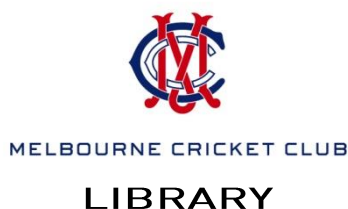


**AFL 2017 ROUND 6  
CARLTON V SYDNEY**



**SATURDAY  
APRIL 29, 2017  
FACT SHEET**

### **SOUTH MELBOURNE'S "FOREIGN LEGION"**

One of the eight original members of the Victorian Football League (1897), South Melbourne won its first VFL flag in 1909 and its second in 1918. Then followed a slide down the ladder during the 1920s. In response, an ambitious interstate recruiting drive was undertaken, the result of which would be South's appearance in four consecutive grand finals during the 1930s. It is ironic that South Melbourne's spending spree began soon after what was known as the Coulter Law had been introduced by the league. Sponsored by Melbourne club delegate Gordon Coulter, the 1930 rule stated that the maximum payment for players was to be £3 per match. Not surprisingly, clubs responded by offering other inducements which could not be traced because the VFL did not have access to payment records. In South's case the lure was employment (during the Great Depression) in one of a chain of grocery stores owned by club president Archie Croft. The team would be dubbed "The Foreign Legion", recruits including Western Australians Johnny Leonard, "Bluey" Richards, Bert Beard, John Bowe, Brighton Diggins, Bill Faul and Jim O'Meara, South Australians Ossie Bertram, Wilbur Harris and Jack Wade, and Tasmanians Frank Davies and the great Laurie Nash. At the time the club's nickname was "the Bloodstained Angels", but one journalist suggested that, because of the number of Western Australians who had joined the team, they might as well be known as "the Swans".

After finishing fourth in 1932, South appointed Richmond ruckman Jack Bisset as captain-coach. Following a disappointing four wins from nine matches in 1933, South went through the rest of the season without a loss to finish second on the ladder behind Richmond, the defending premiers. They then beat Richmond by 18 points in the second semi final to qualify for the grand final, the Tigers bouncing back the following week to beat Geelong in the preliminary final. On grand final day a record crowd of 75,754 saw South Melbourne win by 42 points to claim their third VFL premiership. Champion full forward Bob Pratt, who had been recruited locally in 1930, kicked 109 goals for the season. Although South played in the next three grand finals, they did not add to their premiership tally. Following a third place finish on the ladder in 1934, they beat Collingwood and Geelong to qualify for the grand final against Richmond. The Tigers then avenged the previous year's loss, winning a one-sided match by 39 points. In both 1935 and 1936, South would lose grand finals to Collingwood. The club's next grand final appearance would be in 1945 when they were defeated by Carlton in the notorious match known as "the Bloodbath".

### **PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS**

Originally from Carlton Imperial, **Edward "Ted" Barrass** (right), also known as "Mudlark", played one year with Melbourne in 1877, the first year of the newly formed Victorian Football Association (VFA). He played with Carlton from 1878 to 1880, joined South Melbourne for a portion of the 1881 season, but returned to Carlton where he played until 1883. Barrass was champion player but the end of his career was abrupt and it had nothing to do with playing footy. Mark Pennings wrote:

"Carlton's trip to Maryborough [in August 1883] was a chance for the players to bond, but it had the opposite effect. Alcohol likely fuelled the bad behaviour at the local hotel on the Friday night before the game... Despite this incident, the Blues had a pleasant win against the locals the following day. On the train journey home however trouble flared again when four of the players clashed with club secretary T.S. Marshall, a renowned stickler. Veteran Ted Barrass was out of control and Mick Whelan manhandled Marshall. Marshall was appalled and reported the players to the club. At a meeting on the following Thursday exasperated officials suspended Barrass from the club for life. Mick Whelan was disqualified until the end of the season. Their teammates were furious and twelve resigned in protest."



Barrass was appointed to the first umpiring panel when it was established in 1894, umpires prior to that year being supplied by the competing clubs. He also became a cricket umpire, officiating in 17 first-class matches between 1898 and 1915.

### **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>

## This Round in History – Round 6 on the MCG

The highest score on the MCG in Round 6 is 31.18 (204) by St Kilda against Melbourne 21.15 (141) in 1978. The biggest winning margin at the MCG in Round 6 is 107 points by Melbourne 19.23 (137) when defeating South Melbourne 3.12 (30) in 1939. The lowest Round 6 score at the MCG since 1925 is 1.11 (17) by South Melbourne against Melbourne 8.15 (63) in 1962. This is the overall Round 6 record. The highest score in a quarter for Round 6 at the MCG is 11.5 (71) by St Kilda against Melbourne in the second quarter in 1978. The highest score for a quarter was in Round 6. Essendon scored 15.4 (94) against the Gold Coast Suns in the first quarter at the Docklands in 2011.

