would move in and assist the workers to enter the precinct. The project made for incredibly hard times, but Dr John Lill never relented. He was determined that the towers would be built and he stood by everyone on the project.

With Stephen Gough at the helm, we moved into events on a massive scale. Cricket, football, rugby, Commonwealth Games...it all happens at the MCG. Our heritage (both state

and national), is for all to see at the National Sports Museum, and we are conscious and proudly documenting our own incredible history.

We are leading with environmental issues, particularly water conservation. The MCG has also hosted charity concerts and events (often at a moment's notice) to assist people in times of tragedy. It is now a huge organisation and through it all Stephen has kept his sense of humour and continues to lead the Melbourne Cricket Club and Melbourne Cricket Ground as Australia's foremost sporting icon.

There are so many stories that I am fortunate to be able to remember (some I cannot tell you) and just maybe one day I will attempt to write a book. Who knows? Herewith I have given you a few snapshots from my time here.

It has been an amazing experience to witness the club and ground grow in stature, assuming a place in our shared sporting and social history. Many incredible people have walked through our doors and I have been privileged to see them help make this stadium symbolic of our city's life.

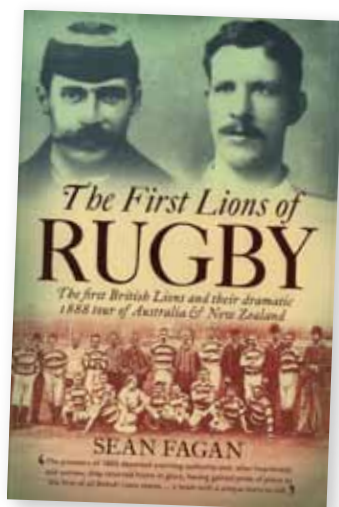
As we progress to the next celebration, a word on the wonderful 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations. We had a magnificent dinner in a marquee on the ground on 15 November 1988. This was so special, but it almost didn't happen. That morning, the heavens opened up and did not stop. Cables for heating for the food were lying in water and therefore it was a danger to all.

The president was called and I am sure Dr Donald Cordner arrived from Heidelberg within minutes. After various meetings and discussions and alterations the dinner went ahead and was an amazing success.

So now I celebrate the club's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with affection, knowing that for 40 of those years (and hopefully a few more) I have been a small part of this incredible journey.

**Peta (Pip) Phillips.**

# Book Reviews



Sean Fagan  
***The First Lions of Rugby***  
Slattery Media Group:  
Richmond (Vic), 2013  
ISBN: 9780987500274

Following the hugely successful British Lions tour of Australia this winter, Sean Fagan's *The First Lions of Rugby* is timely and essential reading for anyone interested in 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian sport. There is drama, tragedy, humour, sport and cultural history, ably supported by insights about 19<sup>th</sup> century society.

This book focuses on the first British rugby team that toured Australia and New Zealand in 1888. Sean Fagan details individual matches and the logistical challenges of playing 54 matches in five months on the other side of the world. But he also profiles the individuals and institutions connected with (or opposed to) the tour, the state of rugby football in the late 1880s and the overall impact of the team.

Fagan comments on the English class system as the amateur Rugby Union in London sought to retain control of their game without compromising their ideals. The 1888 British rugby team was privately sponsored by Alfred Shaw, Arthur Shrewsbury and James Lillywhite whose objective was to have a financially viable venture following a failed cricket tour.

The English Rugby Football Union (RFU) was invited to participate but declined on the grounds that its laws did not permit professionalism. Fagan follows the progress of the battle between the RFU, determined to take a stand, and the promoters who were equally determined to have a successful tour.

Unlike the game's establishment RFU in London, many of the British footballers were working class, but class was not an issue once isolated at sea. The team travelled first class to the Antipodes on the steamship *Kaikoura*. The passengers and crew all participated in games on deck and in the evenings enjoyed concerts, stories and card games. The voyage took 46 days.

Fagan's research is meticulous, and some details he includes are indicative of the colonising process, then well underway in Australia and New Zealand. Passengers on the *Kaikoura* also included frozen salmon ova, destined for Tasmanian rivers, and weasels for an early rabbit eradication program in New Zealand.

