

**MENTONE AND
ST BEDES OLD COLLEGIANS
AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB**

**HALL OF FAME
INDUCTIONS – 2007**

**1967/68
Premiership Reunion**



*Compiled and edited by
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Foreword

During the 2004 centenary season the club inducted 100 Hall of Fame members, including ten Legends of the Mentone Football Club (MFC), St Bedes Old Collegians Football Club, Mentone Junior Football Club and the club that evolved from them all, the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers Amateur Football Club. The Hall of Fame is open to all players, coaches, officials, match-day helpers and supporters. The criteria for nomination to the Hall of Fame covers the following areas:

- Significant (Hall of Fame) or outstanding (Legend) service to the club, with a minimum of 100 senior or Reserve games and/or ten years as an official; and/or
- Significant or outstanding achievement as an individual or as part of a team whilst playing, coaching or being active in administration; and/or
- Significant or outstanding achievement elsewhere in a sporting or community capacity after beginning their career at one of the constituent clubs.

In the inauguration of the Hall of Fame, there was a conscious attempt to capture a representation of people and events in the various histories of the clubs from 1904 to 2004 and to find a balance between players, coaches, officials and helpers in the various decades. After sifting through annual reports and minutes of committee meetings, checking local papers and history books, and cross-checking assessments with key personnel of the various eras, the problem was not so much who should be included, but rather the dilemma of leaving out so many outstanding contributors to the history of the clubs in order to restrict the numbers to 100 (representing one person for each year of the centenary). The task was made more difficult by the fact that the history of the early years is somewhat murky, and by the reluctance of people to nominate themselves or others as possible Hall of Fame members.

Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Hall of Fame induction, members of the Hall of Fame Committee met to consider further nominations. It was decided that players and key personnel involved in the MFC Olympic Year Premiership of 1956 and the 1976 Premiership were deserving of induction. To this end, the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the MFC during these two very successful eras in the club's history were assessed, and it was agreed that all premiership players that were not already members of the Hall of Fame should be inducted, along with other significant people from this period. The 1956 inductions occurred at a special function in May, while the 1976 inductions occurred at a function in August. Both functions generated considerable attention in the local and metropolitan press. In a similar manner, the Committee agreed that the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the MFC during the senior premiership years of 1967 and 1968 should be duly recognized, and it was agreed that all premiership players, along with other significant people from this period, should be inducted at a function to be held in May 2007.

The Hall of Fame Committee would welcome any feedback on the above processes or criteria, or on possible future nominations, as further inductions into the Hall of Fame will occur on a regular basis. Corrections or further information about the achievements of Hall of Fame members are requested and should be addressed to Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au.

Mark Beasley, Rob Hess and Brett Marchant
Hall of Fame Committee, 2007

Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information, and supporters of the Hall of Fame, are gratefully acknowledged:

1. Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998).
2. Leo Gamble, *Mentone Through The Years* (Mentone: Leo Gamble, 2003), and staff of the Parkdale Library.
3. Federal Association and Federal League fixtures and annual reports, and the *Federal Football Record*.
4. The many people who have generously provided information and memorabilia on the club's history.
5. Stephen Maitland, of Maitland/Horler Estate Agents, for sponsorship of the 2007 Hall of Fame booklet.

Please note that the following people who were associated with this era have previously been inducted into the Club's Hall of Fame: Mick Beckwith, Norm Bignell (Legend), Peter Bromley, Wayne Bromley, Bruce Cockburn, John Cockburn, Peter Corboy (Legend), John Crozier, David Evans, Bruce Gatford (Legend), David Groves, William (Bill) Groves, Colin Lewis, Norm McDonnell, Ray Pope, Gary Rasmussen (Legend), John Scanlon, Tony Truscott, Gerry Truscott, Ted Vale, John Wallace, Peter Weekes. A complete list of Hall of Fame members is listed on the club website.

Inductions to the Hall of Fame – 12 May 2007

Gary 'Tarpan' Baird

A Tiger junior, Gary commenced in the Fourths in 1962 and was vice captain of the Thirds in 1965. He was a lightly built half forward flanker who could do 'freakish' things and then disappear from a game for a period of time. Quick and brave for his lightly framed body, Gary was the 'clown' prince of the club with a jovial, unfazed approach to life and those around him. He was very difficult to match up on because of his ability to do the unusual and unexpected. At nineteen years of age, Gary was a member of the 1967 premiership team, but was unluckily suspended and missed the 1968 grand final. He later made a cameo comeback to the senior team in the 1976 season.

