

# **50 YEARS AGO**

## **1968**

### **A POWERFUL DISPLAY TO ECLIPSE SOMERVILLE**

**( Ref: 2018/15)**

The following report on the game against **Somerville FC** in 1968 attempts to give readers some insight into the on-field strength of **Dromana** in that era. As is mentioned elsewhere on this website, in 1968, Dromana FC was coached by former **South Melbourne** utility **John Kelton**; and not only was John a top-line player in local football but he was most adept and successful leader.



**John Kelton**  
DFC Coach in 1968

In that season, DFC's star-studded line-up included some of the best DFC players of the post-war era; and an emerging young star named **Stephen Jolley**, who later broke into VFL ranks with Hawthorn.

#### **The team line-up that day against Somerville was:**

<b>Backs :</b>	Ian Matthews	Brian Taylor	Owen Griffiths
<b>HB:</b>	Rob Work	Bill Brindley	Ray Brindley
<b>Centre:</b>	Peter Dempsey	Brian McCormick	Norm Hazeldine
<b>HF :</b>	Andy Emmerson	Col Matthews	Paul Greer
<b>F:</b>	Garry Tagliabue	Steve Jolley	Brian Griffith
<b>Rucks :</b>	John Kelton	Bob Castles	Ray Fyson
<b>19<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Merv Kennedy	<b>20<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Glen Osborne



**Bill Brindley**



**Stephen Jolley**

It seems as though, with the 1968 Nepean Football League finals looming, John Kelton had shrewdly primed his team to ensure that there were no blunders in the 'home straight'.

Dromana settled quickly against the Eagles that day and played with flair, intent and discipline from the first bounce. In a one-sided affair, Dromana took control early in the first term and hit the scoreboard with regularity. The DFC defenders, led by **Bill Brindley**, denied the opposition forwards space and, in turn, opportunities to score.

**Peter Dempsey**, **Brian McCormick** and **Norm Hazeldine** formed a winning midfield. The trio repeatedly drove the 'Hoppers forward and set up numerous scoring chances for **Colin Matthews** and tall forward **Garry Tagliabue**. Young **Steve Jolley** forward/ruckman booted four majors that day and provided a reliable avenue to goal; and **Colin Matthews** kicked three goals valuable goals that day.



**Colin Matthews**



**Brian McCormick**

Dromana went on to triumph by 92 points. It was an important victory in preparation for finals action; and the win engendered team confidence and sent out an unequivocal message to the other contenders in the race for the NFL pennant that year.

**Finals scores:**

**Dromana:** 20.20 (140) defeated **Somerville** 7.6 (48)

**Goal-kickers for Dromana:** Jolley 4 Matthews 3 McCormick 3 Emerson 2 Fyson 2 Osborne 1 and Griffiths 1

**Best players for Dromana:** McCormick Fyson Jolley Dempsey

## **A CONTROVERSIAL CONCLUSION TO THE 1968 SEASON**

The 1968 season promised much for Dromana but ended in bitter disappointment. The **First Semi-Final** against **Rye** was galling because in the dying seconds of the match, Rye kicked a goal to 'snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.' Dromana fell short by three points and had narrowly missed a golden opportunity to go deeper into the final series.

**The final scores that day were:**

Rye: 14.20 ( 104) defeated Dromana 14. 17 ( 101).

The finish to the match is said to have been problematic. The duration of the last quarter raised genuine doubts; and, in turn with matters of integrity in question, the frustration turned to anger. The match finished in controversy as the officials from both clubs became embroiled in a heated argument.

History shows that Dromana lodged a protest (alleging that the timekeeper had made a critical error) but after a protracted hearing, the chairman of the NFL investigating committee **Mr Syd Richards**, dismissed the appeal.

Rye was deemed to have won the game and the outcome of the protest was irreversible. There were no other official avenues available for protest; and Dromana had to 'cop it sweet' as the Demons 'saddled up' for the **Preliminary Final**.

It was an unpleasant end to the season. Such was the acrimony caused by that dispute, that years later, some officials and players were still riled by the events in the last quarter of the game.