Like these species, in some regions of Australia rugby was a foreign game. Therefore, the tourists played Australian rules in Victoria, South Australia and Maitland (NSW). Although the Victorian Football Association (VFA), like the RFU, declined patronage of the tour, the Brits had arranged matches against individual VFA clubs.

The tourists believed (wrongly) that 'there is nothing in the game that our men cannot pick up in half an hour.' However, they only won six of the 19 Australian football games played.

The British had greater success at rugby, winning 27, losing two and drawing six of 35 matches. Their style of play had a significant impact on the Australasian rugby teams. The Britishers considered the opposition to be four years behind in methods. The locals were mesmerised by the tourist's fast, accurate and very different strategies that are explored in detail by the author. The Antipodeans had much to learn.

Wherever the tourists appeared they were welcomed by huge crowds. The author tells of the banquets, civic receptions, sightseeing, shooting parties and the hospitality, all hardly conducive to fitness. Skating rinks, popular at the time, were a welcome diversion.

Unfortunately, the on-field goodwill did not extend to Wellington, New Zealand. In an era before substitutes were permitted, the match was so rough that four Brits were carried off with injuries and Wellington's Whatman fractured his leg. The crack of breaking bone was audible.

Of all the stories about the tour, possibly the most tragic is that of Robert Seddon. Seddon, the team's captain, was unassuming, respected and conscientious and had led a successful tour. However, he drowned in Maitland (NSW) while rowing on the Hunter River.

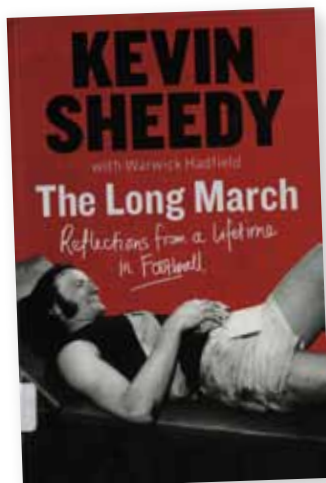
Fagan's account of the drowning and the aftermath is moving and provides an insight into the values, community spirit and social attitudes of the times. Ironically, only months before Seddon claimed when almost swept overboard: 'I don't think I was born to be drowned.'

Another member of the team was A.E. Stoddart, an all-round sportsman who later captained England at cricket. He was a promoter's dream, a magnet for crowds and a financial asset. Stoddart provides a solid link between the tour and the Melbourne Cricket Club. His 1888 velvet rugby cap is on display in the MCC Museum and he was inducted as a life member of the club in February 1888.

Stoddart toured as an amateur with an English cricket team that summer under the MCC's patronage, but Fagan writes that the 'MCC said their obligation to Stoddart ended when he joined the Rugby team.' The statement was not a reflection on Stoddart but whether the rugby promoters or the MCC would pay his fare home.

Sean Fagan's book sheds light on a fascinating and controversial tour. It is entertaining, beautifully written and meticulously researched. You certainly won't be disappointed.

**Lesley Smith**



Kevin Sheedy with Warwick Hadfield  
***The Long March: Reflections from a Lifetime in Football***  
 Slattery Media Group: Richmond (Vic.), 2013  
 ISBN: 9780987420510

In 2006 Kevin Sheedy once attended my high school's basketball breakfast function as a guest speaker. At first it seemed strange that Sheedy was invited to a basketball function, particularly when he had only just referred to negative Richmond play as 'basketball crap'.

Perhaps the softly cooked bacon and eggs dazed the room but Sheedy's words immediately had the crowd emphatically on his side. For those listening to him for the first time, they were stunned by his earthy and jovial tone but considered awareness.

He's the ultimate marketer or, in football terms, leader. His success as a coach is due mostly to his ability to sell a message to his players, corporates and supporters.

Sheedy is one of Australia's most successful sporting identities. He is a three-time Richmond premiership player, four-time Essendon premiership coach, a football Hall of Famer and now a prolific writer! It might be fair to say that Sheedy has produced more books than Greater Western Sydney triumphs.

