

FOOTSCRAY, VICTORIAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, 1924 – A surging crowd of 46,000 enthusiasts saw the Association premiers win the exalted title by defeating Essendon in a great charity match on Saturday. As a result, the incapacitated soldiers appeal funds will be augmented by the splendid sum of £2,806 (1) Dolan (F) beats Hardy (E) for the ball right in font of goal. (2) Essendon's mascot looks dejected. (3) The two captains, Barker (E left) and McCarthy (F) tossing before the start. (4) The championship pennant given by The Sun (5) A bed-ridden Digger watching the match. (6) Father and son keenly interested (7) Another disabled Digger. (8) McCarthy (F, No. 1) seems to have taken advantage of a team mate's back to beat Becton (E) for the ball. (9) The Essendon team cheering their opponents before the match.



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET SUPPLEMENT SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

2024 AFL GRAND FINAL

100 YEARS AGO: THE 1924 CHAMPIONSHIP OF VICTORIA

This match, that pitted VFL premiers Essendon against VFA premiers Footscray, was organised to aid Dame Nellie Melba's Appeal for Limbless and Disabled Soldiers. Therefore, it was really a charity fundraiser that assumed great importance as the means to measure the strength of two rival football bodies. In the *Argus* of Monday, October 6, "Old Boy" (Reg Wilmot) stated that the Association had always been keen to play in such a game, but the League had not been willing "to give its rivals a chance to show their worth". Wilmot added that "it was not until Dame Nellie Melba made an irresistible appeal on behalf of the limbless and disabled soldiers that the League abandoned its policy of aloofness and consented to the match".

Wilmot noted that the fact that Essendon had been able to win the VFL premiership without needing to play a grand final had left a Saturday free for the game and that agitation for the inclusion of Footscray in the League had added interest; "...but the moment it was announced that the match would be for the championship of Victoria its success was assured."

Essendon captain Syd Barker won the toss and his side kicked to the Richmond end of the MCG with the help of a slight breeze. Essendon had the first goal on the board within a minute when Tommy Jenkins scored with a beautiful dropkick. After this, Footscray did most of the attacking but many of their attacks were thwarted by the strong Essendon defence. Making the most of their chances up forward, Essendon scored a second goal, again by Jenkins, before good play by Footscray resulted in goals to Vic Samson and Les Punch. An attack by Essendon toward the end of the quarter led to a goal by Charlie May, which put the VFL side four points up at the first break.

According to Wilmot, the second quarter was a repeat of the first, "full of brilliant football, with Footscray the better side." Nevertheless, Essendon's strong defending continued to limit Footscray's scoring opportunities and their only goal for the quarter was kicked by Tom Mullens. Essendon failed to score a goal during the second term but two late behinds put them in front by a single point at the main break.

Footscray asserted their authority after half time with clever handball leading to Punch scoring their third goal early in the third term. They continued to use handball throughout the term but some of their efforts lead to errors which Essendon failed to capitalise upon. The Dons only managed three behinds for the quarter and a late Footscray goal from Jack O'Brien put them up by two goals at the final break.

The final stanza saw Footscray get right on top after some early chances for Essendon only resulted in three more behinds, a shot by full forward Greg Stockdale hitting the post. Tom McHenry booted Footscray's sixth goal soon after and a "beautiful left-foot shot" from Mullens brought up their seventh. Another goal to McHenry put the game out of Essendon's reach and a late goal to George Shorten was, according to Wilmot, greeted with "hardly a sound". A third goal to Punch, from a long snap, gave Footscray victory by 28 points. After quarter time, Essendon had added 1.11, while Footscray had kicked 7.7.

Overall, Footscray was the better team on the day. Their use of handball to move the ball was a major factor in their success, although their technique was considered borderline illegal by some reporters at the time. Essendon's defence played admirably, but many of its midfielders and forwards were ineffective.

	Footscray (VFA)	Essendon (VFL
Quarter time	2.3	3.1
Halftime	3.4	3.5
Three-quarter time	5.8	3.8
Fulltime	9.10 (64)	4.12 (36)

Footscray (VFA)

Best: Samson, Laidlaw, Eason, Punch, McCarthy, Ford. Goals: Punch (3), Mullens (2), McHenry (2), O'Brien, Samson.