### Statistics for Carlton v South Melbourne/Sydney

#### Carlton v South Melb./Sydney by venue

	Won by Carlton	Won by Swans	Drawn
Docklands	2	6	0
Junction Oval	1	1	0
Lake Oval	36	37	4
MCG	5	4	0
Princes Park	74	23	2
SCG	9	15	0
Stadium Aust.	0	4	0
Waverley Park	0	1	0
	127	91	6

#### Highest Score

Carlton	27.23 (185)	Rd 17	1998	Princes Pk
Sydney	25.12 (162)	Rd 15	2007	SCG

#### Lowest Score

Carlton	0.8 (8)	Rd 2	1902	Lake Oval
South Melb.	0.5 (5)	Rd 8	1899	Princes Pk

#### Greatest Winning Margin

Carlton	102 points	Rd 9	1982	Princes Pk
Sydney	92 points	Rd 22	2006	SCG

#### Last Time They Met – Round 18, 2016, SCG

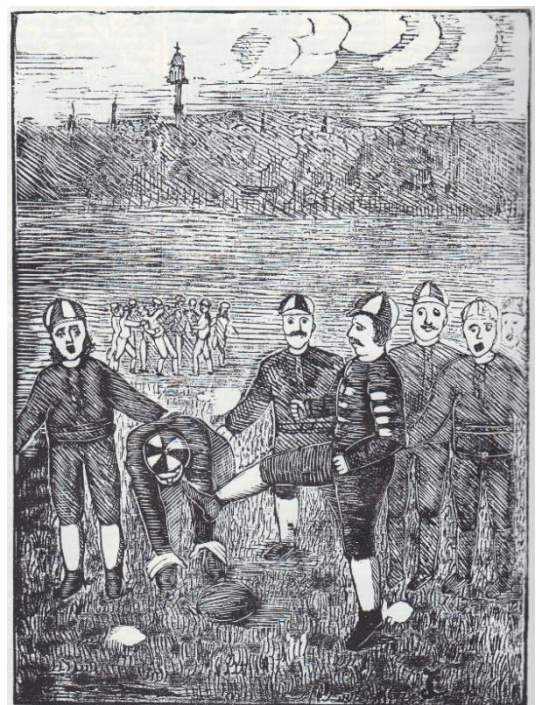
	Sydney	Carlton
Quarter time	4.4	5.1
Half time	5.7	7.3
Three-quarter time	9.11	9.4
Full time	10.14 (74)	10.8 (68)

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

## THE (NOT SO) GOOD OLD DAYS

Between 1875 and 1877, English immigrant Richard Egan Lee published *Police News*, one of the earliest Australian sensationalist illustrated newspapers. Among the stories of horrific crimes, suicides and accidents, an article about a football match appeared in the August 5, 1876 edition. It mentions Ted Barrass, a player profiled on the front of this MCC Library *Fact Sheet*. At this time Barrass played for Carlton Imperial. This short-lived club had its ground in Royal Park but was not the precursor of the current Carlton Football Club.

The athletic sport of football, properly played, is a manly and invigorating game. But, when performed in the manner that the Carlton Imperial displayed on Saturday last, in their match with the Melbourne club, what *was* a game of manly play becomes lowered to the level of brute ruffianism. One poor fellow of the Melbourne club, named Longden, in the contest on that occasion, sustained life-long injury by the rowdy violence - to give it no stronger term - of one of the Carlton Imperial team, his eye being literally kicked into his head, and serious permanent injury inflicted on the brain, even if he should recover from the effect of his opponent's brutal and clumsy violence. Another casualty, also arriving from a like cause, occurred on the same day, and in the same match. A member of the Carlton Imperial, named Barass [sic.], by the rowdy ruffianism which he no doubt thinks is *play*, broke the collarbone of another of the Melbourne team named Carr. Such acts will make the men who resort to them shunned and detested. No club with any respect for the lives and limbs of its members will, or ought to, play with them; and the sooner a total reformation is effected, the sooner the game of Football, as practised in Melbourne and its suburbs, will be recognized as an athletic *sport*, instead of, as now, a foolhardy contest of selfish savages.



FRIGHTFUL OCCURRENCE AT A FOOTBALL MATCH IN CARLTON.