**Brian Griffith**



**Robert Work**

**Crib Point** went on to win the Nepean FL flag that season; and Pearcedale's stylish and talented centreman **Boris Agnew** won the **George Osborne Medal** with 18 votes.

It came as no surprise, to Dromana supporters, that **Steve Jolley** won the DFC's Best and Fairest award that season. It was to be the first of Steve's two awards.

## **STAYING ON AND PLAYING ON AT DROMANA**

Climbing to the top echelon in football requires sound leadership, unity, skill and experience; and the DFC team of 1968 was a perfect example of how stability and harmony can breed success.

A famous novelist, Paulo Coelho once wrote ... *"Nothing can substitute for experience"*; and his words are precise in terms of players 'staying and playing' at Dromana in the 1960's.

The table below illustrates the playing histories of **sixteen** of the above **twenty** players. When 80% of any team is match hardened, experienced and loyal then great things can be achieved in football.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Years at DFC</b>	<b>Senior VXIII Games</b>
<b>Ian Matthews**</b>	<b>1959-71</b>	<b>106</b>

<b>Brian Taylor**</b>	<b>1960-69</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Rob Work**</b>	<b>1968-74</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Bill Brindley**</b>	<b>1966-76</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Ray Brindley**</b>	<b>1960-69</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Peter Dempsey**</b>	<b>1966-70</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Andrew Emerson</b>	<b>1964-71</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Colin Matthews**</b>	<b>1962-83</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Stephen Jolley **</b>	<b>1967-74</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Brian Griffith</b>	<b>1951-71</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>John Kelton **</b>	<b>1967-69</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Brian McCormick</b>	<b>1963-72</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>Bob Castles**</b>	<b>1964-68</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Ray Fyson**</b>	<b>1967-85</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Merv Kennedy</b>	<b>1957-68</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Owen Griffiths**</b>	<b>1965-69</b>	<b>65</b>

**Note:1** Ian Matthews, Brian Taylor, Robert Work, Ray Brindley, Bill Brindley, Peter Dempsey, Colin Matthews, John Kelton, Stephen Jolley, Brian McCormick, Owen Griffiths, Bob Castles and Ray Fyson were named in the DFNC ' **Team of the Decade** ' (1966-75) .

**Note:2** Brian Griffith ( 1967), Colin Matthews ( 1975), Brian Taylor ( 1976) and Ray Fyson ( 1982) are **Life Members** of DFNC.



## **BOB CASTLES A HUMBLE HERO OF DFC**



**Bob Castles**

One of the aims of this website is to highlight the contributions made by forgotten or overlooked members of DFC. Sadly, the passage of time can dim memories; and so many men and women, in the history of DFC, have been forgotten for their significant efforts.

Such is the case with **Bob Castles**. Bob Castles is someone who deserves greater recognition at Pier Street because in his years with the club he won the respect and admiration of all members and players.

Bob Castles was recruited to Dromana following his successful stints with **Camberwell ( VFA )** and in the **Eastern Suburban Football League**.

When the doyen of Victorian country football coaches, **John Nix**, left Dromana to take up duties at **Richmond FC** in 1965, he strongly advocated that Bob Castles should be given the opportunity to take over the duties as **Senior XVIII coach**. John's judgment of Bob's ability was most astute and Bob Castles developed into first-rate leader of the club.

Bob coached in 1965 and went on to play until 1968. In all, he played 84 games for Dromana FC. Bob played mainly as a ruckman and utility who could hold down any key position as required; and, from all reports, he gave his 'heart and soul' to lift the team each Saturday.

When Bob left for **Narrandera** in NSW in early 1969, the DFC ,**President Eric Oakes** , presented him with a gift/memento for his outstanding service to the club.

Bob was named in the DFC **'Team of the Decade' (1966-75)** in the ruck division alongside his former teammates and friends **John Kelton**, and **Ray Fyson**. They were said to be the 'engine room' of the team during that era.

Finally, the positive and lasting influence of Bob Castles at Dromana, during those years, should be placed on record; and DFNC owes him a great deal for his part in building and strengthening the club.

## **REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION**

**Sources: MPNFL archives – 'Tiger Talk' 2000- DFNC publications- Southern Peninsula Gazette- Rosebud Public Library- Personal files.**

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