Essendon (VFL)

Best: Watt, Fitzmaurice, Donaldson, Maher, Stockdale.

Goals: Jenkins (2), May, Shorten.

Umpires: J. McMurray (VFL) & J. Lehney (VFA) MCG attendance: 46,103

Year						Venue	Att.	Norm Smith Medal
1897	No Grand Final	Essendon Premiers		Geelong Runners-up		-	-	-
1898	Grand Final	Fitzroy	5.8 (38)	Essendon	3.5 (23)	Junction Oval	16,538	-
1899	Grand Final	Fitzroy	3.9 (27)	South Melbourne	3.8 (26)	Junction Oval	4,823	-
1900	Grand Final	Melbourne	4.10 (34)	Fitzroy	3.12 (30)	East Melb. CG	20,181	-
1901	Grand Final	Essendon	6.7 (43)	Collingwood	2.4 (16)	Lake Oval	30,031	-
1902	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.6 (60)	Essendon	3.9 (27)	MCG	35,202	-
1903	Grand Final	Collingwood	4.7 (31)	Fitzroy	3.11 (29)	MCG	32,263	-
1904	Grand Final	Fitzroy	9.7 (61)	Carlton	5.7 (37)	MCG	32,688	=
1905	Grand Final	Fitzroy	4.6 (30)	Collingwood	2.5 (17)	MCG	30,000	=
1906	Grand Final	Carlton	15.4 (94)	Fitzroy	6.9 (45)	MCG	44,437	-
1907	Grand Final	Carlton	6.14 (50)	South Melbourne	6.9 (45)	MCG	45,477	-
1908	Grand Final	Carlton	5.5 (35)	Essendon	3.8 (26)	MCG	53,400	-
1909	Grand Final	South Melbourne	4.14 (38)	Carlton	4.12 (36)	MCG	37,759	-
1910	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.7 (61)	Carlton	6.11 (47)	MCG	42,790	-
1911	Grand Final	Essendon	5.11 (41)	Collingwood	4.11 (35)	MCG	43,905	-
1912	Grand Final	Essendon	5.17 (47)	South Melbourne	4.9 (33)	MCG	54,536	-
1913	Grand Final	Fitzroy	7.14 (56)	St Kilda	5.13 (43)	MCG	59,556	-
1914	Grand Final	Carlton	6.9 (45)	South Melbourne	4.15 (39)	MCG	30.495	-
1915	Grand Final	Carlton	11.12 (78)	Collingwood	6.9 (45)	MCG	39,343	-
1916	Grand Final	Fitzroy	12.13 (85)	Carlton	8.8 (56)	MCG	21,130	-
1917	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.20 (74)	Fitzroy	5.9 (39)	MCG	28,512	-
1918	Grand Final	South Melbourne	9.8 (62)	Collingwood	7.15 (57)	MCG	39,262	-
1919	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.12 (78)	Richmond	7.11 (53)	MCG	45,413	-
1920	Grand Final	Richmond	7.10 (52)	Collingwood	5.5 (35)	MCG	53,908	-
1921	Grand Final	Richmond	5.6 (36)	Carlton	4.8 (32)	MCG	43,122	-
1922	Grand Final	Fitzroy	11.13 (79)	Collingwood	9.14 (68)	MCG	50,064	-
1923	Grand Final	Essendon	8.15 (63)	Fitzroy	6.10 (46)	MCG	46,566	-
1924	No Grand Final	Essendon Premiers		Richmond Runners-	_	-	-	-
1925	Grand Final	Geelong	10.19 (79)	Collingwood	9.15 (69)	MCG	64,288	-
1926	Grand Final	Melbourne	17.17 (119)	Collingwood	9.8 (62)	MCG	59,632	-
1927	Grand Final	Collingwood	2.13 (25)	Richmond	1.7 (13)	MCG	34,551	-
1928	Grand Final	Collingwood	13.18 (96)	Richmond	9.9 (63)	MCG	50,026	-