John Baldock

John was vice captain of the Fourths in 1962, and was named as the Best First Year Player in the Reserves in 1965 before becoming a regular member of the senior team, playing more than 100 games for the club. His fitness was outstanding, and John thrived on an extreme physical fitness regime, always coming to a new season extremely fit because of his life saving activities over the summer. John played in both the 1967 and 1968 Premiership teams, and was a dashing half back flanker who was usually positioned on the same flank as Norm Bignell. Always a dedicated team player, John kicked very long on the run, often delivering the ball in the area of Ted Vale at full forward.

Greg Crozier

Commencing in the Fourths in 1964, Greg was named as the Most Consistent Player in the Thirds in 1966. A very solid, reliable and rugged backman, Greg was a good team player who listened well and executed the instructions of the coach to perfection. Whilst he may have lacked a yard in pace, Greg made up for it with total determination and commitment and was an important member of the backline throughout 1967 and 1968, playing in the 1968 premiership team. A persistent shoulder injury shortened his career.

Gary Downie

A clever, small man who could play either half forward, wing or rover, Gary was lightly built but very quick. Always dangerous near goals, Gary was able to feed off the attempts by opposition full backs to spoil Ted Vale. Equally skilful on both sides of his body, Gary was not always given the recognition he deserved, but he was a valuable contributor in both the 1967 and 1968 premiership teams.

Rod Foy

A Tiger junior, Rod was captain of the Thirds and winner of their Best and Fairest award in 1963. A classy footballer, Rod was a very tough, unforgiving half forward flanker who was very dangerous on the flank opposite to Colin Lewis. Rod had total commitment at all times and loved to win the ball, bursting the packs wide open with his strength and fanatical desire and fierce approach. Rod could also be used in bursts as a rover or centreman, and went on to play almost 150 games with the club, with the highlight being his participation in the 1967 premiership victory, missing the 1968 flag through injury.

Jim Kelt

Making his senior debut in 1966, Jim won the Best First Year Player award in that season. He held down the centre half forward position in the 1967 and 1968 premiership teams, and combined very well with his good friend Ted Vale, always playing well up the ground to give his full forward room to lead into. Jim's contribution to the overall team performance was probably never given sufficient recognition, as he played very serviceably in the most difficult position on the ground, giving his team a formidable goal-to-goal line.

Peter Kerr

One of the premierships mascots in 1968, Peter not only went on to play junior and reserves football, but provided fantastic off-field service to the club. As well as coaching roles in the juniors, Peter has also been a team manager and bench assistant for fifteen years, including the 1993 and 2006 senior premierships. A true Tiger, 'Nobby' is one of a group of unassuming people who have formed the backbone of the club with their tireless and largely unrecognised service. A former secretary, current Life Member and winner of the Best Clubman award in 1997, Peter has been involved with the club in some capacity for almost forty years.

Norm Ryan

A courageous and dynamic rover, Norm had good pace and also knew where the goals were. Named as a forward pocket in the 1968 premiership team, Norm kicked one goal in a low scoring match. An excellent clubman who was well liked and respected by his peers, Norm later won the Reserves Best and Fairest award in 1970.

Keith Seddon

A talented ex-junior who had already won a senior Best and Fairest award in 1966, Keith rejoined the club in 1968 and was highly respected by all his team mates. Only small, but very quick and fearless, Keith did a great job on the wing when he came into the side for the 1968 grand final. Observers recall that he was pressured by a particularly aggressive opponent all day, but Keith kept the ball as his target and refused to be intimidated. Unfortunately, Keith was killed in a car accident before the 1969 season, and in memory of his courage and commitment the Keith Seddon Shield was struck in his honour and subsequently awarded to the senior club champion. [Dec.]

