



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2021 ROUND 1 COLLINGWOOD V WESTERN BULLDOGS

LIBRARY FACT SHEET MARCH 19, 2021

1950 - MAGPIE SUPPORTERS REVOLT

In his biography of Jock McHale, Glenn McFarlane writes: "Jock McHale coached Collingwood for almost 14,000 days; his successor lasted only four days. What happened at the Collingwood Football Club during the months of April and May 1950 stand as one of the most remarkable and divisive transfers of power in the history of Australian sport."

In the weeks following Essendon's 82 point thrashing of Collingwood in the 1949 first semi final, it was rumoured that Jock McHale would be retiring as coach. McHale had been at the helm since 1912 and had coached the team in 714 games, including 58 finals. Premierships had been won in 1917, 1919, 1927/28/29, 1930 and 1935/36. Despite the strength of the rumours, no announcement was forthcoming. Behind the scenes long-term club administrators Harry Curtis, Bob Rush and Frank Wraith had asked McHale to bide his time "in the interests of the club". The reality was that they were aware that the team captain at the time, Phonse Kyne, was interested in becoming coach. Worried that Kyne was very much his own man, the trio wanted the job to go to Reserves coach and former player Bervyn Woods who they thought would follow their direction.

Best and fairest for the previous three seasons, and enormously popular among Collingwood supporters, Kyne initially indicated that he favoured becoming captain-coach. McHale's departure was held back until April 1950, at which time, in an obvious attempt to frustrate Kyne, Wraith announced that they would be appointing a non-playing coach. Nevertheless Kyne continued to declare his interest in the position, receiving support from a significant number of committee members.

The crucial committee meeting at which the coach was to be chosen was held on April 13. Following a secret ballot, president Harry Curtis announced that Woods had won the post. Committeeman Jack Galbally then demanded to know the margin. Under pressure Curtis revealed that the vote had been six all and that he had used his presidential casting vote in favour of Woods. This announcement would prove to be the beginning of the end for the old guard. The news of Curtis using his casting vote soon reached the social club where a petition was launched demanding that a special general meeting be held to review the committee's decision. Kyne added fuel to the fire by announcing his resignation from the captaincy and retirement as a player after 245 games. The final practice match was due to be played two days later. Matters came to a head at this game, a large crowd of angry spectators surrounding the committee reserve and shouting abuse. Kyne, who had decided to attend the game, was carried shoulder high around the ground by supporters. The next day Bervyn Woods announced his resignation as coach "for the sake of club unity".

The special general meeting was held at the Collingwood Town Hall on May 17. More than 500 members were in attendance, with hundreds more outside. Curtis, Wraith and Rush were subjected to a stream of invective, and could barely make themselves heard above the din. Finally a motion of no confidence in the committee was moved, which was supported overwhelmingly by the members. The old guard was ousted and replaced by Syd Coventry as president, Alec Fyfe as temporary treasurer and Gordon Carlyon as secretary. The old committee resigned and the new committee ratified the appointment of Phonse Kyne as coach. Jock McHale's successor had been chosen by the supporters.

OVER TO YOU

1. Who took over the captaincy at Collingwood in 1950 when Phonse Kyne became non-playing coach?
2. Who captained Footscray/Western Bulldogs between 1990 and 1993?
3. Who was Collingwood's leading goalkicker in 1958, the year the club won its 13th premiership?
4. Who kicked 15 goals for Footscray/Western Bulldogs in their Round 13, 1978 match against St Kilda?
5. Who coached Collingwood in 1975/76 and was then replaced by Tom Hafey?
6. Which Footscray/Western Bulldogs player kicked 10 goals or more on five occasions between 1982 and 1987?

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

This Round in History – Round 1 on the MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The biggest was Geelong's 127-point victory over Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971. The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon which kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935. Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years. However, only one has taken place on the MCG, when Melbourne drew with Sydney 11.18 (84) apiece on March 27, 2011. The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935. The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG is 90,151 for the Carlton-Richmond game in 2018.

Statistics for Collingwood v Footscray/Western Bulldogs

Collingwood v Bulldogs by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Bulldogs	Drawn
Docklands	13	8	0
MCG	15	9	0
Princes Park	0	1	0
Victoria Park	44	9	0
Waverley	4	2	1
Western Oval	34	18	0
	110	47	1

Highest Score

Collingwood	28.16 (184)	Rd 8	1926	VP
W Bulldogs	21.15 (141)	Rd 22	2005	Dock

Lowest Score

Collingwood	4.4 (28)	Rd 7	1962	WO
Footscray	3.10 (28)	Rd 18	1966	VP

Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	126 points	Rd 8	1926	VP
Footscray	56 points	Rd 1	1955	VP

Last Time They Met – Round 1, 2020, Docklands

	Collingwood	W Bulldogs
Quarter time	5.2	1.0
Half time	8.6	4.0
Three-quarter time	10.7	5.2
Full time	13.8 (86)	5.4 (34)

Most Goals in a Match

11	G. Coventry	Coll.	Rd 8	1926	VP
11	Bill Twomey	Coll.	Rd 7	1950	WO
11	P. McKenna	Coll.	Rd 1	1970	WO
10	S. Rocca	Coll.	Rd 16	1993	VP

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>

EARLY YEARS

The Footscray Football Club first appeared in the mid-1870s, its players, in the main, coming from the Lovett, English, Cleghorn, Scott and Warren families. Games were held on a paddock bordered by Cowper, Napier, Bunbury and Hyde Streets, near what is now the Footscray Station. In 1877, the first year of the VFA, the team played 15 games in that competition's junior division. In what now seems a very odd decision, the club changed its name to the "Prince Imperial Football Club" in 1880, in honour of Prince Louis Napoleon, the "Prince Imperial" of France, who had been killed during the Zulu Wars in 1879 while on a scouting expedition with the British army. The name was changed back to Footscray for the 1883 season. In that year, it is believed, new colours of blue and white with a red cap were adopted.

TWO BULLDOG STALWARTS

Arthur Olliver, who was recruited from Footscray Technical School Old Boys, played 272 games for the Bulldogs between 1935 and 1950 and kicked 354 goals. Initially a key forward, he went on to become one of the game's leading followers. He was captain-coach from 1943 to 1946 and again from 1948 to 1950. He shared the 1941 best and fairest award with Norman Ware in the year that Ware won the Brownlow Medal, and won the award again in 1944. Olliver also represented Victoria in 1941 and 1948. After leaving Footscray he coached successfully in Tasmania and Western Australia.

Recruited from Yarraville, **Jack Collins** played 154 games with the Bulldogs between 1950 and 1958. Initially he played in key defensive positions to fill gaps left by players who had retired, but he really made his mark when shifted to the forward line, leading the competition's goal kicking in 1954 and 1957 and representing Victoria eight times. He won his club's best and fairest award in 1951 and 1952 and was leading goal kicker in 1953-55 and 1957-58. He was also instrumental in the club winning its first premiership in 1954, kicking four goals in the second semi final and seven in the grand final. Collins would go on to serve as the club's President between 1966 and 1973. Both he and Arthur Olliver were named in the Footscray/Western Bulldogs Team of the Century.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS: Q1 Gordon Hocking. Q2 Doug Hawkins. Q3 Ian Brewer. Q4 Kelvin Templeton. Q5 Murray Weideman. Q6 Simon Beasley.