Unless you're an avid Giants supporter, this might be a positive result. Sheedy is truly one of Australian football's more intriguing, quirky and surprising personalities. He was a plumber but now he stands as an innovator and one of football's more aggressive promoters.

Sheedy's latest book, *The Long March: Reflections from a Lifetime in Football*, is a series of succinct essays casting his honest opinions on issues within and beyond the boundary of Australian football. *The Long March*, with Warwick Hadfield, captures the full buffet of 'Sheedyisms'.

Of course, no Sheedy press conference, lecture or book can be authentic without a certain airing of his idiosyncrasies. He manages to touch on the unfortunately polarising issue of climate change and the invention of wheeled suitcases all in the same chapter... and in a football book. No issues, however detached from the grassy football fields, seem to escape the plumber's attention.

His passions for Indigenous Australians and 'A Fair Go Mate' for immigrants are obvious early in the book. He plants bold propositions to enhance the game and promote further inclusion of Indigenous Australians, like an 'Indigenous Rookie List'.

While the AFL's continual push for expansion into new markets, both nationally and globally, has stirred opposition from traditionalists, Sheedy actively embraces the expansionist movement in his book.

The book is laced with Sheedy's lively opinions about influential characters like 'the Sundance Kid', Paul Roos, and 'football's Shirley Temple', Dermott Brereton.

There are also trailblazers and innovative leaders like Barry Cable and Allen Aylett (VFL president during South Melbourne's move to Sydney), who Sheedy describes as 'joining the long march' to expand Australia's indigenous game.

Throughout the book we are reminded that, while Sheedy is a supporter of the AFL and their expansionist philosophy, he also enjoys stirring the media, AFL House and opposition clubs.

This book is not only amusing but also partly representative or illustrative of the AFL's philosophy on growing the game and confirming football as Australia's undisputed national game.

**Michael Collins**



Ross Fitzgerald and Ken Spillman (eds.)  
***Australia's Game: Stories, Essays, Verse and Drama Inspired by the Australian Game of Football***  
 Slattery Media Group: Richmond (Vic.), 2013  
 ISBN: 9780987500205

*Australia's Game* is the latest instance of Australian football literature transcending predictable and hackneyed player biographies and rehashed match reports. Edited by Ross Fitzgerald and Ken Spillman, *Australia's Game* is a revised and updated edition of work from *The Greatest Game* (1988).

Cricket might still dominate Australia's sporting literature but over the past 25 years there has been a subtle cultural shift in football writing. *The Greatest Game*, and now *Australia's Game*, demonstrates that football writing can be creative, scholarly and diverse.

*Australia's Game* enjoys more than just contributions from journalists, with entries from poet Bruce Dawe, renowned stage and screenwriter David Williamson and singer Paul Kelly.

The book canvasses football's powerful impact upon everyday Australian life and the sheer breadth of writers symbolises footy's far reach and influence in all levels of Australian culture.



We are swiftly reminded in this book that Australian Rules is not just meaningful to the cheer squad barrackers, suburban youngsters, sporting jocks and small town communities, but even to impressionable English travellers like academic and author David Best!

The book is laced with compact but detailed background summaries about each contributor's career and link to football. The stories characteristically derive from the sideline or from a witty self-deprecating perspective, like Laurie Clancy's 'The Coach'. Clancy recalls his quirky pre-game speeches as his career highlight:

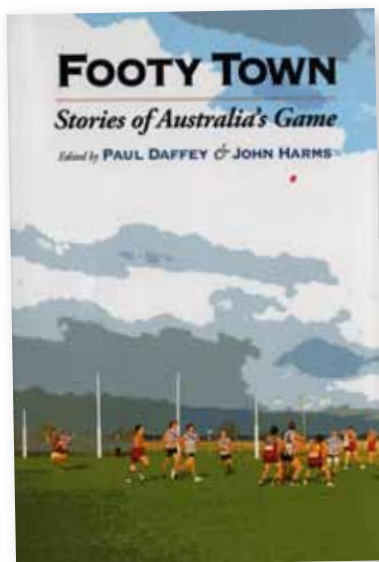
'My account of existentialism... is still spoken of with awe in the district while I understand my Religion and the Rise of Capitalism address to the lads went down well at St Andrew's.' The Australian self-deprecating humour, sense of mateship and hero worshipping is evident throughout the book.