Neil Sherritt

Coming to the club in 1968 from the Army, Neil played in the senior premiership team and also won the Most Promising Player for the Reserves in the same year. An excellent worker on the track, Neil played on half-back flank, and was a tough, direct, no nonsense player whose strengths were his total commitment and absolute lack of fear. Cleared of attempting to strike a Glenhuntly player in the preliminary final, Neil went on to perform a vital role in the 1968 grand final, and was named among the best players.

John Stein

An outstanding junior player, John sacrificed his last year as captain of the Thirds in 1965 to play senior football. A good kick and mark, John was a star at centre half back in the 1967 premiership team, playing as a big, strong, bullocking backman. He was training with Melbourne prior to the 1968 season, but was badly injured in a car accident mid-way through pre-season training and did not play football again. John was an excellent size for a centre half back and according to astute judges could have achieved success in the Victorian Football League.

Kevin Wylde

A half back flanker in the 1967 premiership team, Kevin was a sturdy, reliable and close checking backman. Whilst never spectacular, he was totally disciplined in all he did, and had a reputation for never being beaten and never giving in. The epitome of a team player and an ever-reliable performer, Kevin played almost 100 games for the club and won Best and Fairest awards for the Reserves in the 1969 and 1972.

Messages from those Unable to Attend the 1967/68 Premiership Reunion:

Tarpan 'Gary' Baird: 'Fellow team mates, I am sorry I cannot make it over due to the Western Australian economy going gangbusters! This was an amazing part of my life. To grow up in Mentone and come out and play my first senior game that year against the extremely talented and tough Springvale on a Sunday and blow them away with our young side showed we were onto something great. It was an amazing time for me to be part of a team so successful – it gave me so much confidence. The secret of our success was the sharing friendships we had and the way people connected with each other'.

Greg Crozier: 'All the best for the day. To coach Gary Rasmussen - It must have worked being your chauffeur when you broke your leg! Cheers'.

David Evans: 'In 1968 I decided to forego playing football with Mentone in order to devote more time to my pharmacy studies. All year, Norm McDonell pestered me to reconsider and about a month before the finals I relented and decided to play again. After a few games in the Reserves and then a couple of finals in the Reserves, I was chosen for my first senior game of that season in the grand final. Selected at centre half forward to replace David Groves, who had been suspended after the preliminary final, I was privileged to play in a premiership team with some of my footballing heroes, such as Ted Vale, Tony Truscott, Wayne Bromley, Colin Lewis and John Scanlon. I remember the after match celebrations that night at 'Wells Fargo', a not too stylish venue in Chelsea Heights. The following morning I had to sit for an exam, but in the afternoon found my way to the beer garden at the Edgewater Hotel, where festivities continued. It still is one of the fondest memories I have. To me the Mentone Football Club was always professionally administered (for example, by Bruce Gatford), always rife with quality people, and at that time excellently coached by Gary Rasmussen. I still have long-term friendships from those years and consider myself so fortunate. I wish I could have played there longer'.

Peter Charles (Press Correspondent): 'These were two great premiership sides. Talented, skilful and tough and well coached by Gary Rasmussen. Your record over the two years was extra-ordinary! My biggest regret is that somehow I didn't tip you in either grand final. In the first, I thought you were easily the best team, however over a few drinks after the preliminary final, the Glenhuntly coach outlined his game plan to counter all your guns and I swallowed it and tipped against a side that had lost one game and were playing at home – ouch! In 1968, with the preliminary played on a Sunday and my press report for next week's game having to be in on the Sunday night, and Mentone having half the team up before the tribunal, plus being sore and battered, plus knowing Oakleigh District were ready to do more of the same – I went for the Districts. I knew I'd made the wrong decision when only two Tigers, Groves and Baird, got rubbed out by the Tribunal. And like the great side that you were you came out and gave it to Oakleigh District. My best wishes to all for the day in celebrating a time when Mentone were the premier Federal League Club, both on and off the ground'.

Neil Sherritt: 'Unfortunately I am unable to attend the day due to holiday ranch commitments, which I now own and run. To all attending the premiership reunion - have a great day! The 1968 grand final was a great team victory and it was fantastic to be part of creating history for the Mentone Football Club with back-to-back wins'.