1929	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.13 (79)	Richmond	7.8 (50)	MCG	63,336	-
1930	Grand Final Grand Final	Collingwood Geelong	14.16 (100)	Geelong Richmond	9.16 (70)	MCG MCG	45,022	-
1931	Grand Final Grand Final	Richmond	9.14 (68)	Carlton	7.6(48)		60,712	-
1932	Grand Final	South Melbourne	13.14 (92) 9.17 (71)	Richmond	12.11 (83) 4.5 (29)	MCG MCG	69,724	-
1933 1934	Grand Final	Richmond	19.14 (128)	South Melbourne	12.17 (89)	MCG	75,754 65,335	
1934	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.12 (78)	South Melbourne	7.16 (58)	MCG	54,154	_
1935	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.23 (89)	South Melbourne	10.18 (78)	MCG	74,019	_
1937	Grand Final	Geelong	18.14 (122)	Collingwood	12.18 (90)	MCG	88,540	=
1938	Grand Final	Carlton	15.10 (100)	Collingwood	13.7 (85)	MCG	96,486	-
1939	Grand Final	Melbourne	21.22 (148)	Collingwood	14.11 (95)	MCG	78,110	-
1940	Grand Final	Melbourne	15.17 (107)	Richmond	10.8 (68)	MCG	70,330	-
1941	Grand Final	Melbourne	19.13 (127)	Essendon	13.20 (98)	MCG	79,687	-
1942	Grand Final	Essendon	19.18 (132)	Richmond	11.13 (79)	Princes Park	49,000	-
1943	Grand Final	Richmond	12.14 (86)	Essendon	11.15 (81)	Princes Park	42,100	-
1944	Grand Final	Fitzroy	9.12 (66)	Richmond	7.9 (51)	Junction Oval	43,000	-
1945	Grand Final	Carlton	15.13 (103)	South Melbourne	10.15 (75)	Princes Park	62,986	-
1946	Grand Final	Essendon	22.18 (150)	Melbourne	13.9 (87)	MCG	73,743	-
1947	Grand Final	Carlton	13.8 (86)	Essendon	11.19 (85)	MCG	85,793	-
1948	Grand Final	Essendon	7.27 (69)	Melbourne	10.9 (69)	MCG	86,198	-
1948	Grand Final Replay	Melbourne	13.11 (89)	Essendon	7.8 (50)	MCG	52,226	-
1949	Grand Final	Essendon	18.17 (125)	Carlton	6.16 (52)	MCG	88,718	-
1950	Grand Final	Essendon	13.14 (92)	North Melbourne	7.12 (54)	MCG	85,869	-
1951	Grand Final	Geelong	11.15 (81)	Essendon	10.10 (70)	MCG	84,109	-
1952	Grand Final	Geelong	13.8 (86)	Collingwood	5.10 (40)	MCG	81,204	-
1953	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.11 (77)	Geelong	8.17 (65)	MCG	89,149	-
1954	Grand Final	Footscray	15.12 (102)	Melbourne	7.9 (51)	MCG	80,897	-
1955	Grand Final	Melbourne	8.16 (64)	Collingwood	5.6 (36)	MCG	88,053	-
				0 11: 1	6.10 (49)	MCG	115,902	_
1956	Grand Final	Melbourne	17.19 (121)	Collingwood	6.12 (48)			
1956 1957	Grand Final Grand Final	Melbourne	17.14 (116)	Essendon	7.13 (55)	MCG	100,324	-
1956 1957 1958	Grand Final Grand Final Grand Final	Melbourne Collingwood	17.14 (116) 12.10 (82)	Essendon Melbourne	7.13 (55) 9.10 (64)	MCG MCG	100,324 97,956	-
1956 1957	Grand Final Grand Final	Melbourne	17.14 (116)	Essendon	7.13 (55)	MCG	100,324	-