*Australia's Game* is very similar to football's other 2013 standout book, *Footy Town*. Both articulate Australia's tribal football obsession but the compilation of stories, poetry, essays and scripts in *Australia's Game* ensures the book maintains a stream of originality and refreshing perspective.

*Footy Town's* warm conversationalist storytelling and its consistent connecting of community with football are its charms, but they also may be its shortcoming too because the stories are sometimes repetitive.

Ultimately, as September draws closer and reality bites for many football supporters, reading *Australia's Game* reminds us why we endure the thrashings and the emotional torment of staying loyal to hapless teams.

#### Michael Collins



Paul Daffey and John Harms (eds.)  
**Footy Town: Stories of Australia's Game**  
Malarkey Publications: Fitzroy North, 2013  
ISBN: 9780987434326

Sometimes the AFL's corporate alliances, dedicated 24-hour football channel and aggressive conquest for national superiority can blanket the game's simplicity and the communal values that often unites cultures and drives small towns.

*Footy Town* is a collection of short stories that strips Australia's game back to the core. Footballers, club volunteers, obsessed supporters and even local pub owners can relate to at least one of the 50 yarns written by men and women in this book.

Our experiences, both the tragic and the comical, define us. The stories behind the final score and muddied boots, not the peptides, are what make Australia's indigenous game so long lasting and cherished.

Edited by the men behind the yearly *Footy Almanac*, Paul Daffey and John Harms, *Footy Town* takes us back to the places, the rivalries, the people and moments that endears footy to our hearts. From Rioli territory in the Tiwi Islands to Tasmania's muddy and drenched fields, no culture or quirky footy tradition and ritual is missed.

The stories are narrated with subtle footy-slang and conversationalist storytelling. American jargon might have crept into AFL media's vernacular but fortunately the "quarterbacks" and "systems" are thrown out in this book.

The *Footy Town's* personal, comical and down-to-earth yarns echo the sentiment that Aussie Rules is still a 'game of the people for the people'. The stories remind us that local football still has a far richer connection to the community than the AFL does.

Hence, the book's appeal is the fact that the writing is not laced with overwrought prose and clichés but instead captures the storytellers' voices, humour and characters.

The stories flow like a winding river because they simply let the personalities and humour absorb us. Shane Johnson's 'The Goal Post Final' makes the old adage 'expect the unexpected' so relevant and 'control only what you can control' so trivial to our indigenous game.

Johnson recalls the 1967 Tasmanian 'no result' grand final when aggrieved fans stormed the oval to uproot the goal posts before the potential match-winning kick. There is something blissfully Australian about the fact that a grand final's sour and shameful conclusion can enter into Tasmania's celebratory Football Hall of Fame.

As an avid world traveller, I have come to realise that friends abruptly ignore the obvious (how was America?) and go 'straight to business', as Terry Chapman described it in 'The Things You Do For Love'.

'What's your Footy CV: Let's have it!' is the line so often following a greeting in local pubs and busy town halls. Footy consumes conversation and can stir a town's pride like few other sports and cultural pastimes can do.

The *Footy Town's* contributing writers are as familiar with their local footy leagues as a footballer is to an old rusty Sherrin, or a Richmond supporter is to overwhelming disappointment. *Footy Town* is a welcome addition to Australian football literature. Paul Daffey's introduction to the book perhaps best describes the richness of Australia's game and this book: 'Footy is about the game, about soaring high and kicking long, but it's also about people and places.'

#### Michael Collins



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Harry Pearson

***The Trundlers: The Military Medium-Paced Story of Cricket's Most Invaluable Breed***

Little, Brown: London, 2013

ISBN: 9781408704066

Medium-pace bowling is out of vogue. Home-grown products like Shane Lee and Adam Dale were one-day heroes of the 1990s. Tourists to have graced our shores in years gone by, like New Zealand's evergreen Chris Harris, India's prickly former captain Sourav Ganguly and England's Mark Ealham, are distant memories.

