



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET JUNE 30, 2024

AFL 2024 ROUND 16 RICHMOND V CARLTON

SCANDALOUS!

The Blues won flags in 1906, 1907 and 1908, and then lost the 1909 grand final to South Melbourne by just two points (a scene from *Melbourne Punch* is pictured below). This was during a period when many believed that match fixing was not uncommon. Licensed bookmakers certainly shared that view and would not accept bets on football. But unlicensed betting was rife and some members of the Carlton committee believed that the 1909 premiership match was lost because several of their players had been bribed to perform below their best.



In the final round of the following year, Carlton, on top of the ladder with 15 wins, kicked 2.12 to St Kilda's 5.6 to give the Saints their only win for the season. Incensed, the Carlton committee had several players followed during the week before the finals. Then, armed with what was thought to be sufficient evidence, they took action, but strangely not until just before the second semi final was to be played. The team had been announced as usual on Thursday night, but when three of those selected arrived for the game they discovered that their names no longer appeared on the team list. Star players Alex "Bongo" Lang and Doug Gillespie, along with lesser light Doug Fraser, were then the subjects of a club investigation. Gillespie was exonerated, but Lang and Fraser were suspended indefinitely for accepting bribes. Forced to take a stand, the League weighed in and suspended the pair for five years. The Blues, meanwhile, failed in the finals, losing to South Melbourne and Collingwood.

Shenanigans of another type had embroiled Richmond in controversy two decades earlier, during the club's VFA days. Tom Graham, in his first year as captain, and teammates Jack Taylor and Dave Elder, were asked to resign from the club for one season following their behaviour (which apparently involved intoxication and foul language) during an 1886 away game against South Ballarat. Three others, Harry Layton, Alf Searle and Paddy Purcell, who stated they would not play if Taylor and Elder were omitted from the team, were treated even more harshly, being expelled by the club. Elder played for Richmond the following year, as did the supposedly expelled Purcell, but Graham, Layton and Taylor joined arch rivals Port Melbourne. The story did not end there, with Graham and Layton returning to the Tigers in 1890, and the former regaining the captaincy in 1891. Taylor acted as a trainer for the club between 1896 and 1899.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Carlton Football Club was formed in 1864 and was a foundation member of the VFA in 1877 and then the VFL in 1897. The Blues performed poorly in the early years of the VFL, finishing second last in the first five seasons, but after the appointment of Jack Worrall as secretary/coach, the club made the finals for the first time in 1903, and won its first premiership in 1906.
- The current Richmond Football Club was founded in 1885 and applied successfully for immediate membership of the VFA. The club joined the VFL in 1908, played in the finals for the first time in 1916, and won its first premiership in 1920.
- Richmond and Carlton had played 16 times in the VFA from 1885 to 1896, with the Blues winning 11 games, Richmond one, and four matches were drawn.
- These clubs have played 227 VFL/AFL games since 1908, the Blues winning 127 of those, Richmond 97, and three matches have been drawn. Carlton has averaged 89 points in those games and Richmond 82. They have played in 23 VFL/AFL finals, Richmond winning 16 of those, Carlton six and one was drawn. They have met in six grand finals, the Tigers winning four of those.

THIS ROUND IN HISTORY – ROUND 16 ON THE MCG

The highest score in Round 16 on the MCG is 27.18 (180) by Hawthorn against Richmond 17.11 (113) in 1985. The overall Round 16 record is 34.18 (222) by Richmond against St Kilda 11.4 (70) at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1980. The most goals by an individual is 11 by Dermott Brereton for Hawthorn against Richmond in 1990. Hawthorn kicked 25.9 (159) to win by 91 points. The overall Round 16 goal-kicking record is 13 by Tony Modra for Adelaide against Richmond at Football Park (Adelaide) in 1993. Adelaide kicked 26.15 (171) to win by 139 points. The highest score in a quarter is 12.1 (73) in the first quarter by the Kangaroos against Essendon in 2001. Despite trailing by 58 points at the first change, Essendon went on to win by 12 points: 27.9 (171) to 25.9 (159). The overall Round 16 record for the highest score in a quarter is 13.3 (81) by Hawthorn against North Melbourne in the first quarter at Princes Park in 1982. Hawthorn went on to kick 32.14 (206) to win by 96 points. The highest Round 16 attendance at the MCG is 83,773 on Sunday July 19, 1998 when Essendon defeated Richmond by 19 points.

STATISTICS FOR RICHMOND V CARLTON

Richmond v Carlton v by venue

	Won by Richmond	Won by Carlton	Drawn
Docklands	1	2	0
MCG	49	37	1
Princes Park	23	54	1
Punt Road	21	30	0
Waverley Park	3	4	1
	97	127	3

Highest Score

Richmond	25.24 (174)	Rd 1	1978	MCG
Carlton	28.16 (184)	Rd 15	2011	MCG

Lowest Score

Richmond	2.9 (21)	Rd 10	1958	PP
Carlton	3.10 (28)	Rd 9	1924	PP

Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	85 points	Rd 7	2005	MCG
Carlton	115 points	Rd 14	1984	PP

Last Time They Met – Round 1, 2024, MCG

	Carlton	Richmond
Quarter time	3.3	5.2
Half time	6.9	7.4
Three-quarter time	9.11	11.7
Full time	12.14 (86)	12.9 (81)

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

10	Jim Baird	Carl	Rd 1	1943	PP
10	Sel Murray	Rich	Rd 7	1945	PP
10	Robert Walls	Carl	Rd 7	1976	PP

TWO TIGHT GRAND FINALS

Richmond and Carlton first met in a grand final in 1921. The Blues topped the ladder in 1921, followed by Richmond, Collingwood and Geelong. Richmond then annihilated the Cats in one semi final and Carlton beat Collingwood by 13 points in the other. Under the finals system in place at the time this meant that Carlton and Richmond played off for the flag in what was then called “The Final”, but if Carlton lost they could “challenge” the winner to a rematch (called the “Grand Final”) as they had finished on top. And lose they did, so the following week the clubs met again. In heavy conditions the Blues led at the final change, but the Tigers fought back, hit the front and then held on to a four point lead after a scoreless final eight minutes.

The second grand final between these clubs took place in 1932, the finals that year being played under a revised system which had been introduced in 1931. Carlton topped the ladder with Richmond in second place, but the Tigers won the second semi final to go through to the grand final. Carlton gave Collingwood a hiding in the preliminary final, but then trailed at all three breaks in the premiership match. The last quarter was a thriller, the Blues fighting back to take the lead with five minutes remaining. The Tigers then rallied, two late goals earning them a memorable victory.

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME LEGENDS

Richmond players inducted as/elevated to Australian Football Hall of Fame Legends are: Jack Dyer (inducted 1996), Ian Stewart (elevated 1997), Kevin Bartlett (elevated 2000), Royce Hart (elevated 2013), and Kevin Sheedy (elevated 2018). Carlton players inducted as/elevated to Australian Football Hall of Fame Legends are: Ron Barassi Jnr. (inducted 1996), John Nicholls (inducted 1996), and Alex Jesaulenko (elevated 2008).

NAMED IN THE AFL TEAM OF THE CENTURY

To recognise the VFL/AFL's 100th year, a team of the century was announced on September 2, 1996. Of the 21 players selected (18 positioned on the field and three as interchange) 10 had played for either Carlton or Richmond. Six Carlton players were named in the AFL Team of the Century: John Nicholls, Ron Barassi, Alex Jesaulenko, Bruce Doull, Greg Williams and Stephen Silvagni. Four Richmond players were named: Jack Dyer, Royce Hart, Francis Bourke and Ian Stewart.

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>

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