



THE BEAR FACTS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
CAULFIELD BEARS FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB
APRIL 2020 EDITION

COVID-19 Virus Hits The SFNL

The Coronavirus (aka COVID-19 pandemic) has struck the SFNL.

Following instruction from the AFL, our governing body (SFNL) and the other six metropolitan football leagues have collectively decided to postpone all community football and netball competitions until the weekend of Sat 31 May 2020.

All practice matches have been suspended/cancelled and clubs have been advised to cease training until further notice.

These decisions have been made with consideration to managing the COVID-19 issue, protect the health & welfare of players, officials, spectators, umpires and all stakeholders and the sustainability of the leagues and clubs.

Whilst on the subject of sustainability, I recently spoke with an SFNL Board member who informed me that he feared a large number of SFNL clubs will struggle to survive this recent challenge which is terribly sad news (and I hope he is proven wrong).

We're fortunate in that we have cash-reserves that will enable us to survive but I get no joy from learning other clubs are imperilled by the pandemic.

These are very uncertain and challenging times for us as a local community sporting club and our society in general and I ask all Caulfield Bears supporters, players & officials to take care of yourselves, your family members, friends & neighbours at this time.

And please cross your fingers that we all get to the other side in the best condition possible.

Practice matches

The footy boys managed to play a practice match prior to the ban introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

They headed up the Western H'way and played a 6-quarter match against Bungaree (which is the former club of our current coach Chris O'Keefe – and former club of the late Danny Frawley).

In very challenging conditions (the wind was howling straight down the middle of the ground), our boys

showed some very promising signs. So if the boys get onto the footy field this season, I'm predicted a good season.

Some photos of the practice match are shown in this edition of The Bear Facts.

Netball Trials

Our netty girls were in the middle of conducting intra-club trial matches at Thomas Street netball courts in Hampton at the time our season was postponed.

And from what I saw, we've recruited well with some of the new girls showing great promise.

Like the footy boys, if the girls get onto the court this season, I expect a strong showing from the Bears across all grades.

Entourage Finance

Welcome to the Cave to our newest sponsor Entourage Finance.

Entourage is the finance and property experts. Whether your growing your wealth through property, buying your first home, protecting your assets or navigating legal scenarios, Entourage provides you with extensive knowledge and a business network without rival and ongoing support.

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Their services include:

- sourcing the best home loan to suit your needs,
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- investment loans,
- bridging finance,
- commercial and development finance,
- buyer/vendor advocacy, and
- conveyancing.

Contact Vincent Moore on 0420 839 654 to discuss how Entourage Finance can help you.



Sandleford



Bears Golf

Our social golf group (Bears Golf) was scheduled to play on Sunday 5 April 2020 at the exquisite Waterford Valley GC but due to the restrictions imposed by our Federal Government in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have cancelled the round.

Details of future rounds are:

Sunday 7 June 2020 @ Growling Frog

Sunday 2 Aug 2020 (Course TBC)

Sunday 4 Oct 2020 @ Eagle Ridge

Sunday 25 Oct 2020 @ Keysborough

Sunday 8 Nov 2020 (Course TBC)

Sunday 6 Dec 2020 (Course TBC)



Cost to play is usually \$80pp (or \$300 for a group of 4 players) and includes green fees and lunch following the round.

If you're interested in joining the group, please contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383).

And thanks to The House of Golf & X-Golf Mentone for their support of our golf program.



Social Memberships Available

There's no better way to support your favourite community sporting club than becoming a social member?

We have **2 levels of social membership** for you to choose from – details are shown below:

Silver Bears membership will provide you with:

- complimentary drinks and finger food during the half-time interval of all 1st XVIII matches played at Koornang Park this season;
- ½ price drinks at the conclusion of all 'home' matches played this season up to 6.00pm.
- \$25 Bear Bucks that can be redeemed at our club's bar &/or canteen;
- voting rights at our AGM;
- the joy of assisting your favourite community sporting club.

