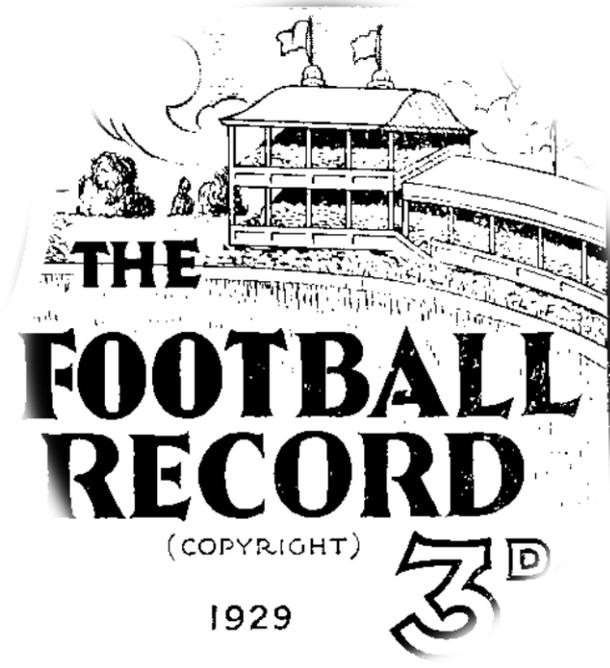


A BRAVE EFFORT

JUNE-1929

90 YEARS AGO

(Ref: 2019/ 8)



The following reprint of the match report, Dromana V Hastings , was discovered in a copy of the 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' which was published on June 15th 1929 . Although Hastings defeated Dromana in the match, the review is an enlightening historical document as it puts on public record certain aspects of football in Dromana in 1929 including:

1. Dromana's brave showing against the odds in that match.
2. How difficult it had been for the Dromana FC to field a team of eighteen players for that match. Later in the same year Dromana, with just **nine** players, copped a dreadful shellacking in the away game at Hasting
3. The score against Hastings in August 1929 was something that would be repeated some 50 years later. As some Dromana supporters will remember, in 1997 opposing teams kicked 50 goals or more on nine occasions.
4. The lack of Dromana supporters at that game in 1929 (and perhaps during that era) must have been of some concern.
5. The unyielding endeavours of club stalwarts such as Bert Aust , the McLear brothers , the Rudduck family and George Osborne . These men gave 'their all' for the club and asked nothing in return; and their legacy should never be forgotten.
6. The use of the word '**Dromanites**' to describe the local townsfolk.
7. Some well-known names were mentioned in the match report, which again underlines the importance of local families in building and maintaining football clubs.



An advertisement from the 1929 Grand Final 'Record'

In that era, there were two football leagues on the Mornington Peninsula. The larger towns (e.g. Frankston and Mornington) had two teams; and, in those days, Dromana had neither a reserves team nor any under-age teams.

In 1929, Dromana was an affiliate of the Mornington Peninsula Football Association and the other clubs were: Navy Depot, Somerville, Hastings, Sorrento, Mornington and Frankston. The other local league at that time was the Peninsula District Football Association and it comprised clubs from: Rosebud, Red Hill, Frankston (2), Naval Depot (2) , Mornington (2) Seaford, Moorooduc and Langwarrin.

Some of the players known to have represented Dromana, in 1929 included: T. Rudduck, J. Skillen, W. Patterson, L. Godfrey, W. Dyson, G. Osborne, H. Howell, H. McLearn, R. Birch, B. Aust, R. Griffith, R. Patterson, F. Grey, G. McLearn, L. Todd, J. Clydesdale, W. Grey and G. Rudduck.



REPRINTED FROM

'FRANKSTON AND SOMERVILLE STANDARD'

SATURDAY JUNE 15th 1929 PAGE: 7

HASTINGS v DROMANA.

THE LEAD-UP TO THE CLASH

Hastings journeyed to Dromana on Saturday last. By their great win over Sorrento on the previous Saturday it was anticipated that the Blues would kick a record score and gain a big percentage. However, they were sadly disappointed as at no time during the match were those hopes realised; and it was only in the last 10 minutes of the game that Hastings won---and they were very lucky to win, too.

The Dromana boys are to be congratulated on their fine display as they played nice open football and had the visitors hard pressed right through; and it was only the determined effort of Hastings in the last few minutes that won them the day.

TOUGH CONDITIONS FOR GOOD FOOTBALL

The game was spoilt by the strong wind which blew almost right down the ground, the ball going out of bounds many times during the match, and this no doubt was a big factor in the low scoring.

A remarkable feature of the match was that nine of the 10 goals scored were kicked against the wind; and also that Dromana's total score was kicked against the wind. The visitors also were all at sea with the breeze as out of nine scoring shots only one goal was scored. Several easy chances were badly missed through taking things too easy.

