



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 4 RICHMOND V WESTERN BULLDOGS

LIBRARY FACT SHEET
APRIL 8, 2023

FIRST MCG CLASH

Surprisingly the Tigers and Bulldogs have not met in a VFL/AFL final as yet. The first MCG clash between the teams therefore did not take place until after the MCG became Richmond's home ground in 1965. The only game between the sides in 1965 was played at the Western Oval so it was in Round 2, 1966, that they met for the first time at the MCG.

A crowd of 28,596 was in attendance at the MCG on April 30, 1966, and they witnessed a very comfortable Richmond victory, the Tigers taking the game by 70 points. The final scores were Richmond 17.15 (117) to Footscray 5.17 (47). After a reasonably close first quarter in which the Tigers gained a five point lead at quarter time, the Bulldogs struggled to match the powerful Richmond team, the Tigers scoring 16 goals after quarter time to just four by the Bulldogs. Richmond's Frank Dimattina kicked five goals, while Paddy Guinane and Fred Swift booted four each. Doug Prior was the only multiple goalkicker for Footscray with two. Writing in the *Age* Greg Hobbs was critical of some of Richmond's stop-start football and suggested that they would need to improve if they were to make the finals. He continued:

"... In the first quarter the Tigers looked anything but a finals prospect. They improved slightly in the second, and in the second half played with far greater sureness. The difference between the two sides was that Richmond had far more players eager to go in and get the ball, while Footscray had to rely on a handful of players. Richmond captain Neville Crowe was the architect of his side's win. Crowe kept Footscray's top big man, John Schultz, right out of the game, and in doing so opened up countless opportunities for the Tigers. Rover Frank Dimattina combined brilliantly with Crowe, and his courageous, talented work around the packs and near the goals smashed Footscray's confidence. Richmond's score would have been considerably higher but for the untiring efforts of half-back John Jillard, back pocket Ian Bryant and, in the second half, Ted Whitten."

In the return match at the Western Oval in Round 13, Richmond won by 25 points – 11.16 (82) to 7.15 (57). The Tigers failed by half a game to make the 1966 finals, winning 13 games and drawing one of their 18 games to finish fifth on the ladder behind Collingwood (15 wins) and, in order, St Kilda, Geelong and Essendon (all with 14 wins and separated by percentage). Footscray finished the 1966 season in tenth position with 4 wins and 14 losses, ahead of only Melbourne and Fitzroy.

DID YOU KNOW?

It was not until 1971 that Footscray recorded their first victory over Richmond at the MCG. In Round 5 the Bulldogs gained a 35 point lead in the first quarter and maintained their advantage to be 38 points ahead at the final change. Richmond had the better of the last quarter but Footscray still ran out comfortable winners – 17.19 (121) to 14.17 (101). Laurie Sandilands and Don Brown kicked three goals each for the Bulldogs.

DAVID THORPE

A skilful and courageous player for Footscray from 1965 to 1973, Thorpe was among the top centremen in the VFL during this time. Recruited from North Footscray, he had a career total of 151 games for the Bulldogs, in which he kicked 79 goals. He was best and fairest at Footscray in 1968 and 1971, and captained the side in 1973. He was a VFL representative every year from 1969 to 1972 and was selected in the All Australian team after the 1972 carnival in Perth. He transferred to Richmond in 1974 and was in the centre when the Tigers downed North Melbourne in that year's grand final. He stayed with the Tigers until 1976, playing 27 games and kicking 24 goals, before moving to the VFA, first as captain-coach of Yarraville and later as a player with Port Melbourne.

This Round in History – Round 4 on the MCG

The highest score in Round 4 on the MCG was 25.15 (165) by Melbourne in 2000 against St Kilda 11.9 (75). The highest score in any quarter in Round 4 at the MCG was in 1938 when Melbourne kicked 11.5 (71) in the fourth quarter to beat South Melbourne by 52 points. The highest tally of goals by an individual in Round 4 on the MCG is 12 goals by Tony Lockett for St Kilda against Melbourne in 1987. Gary Ablett's 10 goals for Geelong against Richmond in 1988 is the second-highest. There has been only one drawn game on the MCG in Round 4. It was the Anzac Day match of 1995 when Collingwood 17.9 (111) drew with Essendon 16.15 (111). The only drawn game also drew the largest attendance at the MCG for a fourth round match – a crowd of 94,825.

Statistics for Richmond v Footscray/Western Bulldogs

Richmond v Footscray/Western Bulldogs by venue

	Won by Richmond	Won by Bulldogs	Drawn
Carrara	1	0	0
Docklands	6	9	1
MCG	25	15	0
Princes Park	1	0	0
Punt Road	19	13	1
Waverley Park	4	5	0
Western Oval	26	31	0
Yarraville Oval	0	1	0
	82	74	2

Highest Score

Richmond	27.18 (180)	Rd 7	1980	WO
Bulldogs	25.17 (167)	Rd 1	2006	Dock

Lowest Score

Richmond	2.11 (23)	Rd 13	1958	WO
Footscray	3.11 (29)	Rd 12	1935	PR

Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	115 points	Rd 18	1980	MCG
Bulldogs	115 points	Rd 1	2006	Dock

Last Time They Met – Round 4, 2022, MCG

	Richmond	Bulldogs
Quarter time	2.2	2.7
Half time	7.3	4.10
Three-quarter time	12.5	6.17
Full time	15.9 (99)	7.19 (61)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

12	Simon Beasley	Foot	Rd 18	1985	Wav
11	Michael Roach	Rich	Rd 7	1980	WO

PLAYED FOR RICHMOND AND FOOTSCRAY BUT NEVER IN THE VFL

Jack Hutchinson played in the Victorian Football Association (VFA) from 1899 through to the early 1910s. He spent the first part of his career with Port Melbourne before crossing to Richmond. He played with them until the end of the 1907 season but transferred to Footscray in the VFA when Richmond was admitted to the VFL in 1908. Toward the end of his career he returned to Port Melbourne. A talented full forward he was the VFA's leading goalkicker a number of times and in his last season with Richmond (1907) kicked 67 goals which, at that time, was an individual season record for the Association. He improved on that record by kicking 68 goals the following season for Footscray. He was a member of VFA premiership teams for Richmond, Footscray and Port Melbourne. In addition to deciding not to stay with Richmond when they were admitted to the VFL, he resisted early attempts from Collingwood for him to play with them, despite the fact that he was born in Collingwood and lived close to Victoria Park.

FOOTSCRAY'S HOME GROUND IN 1942

Footscray used the Western Oval (renamed the Whitten Oval after the death of Ted Whitten in 1995) as their home ground almost continuously until the end of 1996. It was absent from the ground in 1942, however, when it was used by military personnel during World War II. In 1942 Footscray played their home games at the nearby Yarraville Oval, which was available because the VFA was in recess and the ground was not being used by VFA club Yarraville. Footscray returned to the Western Oval for home games in 1943. In the only meeting between Footscray and Richmond at Yarraville, Footscray scored a seven point victory – 19.15 (129) to 17.20 (122).

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC deputy librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.