Cost \$100 (incl. GST) per person

Golden Bears membership will provide you with:

- the same benefits of the Silver Bear package plus;
- \$250 of Bear Bucks which can be redeemed at our club's bar &/or canteen;
- 2 complimentary tickets to each match-day luncheon (valued at \$300);
- 2 complimentary tickets to our Major Raffle (valued at \$200);
- personalized glass tankard (value priceless);
- advertising of your business in our clubrooms.

Cost \$1,100 (incl. GST) per person.

Please note, the ½ price drinks benefit mentioned above refers to drinks purchased by the member for his/her consumption and will not apply to other drinks purchased by the social member. The social member will be required to present his/her social membership card whenever purchasing drinks to receive this benefit.

What do you have to do?

Contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383 or via email staity29@bigpond.com) now to become a social member of your favourite community sporting club.



For all your insurance requirements for your business please contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383 or 03 9578 0029)



Player Sponsorship Program

Our Player Sponsorship Program is a key element of the club's fundraising as it assists in funding our football & netball operations (such as purchasing footballs, netballs, training equipment, medical equipment & consumables, etc) and I encourage you to sponsor your favourite player (or we can select a player for you).

What are the benefits for the sponsor?

An A3-sized poster (sample below) showing a photo of the selected player and your name &/or business logo will hang on the wall of our social room at Koornang Park for all to see your support of our club.

Julie Masterson



Sponsored by

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TOYOTA

And you will receive a 'Bear Bucks' card valued at \$25 which can be redeemed at our bar &/or canteen.

Cost \$150.00 (plus GST)

What do you have to do?

Contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383 or via email staity29@bigpond.com) now to sponsor a player and support your favourite community sporting club.

Past Players/Supporters Luncheon

Our Past Players/Supporters luncheon scheduled to be held on Sat 25 Apr 2020 has been cancelled due to the restrictions imposed by our Federal Government in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Stay tuned for details if/when we re-schedule this luncheon.

HOTEL BRIGHTON

Club Sponsorship

We have partnered with many businesses whom provide financial support for our club which enables us to deliver 2 quality sporting programs to our local community.

If you would like to partner with us, we're sure we have a sponsorship package that will suit your business and your budget.

For as little as \$500 + GST we will promote your business to our players, members & supporters which will drive sales to your business – and you'll be helping your favourite community sporting club.

Contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383 or staity29@bigpond.com) for more details.

Del Mar



Club Apparel

We have many items of club-branded apparel at very reasonable prices for you to purchase and show your support of our club. Some of the items we stock are:

- polo shirts
- hooded jackets
- scarves
- beanies
- anoraks
- sports bags

and much more.

Click [here](#) to check the full range – and you can order online.



Who Am I?

This month’s “Who Am I Quiz” is:

- I was involved with one of our formation clubs.
- I played a total of 377 games for my club between 1963-1982 and won its 2nd XVIII Best & Fairest on 4 occasions.
- I served the club as Secretary (1965-1967), Treasurer (1968-1992) and President (1974 & 1975).
- I joined the Caulfield Bears in 1993 following the merger between its formation clubs (St Kevins Ormond & St Andrews Gardenvale) and have served the club as Treasurer (1997-1999), General Committee (1993-1996) and Timekeeper since 1993.
- I received the Victorian Volunteer Award (Caulfield District) in 2015 in recognition of my 50-years’ service to community sport.
- I was an inaugural member of the SFNL Hall-of-Fame in 2015 and was inducted into the Bears’ Hall of Fame in 2018.

I am?

Send your answer to caulfieldfootballclub@gmail.com. First correct entry wins a Bears Bucks card valued at \$25.

The answer for last month’s ‘Who Am I’ quiz was **Rowan ‘Bull’ Traeger** (pictured below). Bull joined St Kevins Ormond FC in 1982 and played a total of 208 games with the Monders and a further 111 games for the Caulfield Bears (following the merger of St Kevins Ormond and St Andrews Gardenvale in 1992) for a total of 319 games for our club.

He was Captain of our 2nd XVIII premierships teams of 1993 & 1994 and was awarded Life Membership of our club in 1994.