Recent international teams visiting Australia have instead included out-and-out quick men such as Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel (South Africa), England's Jimmy Anderson and Chris Tremlett, Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka) and youngsters like the controversial Mohammad Amir (Pakistan) and India's Ishant Sharma.

Sure, all-rounders Shane Watson (Australia) and Angelo Mathews (Sri Lanka's captain) are international regulars (when fit), but opposition batsmen would be loath to call them pedestrian.

Other recent Australian representative all-rounders, including Ashes tourist James Faulkner, new Victorian import Dan Christian and recently relocated former MCC player Andrew McDonald, are more fast-medium than medium.

Legendary South African Jacques Kallis (now 37 years old) also fits into this category, remarkable for a top-four batsman of such high pedigree in today's ever-demanding game. So, where have the doblers gone?

Harry Pearson's new book, *The Trundlers*, takes a romanticised look at the great 'military mediums' of yesteryear. It is a succinctly researched piece, showing clear love of the material from the author who is a self-confessed cricket geek from North Yorkshire.

He focuses on bowlers who delivered the ball somewhere in the 85-120 km/h region, or around 55-75 mph in the old money. English county cricket is littered with stories of medium-pacers from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries who performed the dual role of stock and shock bowler.



Pearson fondly recounts the exploits of pioneering cricketers such as Tom Walker, who in the 1790s was the first player to experiment with round-arm bowling, a time when underarming was the norm.

Then there is William Lillywhite, the thick-set 5'4" Sussex trundler who claimed more than 1500 first-class wickets and was instrumental in having round-arm bowling legalised (his perceived short stature was compensated by wearing a top hat while playing), while Surrey's Edward 'Lumpy' Stevens, who reputedly invented 'length' bowling.

Essex and England cricketer J.W.H.T. Douglas was said to be the fittest cricketer of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, taking a remarkable 1893 first-class wickets across 651 fixtures.

Sussex's Maurice 'Chub' Tate, who was prominent on either side of World War I, took a staggering 2784 first-class scalps at 18.16 apiece, having played in 679 matches which included 155 Test wickets in 39 outings.

Pearson is clearly fond of this type of cricketer. They performed their caper in a time when uncovered pitches subjected to notorious northern summer rainfall allowed for generous seam deviation, coupled with heavy atmospheric conditions which made swing rife. This was idyllic for line-and-length medium men who could do a bit through the air and/or off the pitch.

Non-English metronomic mediums who Pearson has an affinity for include Australia's post-World War II left-armer 'Big' Bill Johnston (also a finger spinner) and Perth product Bob Massie, the man described as 'cricket's one and only meteoric trundler', who took 16 wickets on Test debut in the 1972 Lord's Ashes Test yet only played a further five matches in the baggy green.

Add to the list India's early Test bowling trump card Amar Singh and Pakistan trailblazing fitness fanatic Fazal Mahmood, who took nearly 1000 first-class wickets between them, and New Zealand's 1992 World Cup attack of Gavin Larsen, Willie Watson, Rod Latham and Chris Harris, the quartet coined by iconic commentator David 'Bumble' Lloyd as 'Dibbly, Dobbly, Wibbly and Wobbly'.

Despite the author's disdain for Alec Bedser, former England bowler, selector, chairman and team manager, culminating in the honour of knighthood, Pearson spends a whole chapter describing his exploits. This covers a first-class career of nearly 500 games, taking over 1900 wickets, spanning four decades and including 236 Test victims in 51 appearances.

The author concludes the book by offering hand-picked English and World XIs, based on his all-time favourite medium pacers. This pays homage to cricketers across many generations. Pearson's prose is a great historical account of cricketing pioneers and fan favourites. He takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the centuries.

The first part of the book is heavily focused on English cricketers. However, he opens up to overseas players as international cricket developed. It is high on anecdotes and quip, which makes for an entertaining read for club cricketers and tragics everywhere, many of whom would have sent down their own fair share of military mediums up the hill and into the breeze.