Year						Venue	Att.	Norm Smith Medal
1961	Grand Final	Hawthorn	13.16 (94)	Footscray	7.9 (51)	MCG	107,935	-
1962	Grand Final	Essendon	13.12 (90)	Carlton	8.10 (58)	MCG	98,385	-
1963	Grand Final	Geelong	15.19 (109)	Hawthorn	8.12 (60)	MCG	101,452	-
1964	Grand Final	Melbourne	8.16 (64)	Collingwood	8.12 (60)	MCG	102,471	-
1965	Grand Final	Essendon	14.21 (105)	St Kilda	9.16 (70)	MCG	104,846	-
1966	Grand Final	St Kilda	10.14(74)	Collingwood	10.13 (73)	MCG	102,055	-
1967	Grand Final	Richmond	16.18 (114)	Geelong	15.15 (105)	MCG	109,396	=
1968	Grand Final	Carlton	7.14 (56)	Essendon	8.5 (53)	MCG	116,828	-
1969	Grand Final	Richmond	12.13 (85)	Carlton	8.12 (60)	MCG	119,165	-
1970	Grand Final	Carlton	17.9 (111)	Collingwood	14.17 (101)	MCG	121,696	-
1971	Grand Final	Hawthorn	12.10 (82)	St Kilda	11.9 (75)	MCG	118,192	-
1972	Grand Final	Carlton	28.9 (177)	Richmond	22.18 (150)	MCG	112,393	-
1973	GrandFinal	Richmond	16.20 (116)	Carlton	12.14 (86)	MCG	116,956	-
1974	Grand Final	Richmond	18.20 (128)	North Melbourne	13.9 (87)	MCG	113,839	-
1975	Grand Final	North Melbourne	19.8 (122)	Hawthorn	9.13 (67)	MCG	110,551	-
1976	Grand Final	Hawthorn	13.22 (100)	North Melbourne	10.10 (70)	MCG	110,143	-
1977	Grand Final	Collingwood	10.16 (76)	North Melbourne	9.22 (76)	MCG	108,224	-
1977	Grand Final Replay	North Melbourne	21.25 (151)	Collingwood	19.10 (124)	MCG	98,491	-
1978	Grand Final	Hawthorn	18.13 (121)	North Melbourne	15.13 (103)	MCG	101,704	W. Hamer of (Co. 1)
1979	Grand Final	Carlton	11.16 (82)	Collingwood	11.11 (77)	MCG	113,545	W. Harmes (Carl)
1980	Grand Final	Richmond	23.21 (159)	Collingwood	9.24 (78)	MCG	113,461	K. Bartlett (Rich)
1981	Grand Final	Carlton	12.20 (92)	Collingwood	10.12 (72)	MCG	112,964	B. Doull (Carl) M. Rioli (Rich)
1982	Grand Final Grand Final	Carlton Hawthorn	14.19 (103)	Richmond Essendon	12.13 (85)	MCG MCG	107,537	M. Rioli (Rich) C. Robertson (Haw)
1983 1984	Grand Final Grand Final	Essendon Essendon	20.20 (140)	Hawthorn	8.9(57)	MCG MCG	110,332	B. Duckworth (Ess)
1984	Grand Final Grand Final	Essendon Essendon	14.21 (105) 26.14 (170)	Hawthorn Hawthorn	12.9 (81) 14.8 (92)	MCG MCG	92,685 100,042	S. Madden (Ess)
1986	Grand Final Grand Final	Hawthorn	16.14(110)	Carlton	9.14 (68)	MCG	100,042	G. Ayres (Haw)
1987	Grand Final	Carlton	15.14 (104)	Hawthorn	9.17 (71)	MCG		D. Rhys-Jones (Carl)
1987	Grand Final Grand Final	Hawthorn	22.20 (152)	Melbourne	6.20 (56)	MCG	92,754 93,754	G. Ayres (Haw)
1989	Grand Final Grand Final	Hawthorn	21.18 (144)	Geelong	21.12 (138)	MCG	93,734	G. Ablett Snr (Geel)
1990	Grand Final Grand Final	Collingwood	13.11 (89)	Essendon	5.11 (41)	MCG	98,944	T. Shaw (Coll)
1990	Grand Final	Hawthorn	20.19 (139)	West Coast	13.8 (86)	Waverley Park	75,230	P. Dear (Haw)
1992	Grand Final	West Coast	16.17 (113)	Geelong	12.13 (85)	MCG	95,007	P. Matera (WCst)
1992	Grand Final	Essendon	20.13 (133)	Carlton	13.11 (89)	MCG	96,862	M. Long (Ess)