'WAKE UP CALL' TO DROMANA FROM THE PRESS

There were not many present at the match, and it must be very disheartening to the Dromana boys with the poor attendance. They play the game for the love of the sport; and as it takes money to run a team they are worthy of better support, so 'Wake Up, 'Dromanaites' and give the boys your loyal support!

Hastings fielded a representative side, their notable absentee being Fred Smith, who suffered bereavement during the week, and the boys wore black armbands as a token of respect for their comrade.

THE SELECTED TEAMS FOR HASTINGS & DROMANA

Dromana had some difficulty in getting a full team together, and it was well in the first quarter that their 18 was afield. The teams:

Hastings: C. Splatt capt.), H. Jack, L. Jack, J. Hurley, T. Langholz, E. Fisher, F. Denham, C. Perrott, A. Perrott, W. Armstrong, Tim Marabella, W. Patience, G. Mirabella, W. Hodgins, R. Storey, R. Mentiplay and L. Mentiplay.

Dromana: H. McLear (capt.), R. Birch, B. Aust, R. Griffith, R. Patterson, F. Grey, G. McLear, T. Rudduck, J. Skillen, W. Patterson, L. Godfrey, W. Dyson, G. Osborne, H. Howell, L. Todd, J. Clydesdale, W. Grey and G. Rudduck.

QUARTER BY QUARTER SCORES

| | Hastings | Dromana |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 st Quarter | 1.3 | 2.0 |
| 2 nd Quarter | 1.5 | 0.0 |
| 3 rd Quarter | 0.5 | 3.2 |
| 4 th Quarter | 3.4 | 0.0 |
| Final Score | 5.17 (47) | 5.2 (32) |

BEST PLAYERS & GOAL KICKERS

Best players for Hastings: R. Mentiplay, Langholz, Patience, Fisher, T. Mirabella, Hodgins, and the Jack brothers. Others of note were: C and G Perrott, Storey, Armstrong, Denham and Splatt.

Best players for Dromana: Aust (best on the ground), H and G McLear, Birch, the Patterson brothers, Griffith, Howell and Grey were the pick.

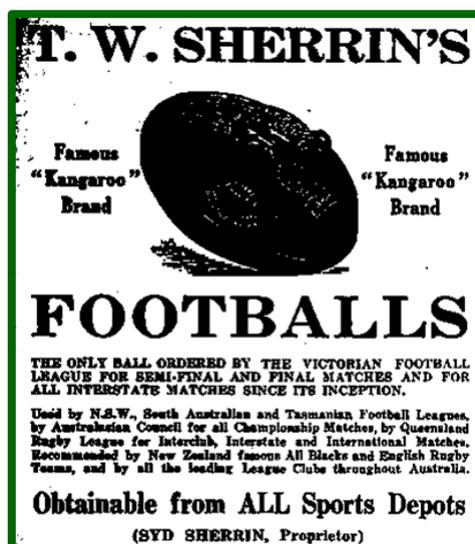
Goal kickers for Hastings: Hodgins (2), H. Jack, L. Mentiplay and Patience.

Dromana goal kickers: Not to hand.

D. Smith officiated as the central umpire.

POST MATCH COMMENTS

At the conclusion of the match, the captain and coach of the Hastings team visited the Dromana dressing room and congratulated the team on their fine display. He stated that although the Blues had won they were lucky to do so as they were hard pressed right through the game, and wished the team every success in the future. Hastings will be at home to Frankston today and, given fine weather, a good game should result. As Frankston downed Somerville on Saturday last, Hastings will have to greatly improve on last Saturday's play, but, being on their own ground, they may again upset calculations.



An advertisement from the 'Record' in 1929

Note: For further information related to the difficulties faced by Dromana in 1929 refer to the previous story on this website (2019/7). The article will provide some background to the hardship that the club experienced in fielding a team that season.

LATER IN THE 1929 SEASON

HASTINGS BOOTED 52 GOALS AGAINST AN 'INCOMPLETE' DROMANA TEAM.

Despite the courageous efforts against Hastings in June, the Dromana team copped a massive drubbing in the next meeting against Hastings. In that match, which was played on August 3rd at Hastings, Dromana could not field a team of eighteen players and there is some evidence that only nine Dromana players arrived at the ground to play.

It is little wonder that the match was abandoned at half time. At that point of the game , Hastings had kicked 52 goals as shown in the press cutting below.



1929- Hastings 52.15. defeated Dromana 1.0

Source: 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' August 19th 1929. Page: 7

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records – NLA - Personal files.

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Written and researched for DFNC by: Roger Spaul -February 2017

DFNC website administrator: Graham Stelling. DFNC Secretary-Board Member.

Email contacts:historian@dromanatigers.com.au. or admin@dromanatigers.com.au