Bull continues to serve the club as a volunteer to this day and we’re mighty glad he does what he does.



The first person to correctly name Bull Traeger as last month’s ‘Who Am I Quiz’ was former player Shaun Ellis who wins a \$25 Bear Bucks card which he can redeem at our club’s bar or canteen.

Remember When

Below are some photos of Bears players/supporters/officials taken some years ago and you are challenged to name each person in these photos.

I’ve given some clues that may assist you.

Good luck – and the first correct entry received at caulfieldfootballclub@gmail.com will win a Bears Bucks card valued at \$25.



Photo # 1

I am a former player who played lots of games for the Bears.

I was Captain and won a 1st XVIII Best & Fairest.

And I’m still involved with the club in an official capacity today.

I am



Photo # 2

Collectively we have:

- played 360+ games for the Bears (including games for one of our formation clubs and Caulfield Bears juniors),
- played in a premiership team;
- won a club 1st XVIII Best & Fairest;
- and we're both still actively involved with the Bears today.



We are

Photo # 3

These 3 adorable kids all currently play for the Bears (although they've grown up a bit).

The boys both played their under-age footy with us and sister was a star junior netball player – and still is a star.

We are



If you have any photos of a current or former player, a supporter or an official that you would like to submit to our 'Remember When' segment, please send to us via email at caulfieldfootballclub@gmail.com – and please ensure the photo is in 'jpg' format.



Hall of Fame

In 2018 (which was the 25th year anniversary since the formation of our club following the merging of St Kevins Ormond FC & St Andrews Gardenvale FC), we created a Hall of Fame and inducted 4 people in its inaugural uptake. Over the upcoming editions of The Bear Facts, we will showcase these inductees.

In this month's edition of The Bear Facts, we celebrate **Dennis Nicol** and his contribution to our club.

In good times and in bad, Dennis Nicol has been a rock at the Bears' cave. He has served the club (and one of its formation clubs St Kevins Ormond FC) continuously since 1986 in various football operational roles (such as Assistant Coach & Chairman of Selectors) as well as a multitude of off-field roles.



He has been the club's Vice President, Secretary, Bar Manager as well as serving on our General Committee & Fundraising Coterie Sub-Committee - and he has cooked more hamburgers than he cares to remember, all the while doing whatever he can to help our club.

He was awarded Life Membership of our club in 2000 and in 2016 the club decided to re-name its Best Club Person Award to the 'Dennis & Maureen Nicol Award' in honour of the dedicated service provided by Dennis and his wife Maureen over the past 30 years.

He was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 2018 and is a true legend of our club.



Bear Becomes Life Member of Pies

The Cooper family is highly regarded at Koornang Park with sons (Ash & Trav) and daughter (Brie) playing a combined total of 470 games for our club, as at the end of season 2019, dad Ian coached numerous junior teams and was an Assistant Senior Coach for 4 years and mum (Vicki) has proudly supported the Bears for as long as one can remember.

Some would say they are the Bears' royal family.

And it would seem the Collingwood FC holds Ian in similar high regard as he was recently awarded Life Membership of the Pies.

Former St Kilda FC player and media personality Michael Roberts wrote this article about Ian's career at Collingwood.

Most footballers have to go through serious levels of pain and discomfort if they're to carve out a decent career. But it's highly likely that no Collingwood player has ever had to endure the frustrations and hurdles that burly defender Ian Cooper had to overcome.

'Strop', as he was widely and affectionately known, missed the best part of five years of football through a succession of injuries, mostly due to chronically arthritic ankles. But he persevered and eventually managed to take his tally close to 93 games spread across 11 years.

In that time – and especially in the largely uninterrupted span from 1974-77 – he built a reputation as one of the meanest backmen in the game. Collingwood fans have always loved their tough, battling, no-nonsense defenders, and in Cooper they had a beauty.

He actually came to Victoria Park as a forward from East Reservoir. He kicked 13 goals from seven games in the under-19s in 1971, and seven from 10 games in the reserves the same year. By 1972 he was a Reserves' regular (indeed he finished second in the reserves best and fairest), albeit mostly as a defender, and in round 21 – still only 18 – made it to the bench for what proved to be an unremarkable senior debut against South Melbourne.