1993	Grand Final	West Coast	20.23 (143)	Geelong	8.15 (63)	MCG	93,860	D. Kemp (WCst)
1995	Grand Final	Carlton	21.15 (141)	Geelong	11.14 (80)	MCG	93,670	G. Williams (Carl)
1996	Grand Final	North Melbourne	19.17 (131)	Sydney	13.10 (88)	MCG	93,102	G. Archer (NMel)
1997	Grand Final	Adelaide	19.11 (125)	St Kilda	13.16 (94)	MCG	98,828	A. McLeod (Adel)
1998	Grand Final	Adelaide	15.15 (105)	North Melbourne	8.22 (70)	MCG	94,431	A. McLeod (Adel)
1999	Grand Final	Kangaroos	19.10 (124)	Carlton	12.17 (89)	MCG	94,228	S. Grant (Kang)
2000	Grand Final	Essendon	19.21 (135)	Melbourne	11.9 (75)	MCG	96,249	J. Hird (Ess)
2001	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	15.18 (108)	Essendon	12.10 (82)	MCG	91,482	S. Hart (Bris)
2002	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	10.15 (75)	Collingwood	9.12 (66)	MCG	91,817	N. Buckley (Coll)
2003	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	20.14 (134)	Collingwood	12.12 (84)	MCG	79,451	S. Black (Bris)
2004	Grand Final	Port Adelaide	17.11 (113)	Brisbane Lions	10.13 (73)	MCG	77,671	B. Pickett (PAd)
2005	Grand Final	Sydney	8.10 (58)	West Coast	7.12 (54)	MCG	91,828	C. Judd (WCst)
2006	Grand Final	West Coast	12.13 (85)	Sydney	12.12 (84)	MCG	97,431	A. Embley (WCst)
2007	Grand Final	Geelong	24.19 (163)	Port Adelaide	6.8 (44)	MCG	97,302	S. Johnson (Geel)
2008	Grand Final	Hawthorn	18.7(115)	Geelong	11.23 (89)	MCG	100,012	L. Hodge (Haw)
2009	Grand Final	Geelong	12.8 (80)	St Kilda	9.14 (68)	MCG	99,251	P. Chapman (Geel)
2010	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.14 (68)	St Kilda	10.8 (68)	MCG	100,016	L. Hayes (StK)
2010	Grand Final Replay	Collingwood	16.12 (108)	St Kilda	7.10 (52)	MCG	93,853	S. Pendlebury (Coll)
2011	Grand Final	Geelong	18.11 (119)	Collingwood	12.9 (81)	MCG	99,537	J. Bartel (Geel)
2012	Grand Final	Sydney	14.7 (91)	Hawthorn	11.15 (81)	MCG	99,683	R. O'Keefe (Syd)
2013	Grand Final	Hawthorn	11.11 (77)	Fremantle	8.14 (62)	MCG	100,007	B. Lake (Haw)
2014	Grand Final	Hawthorn	21.11 (137)	Sydney	11.8 (74)	MCG	99,460	L. Hodge (Haw)
2015	Grand Final	Hawthorn	16.11 (107)	West Coast	8.13 (61)	MCG	98,632	C. Rioli (Haw)
2016	Grand Final	Western Bulldogs	13.11 (89)	Sydney	10.7 (67)	MCG	99,981	J. Johannisen (WB)
2017	Grand Final	Richmond	16.12 (108)	Adelaide	8.12 (60)	MCG	100,021	D. Martin (Rich)
2018	Grand Final	West Coast	11.13 (79)	Collingwood	11.8 (74)	MCG	100,022	L. Shuey (WCst)
2019	Grand Final	Richmond	17.12 (114)	GWSGiants	3.7 (25)	MCG	100,014	D. Martin (Rich)
2020	Grand Final	Richmond	12.9 (81)	Geelong	7.8 (50)	Gabba	29,707	D. Martin (Rich)
2021	Grand Final	Melbourne	21.14 (140)	Western Bulldogs	10.6 (66)	Perth Stadium	61,118	C. Petracca (Melb)
2022	Grand Final	Geelong	20.13 (133)	Sydney	8.4 (52)	MCG	100,024	I. Smith (Geel)
2023	Grand Final	Collingwood	12.18 (90)	Brisbane Lions	13.8 (86)	MCG	100,024	I. "Bobby" Hill (Coll)