The 1967 Season in Review

The lead-in to the 1967 season was marked in the press by a number of reports indicating that the future of several Federal Football League clubs was in doubt. In January, an article headlined 'Football Club Faces Extinction', reported that 'Unless local people show more interest in its future, the Highett Football Club must be disbanded.'¹ A similar situation confronted the Bentleigh Football Club, where, it was claimed, 'some of their older supporters had left the district, others had been lured away to the "big time" football in the district and few had come to take their place'.²

Eventually the season kicked off, but not without some drama, as the following report indicates:

Football in the Federal League will now open on April 29, a week later than first announced. This is due to a mix-up of grounds between Glenhuntly Amateurs and Glenhuntly Federal League teams. The Federal League draw, as determined last October, won't be altered. Mr Wally Beckwith, president of the Federal League, said they're looking forward to a good year.³

Mentone had finished fourth on the ladder in 1966, and had recruited a new coach, former Hawthorn player, Gary Rasmussen, who had played seven games and kicked three goals in his senior stint at that

¹ 'Football Club Faces Extinction', *Moorabbin News*, 11 January 1967, p. 1

² 'Bentleigh Footballers Face a Crisis Too', *Moorabbin News*, 1 February 1967, p. 20.

³ Federal Kicks Off, April 29', *Sporting Globe*, 8 April 1967, p. 11.

club in 1958 and 1959.⁴ Importantly, Rasmussen had tasted VFL success, winning the Morrish Medal in 1956, and being a member of Hawthorn's first premierships team – the 1958 Reserves, who were coached by H. S. 'Tubby' Edmonds.⁵ Alan Schwab, who wrote the Federal Football column for the *Moorabbin News*, was aware of Rasmussen's pedigree, and on the eve of the season tipped Mentone to do well under their new coach, noting that: 'The 1966 top-dogs, East Malvern, Springvale, Glenhuntly and Mentone should all do well again, despite the fact that some of them have lost valuable players ... Mentone, fourth last year, was runner-up to Springvale in 1963. This year the Tigers will be coached by Gary Rasmussen [who] makes his debut with Mentone this Saturday against Clayton – and should celebrate the occasion with a victory'.⁶

Although not all results for the season are available, it worth noting the progress of the team through various press reports, as follows [Note that the names of some players have occasionally been misspelled by some journalists]:

Round 1

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Bulldogs Notch First Win Over McKinnon', *Moorabbin News*, 3 May 1967, p. 24.

'Former Parkdale player, Ted Vale, starred for the Tigers at full-forward, kicking seven goals ... East's new coach is Bill Gallagher, who guided Mentone to its last premiership victory in 1956. Bill is a brother of former East coach Jim Gallagher. He succeeds Bill Ostle, who has retired after coaching them to premierships in 1964 and 1966'.

Peter Charles, 'Vales Look Too Solid', *Sporting Globe*, 3 May 1967, p. 4.

'Parkdale and Mentone, next-door neighbours, should make things interesting in their traditional clash. Parkdale lost to Oakleigh Districts by one point last week when Mentone outclassed Clayton'.

Seniors

Mentone 18.8.108 def. Clayton 7.4.46

Goals: Vale 7. **[Eleven goal kickers missing]**

Reserves

Mentone 12.26.98 def. Clayton 0.7.7

Thirds

Mentone 16.12.108 def. Clayton 2.1.13

Fourths

Mentone 17.19.121 def. Clayton 6.7.49

Round 2

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. First Test for Big Four', *Moorabbin News*, 10 May 1967, p. 28.

'... The first big test between members of the "big four" comes next Sunday when Mentone is at home to Springvale. It is the first Sunday game for the year and it promises to be a beauty ... Mentone and Parkdale, rivals for many years, staged a most interesting tussle which resulted in the Tigers winning by 15 points'.

Seniors

Mentone 12.15.87 def. Parkdale 10.12.72

Goals: T. Truscott 3, Foy 2, Vale 2, Stein, G. Truscott, Scanlon, Downey, Cook.

Best: Bignell, Scanlon, Foy, T. Truscott, R. Stein, Baldock.

Reserves

Mentone 14.16.100 def. Parkdale 5.5.35

⁴ Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998), p. 486. Rasmussen had been recruited from Hawthorn City Football Club.