A few weeks later, the senior team was hit by a raft of injuries for the First Semi-Final against St Kilda. Lee Adamson, Ted Potter and Peter McKenna were among those missing, while Ron Wearmouth was suspended. Graeme Dunstan was brought in for his first game to fill McKenna's shoes, while Cooper was named in defence for his first full game in what was described as a selection 'bombshell'.

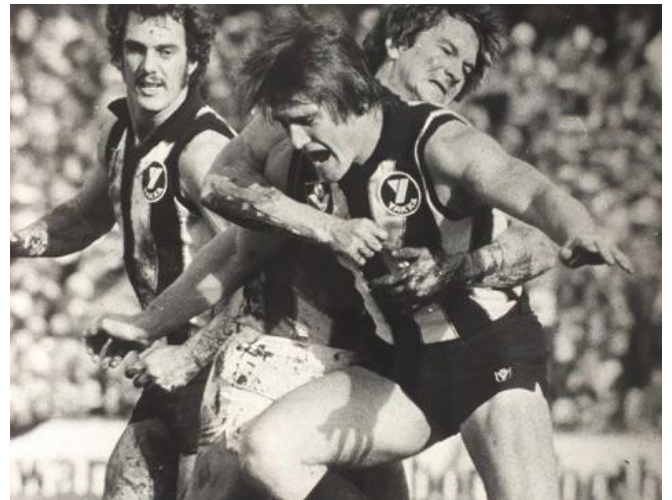
Certainly not many had him on their radar as a likely replacement for any of the missing backmen.

The Pies were awful against the Saints and were knocked out of the finals. But Cooper and fellow new boy Dunstan both did well.

The club presented Ian with a special trophy a few weeks later for 'services in the final match', while The Age named him among the club's best players, saying he was "never outdone" and "kept battling on".

They were qualities Cooper would display often in the years ahead.

After such a promising debut, hopes were high for Cooper in 1973. But when the final lists came out he was mysteriously nowhere to be seen. He had contracted a type of rheumatic fever that caused swelling in his ankles and was diagnosed as arthritis. Doctors advised him to stand out of football for 12 months.



By the time he returned to football in 1974, Cooper had filled out physically and felt increasingly at home in defence. His critics said he was too short for a key defensive post, but he had no problems playing at full-back or in the back pocket. He made everyone sit up and take notice when he kept Peter Hudson goalless in round two, and went from strength to strength thereafter, playing 18 games for the year before ankle problems prematurely ended his season.

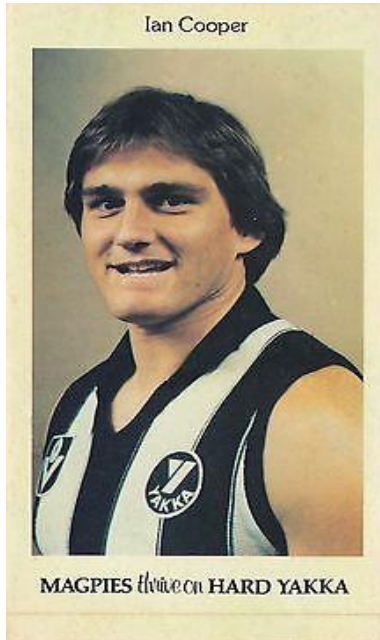
Something else had changed by 1974 too. The Paul Hogan Show had become one of the most popular programs on TV, and it featured Hoges' housemate 'Strop' (played by Hogan's friend John Cornell, a successful businessman who later played a key role in the formation of World Series Cricket). 'Strop', it has to be said, bore an uncanny resemblance to Ian Cooper.

So, armed with a new nickname and an ostensibly fit body, Collingwood's 'Strop' set about the golden years of his career. From 1974 to 1977 he was a regular in the Magpie defence. Tough, strong, uncompromising and fearless, he was a nightmare for opposing forwards.