**Andrew Harris**

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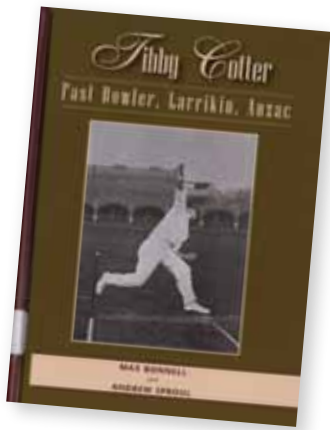
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Max Bonnell and Andrew Sproul  
***Tibby Cotter: Fast Bowler, Larrikin, Anzac***  
Walla Walla Press: Sydney, 2012  
ISBN: 9781876718121

A hundred years have elapsed since Tibby Cotter bowled his last ball for Australia. With the passage of time, he has been remembered more for his unusual slinging delivery, a style replicated in many respects by Jeff Thomson 60 years later, as well as the fact that he was the only Australian Test cricketer to be killed in action during either of the World Wars.

As this biography pinpoints, however, these aspects have tended to overshadow the significance of Cotter's contribution to the tactical development of fast bowling, albeit an unwitting one, he being the first paceman to consistently use the short-pitched ball as a means to intimidate and unsettle the batsman.

Prior to his arrival, such deliveries occurred more by accident than intent and were considered contrary to the spirit of the game.

Uncoached and also seemingly impervious to advice, there were never any subtleties in Cotter's approach to bowling, which was to dismiss the batsman as quickly as possible by pace alone. He made no attempt to either swing or cut the ball, any such movement occurring incidentally, and control of length and direction was never a priority.

On his first tour of England, in 1905, Cotter's at times wayward bowling led to a secondary tactical development. In an attempt to compel him to direct his attack at or outside the off stump, his captain Joe Darling often allowed him only two leg-side fieldsmen.

It soon became apparent that any additional fieldsmen behind the wicket, particularly in the slips region, increased the wicket-taking potential of a well-directed short ball.

Cotter spearheaded the Australian attack in 21 Tests between 1903/04 and 1911/12, having made his debut after only three previous first-class matches for New South Wales. At face value, his 89 Test wickets at an average of 38.64 is far from impressive, yet he averaged five or more wickets in an innings in a third of his appearances.

The higher cost of Cotter's wickets can be partly attributed to his outstanding stamina and endurance for one of his pace, which prompted captains to often employ him as a stock as well as a shock bowler. In fact, on three separate occasions he delivered more than 60 overs in a Test.

Previous writings have revealed little about Cotter's character. It is well known that he was one of the "Big Six" who were in dispute with the Board of Control over the appointment of the manager for the 1912 tour of England.

As this biography records, however, it was only one of numerous instances during his life that demonstrated an innate distrust of authority, hence the inclusion of "Larrikin" in the book's title.

Meticulously researched, Max Bonnell and Andrew Sproul have produced a well-constructed and written narrative which, as the book's title announces, probes all aspects of Cotter's cricket, his character and personality, and finally conducts an exhaustive investigation into the circumstances of his death during the aftermath of the celebrated charge of the Australian Light Horse on the Turkish defences at Beersheba.

I found it a compelling read and extremely difficult to put down. It is highly recommended

**Ray Webster**



## Remembering Tibby

As you enter the MCC Library, on the wall to the right is a portrait of Albert 'Tibby' Cotter (1884 - 1917). This oil painting is part of the series of portraits from 'Cricket's Golden Summer' created in the early 1980s by English artist Gerry Wright (1931 - ).

Combining two English themes of landscape and cricketers, his subjects included leading English players and Australian tourists from the period 1890-1914, regarded as 'the Golden Age of Cricket'. Wright's portrait of Cotter depicts him standing among Flanders poppies, commemorating his supreme sacrifice.

The portrait was acquired by the Melbourne Cricket Club to recognise cricketers who served their Country in time of war. At 11am each Remembrance Day a short service is held beside the portrait by staff, volunteers and visitors to the library.

**David Studham**