He could take a good mark and was surprisingly speedy once he had a head of steam up, his surging bursts from defence becoming something of a

trademark. But his main strength lay in being able to nullify high-scoring forwards.



He wasn't afraid to get physical when he needed to, and alongside similarly rugged colleagues such as Phil Manassa and later Stan Magro and Kevin Worthington, he made the Collingwood back line a scary place to be.

Fitness was never his strong suit (he finished last in the 1976 pre-season cross-country run), but he was an assiduous trainer and won a television from Canberra TV in 1974 for "dedication to training".

The next year he was named the club's most consistent player and awarded the J.F. McHale Trophy.

Late in Collingwood's barnstorming 1977 season, Cooper went down with ankle problems that forced him out of the finals' series.

He initially thought it a recurrence of the 1973 injury, but it turned out to be a chipped bone and ankle spurs.

That was bad enough, but recurring arthritic problems with his ankles, back and even a dislocated shoulder saw him miss all of 1978, play only one game in 1979 and miss all of 1980. He became a kind of ghost figure at Collingwood – often mentioned but rarely seen.

But Cooper wasn't a quitter. One game in three years and he never gave up. It was hailed as one of the great comebacks when he eventually returned to the team for a few games midway through 1981.

He spent much of the year captaining the reserves and was set to retire at the end of the season, but when the senior team was hit by injuries to Peter Moore, Stan Magro and Andrew Smith, the Pies pulled a major surprise by naming him in their Preliminary Final side. At that point it had been 14 weeks since his last senior appearance.

Cooper responded by playing one of the best games of his career. Many critics chose him as best on ground, and credited him with piloting the Pies to another Grand Final.

"Cooper did a marvellous job of refuting the generally accepted view that he was an ageing backman with suspect ankles," wrote Trevor Grant in the Age.

"He jumped, danced and dodged his way out of strife so many times and made the Geelong forwards who had destroyed the Magpies in the Qualifying Final look remarkably inadequate. His courage and spirit typifies everything that is Collingwood," wrote the Sunday Press.

The fairytale ending, of course, would have seen the es win the '81 flag and Cooper retire with his Preliminary Final performance a fresh reminder of the qualities he brought to his football.

But Collingwood lost, and Cooper decided to extend his career. He managed only eight games in 1982, then in the 1983 pre-season was suspended for four weeks for whacking a Footscray opponent.

He never regained a senior berth, and eventually left for Port Melbourne in the VFA.

Ian 'Strop' Cooper was one of those players that fans love. His whole-hearted, full-on (and sometimes aggressive) approach to footy endeared him to the Magpie faithful from day one.

But his long and determined struggle to return to senior football after suffering such debilitating injuries made him even more popular.

He was an underrated footballer but one of the finest Magpie defenders of his era. That 1981 Preliminary Final was just about the perfect footnote to his career.



Ian is pictured above receiving his Life Membership certificate from President of Collingwood FC Eddie Maguire.



Photo Gallery

Some snaps of our footy practice match against Bungaree are below.



Jake Buggy collects another possession



Ouch!



Tom Stait kicks into attack



Matt Brown marks strongly



The ever-reliable Christian Trumble mops up in defence



Troy Harris scraps hard



Vin Moore shows a good set of wheels



Ryan Evans repels a forward attack.



Big Jack Sheedy jostles for position

General Committee

Our club's affairs are managed by our General Committee which was elected at our AGM held in Nov 2019.

Members of our GC are:

President	Darren Stait
Vice President	Dennis Nicol
Secretary	Christine Bugden
Treasurer	Maureen Nicol
Netball Operations	Barb Traeger
Football Operations	Vacant (*)
Social Events	Prue McGowan & Alexander Markham
Fundraising	Shane Campbell

(*) If you are interested in taking on the role of Football Operations or would like to learn more about the role, please contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383).

We also have a series of sub-committees which manage specific functions of our club's operations (such as social events, sponsorship, etc) – so **if you'd like to give us a hand running the club**, please contact Darren Stait (Tel. 0407 559 383 or staity29@bigpond.com).

ENTOURAGE FINANCE

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