⁵ Harry Gordon, *The Hard Way: The Story of the Hawthorn Football Club* (Paddington: Lester-Townsend Publishing, 1990), p. 114.

⁶ Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Same Teams to Dominate', *Moorabbin News*, 26 April 1967, p. 28.

Thirds

Parkdale 11.13.79 def. Mentone 8.11.59

Fourths

Mentone 12.15.87 def. Parkdale 6.9.45

Round 3

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Tigers Thrash Springvale', *Moorabbin News*, 17 May 1967, p. 28.
'... Mentone proved that it will be a very strong contender for '67 honors in the Federal League by whipping last year's runner-up, Springvale, in the third round. The Vales had no answer to the smart Mentone side, and when the final siren sounded were 10 goals in arrears. At the end of three rounds three sides remain unbeaten – Glenhuntly, Mentone and East Malvern'.

Peter Charles, 'Federal's Big Two', *Sporting Globe*, 17 May 1967, p. 4.

'Unbeaten Glenhuntly and Mentone, third and fourth in last year's finals', were to clash. '... Ruck duels look evenly matched with maybe Gary Rasmussen and Jim Scanlon (Mentone) having the edge on Peter Johnson and Gary Byers. Rovers Gary Downie and Gerald Truscott could give Mentone the advantage around the packs. Ted Vale, their full-forward, is a matchwinner and Rod Foy, Tony Truscott and Norm Bignall will make sure he gets the ball ... I go for Mentone to win in a photo'.

Seniors

Mentone 15.12.102 def. Springvale 4.18.42

Reserves

Springvale 8.8.56 def. Mentone 7.6.48

Thirds

Springvale 12.6.78 def. Mentone 5.13.43

Fourths

Mentone 11.7.73 def. Springvale 7.6.48

Round 4

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Hunters Still Unbeaten', *Moorabbin News*, 24 May 1967, p. 20.
'... Glenhuntly defeated Mentone last Saturday by 16 points. It was Mentone's first defeat for the year, but, though beaten, the Tigers seem certain to figure prominently at the end of the year'.

Seniors

	Glenhuntly	Mentone
First	3.3.21	2.2.15
Second	7.5.47	3.5.23
Final	11.12.78	9.8.62

Goals: Lewis 3, Baird 2, G. Truscott 2, Vale, T. Truscott.

Best: Groves, Wallace, Lewis, G. Truscott, Foy, B. Cockburn.

Reserves

Glenhuntly 9.10.64 def. Mentone 7.12.54

Thirds

Glenhuntly 8.5.53 def. Mentone 7.10.52

Fourths

Mentone 20.15.135 def. Glenhuntly 3.5.23

Round 5

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Hunters Still Unbeaten', *Moorabbin News*, 31 May 1967, p. 24.
'... Oakleigh District and Mentone outclassed Bentleigh and Caulfield respectively'.

Seniors

Mentone 19.23.137 def. Caulfield 10.7.67

Reserves

Mentone 17.17.119 def. Caulfield 5.5.35

Thirds

Mentone 30.22.202 def. Caulfield 0.1.1

Fourths

Caulfield 12.10.82 def. Mentone 11.7.73

Round 6

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Five Still in Fight for Final Four', *Moorabbin News*, 7 June 1967, p. 24.

'... Mentone, second, kicked badly, but, nevertheless, weren't in danger of defeat by Bentleigh'.

Sporting Globe, 7 June 1967, p. 6

'Mentone played poorly against Bentleigh on Saturday but there's no doubt the form was too bad to be true'.

Seniors

Mentone 10.23.83 def. Bentleigh 3.12.30

Goals: Vale 4, Brown 3, Rasmussen 2, Downie.

Best: T. Truscott, Foy, Crosier, Bignell, Scanlon, Vale.

Reserves

Mentone 20.22.142 def. Bentleigh 6.14.56

Goals: P. Weekes 5 [**15 goal kickers missing**]

Best: P. Weekes, J. Weekes, Ron Smith.

Thirds

Bentleigh 11.12.74 def. Mentone 8.7.63

Best: Adgemis, Seal, Tribe.

Fourths

Mentone 14.6.90 def. Bentleigh 5.10.40

Goals: Cerato 6 [**8 goal kickers missing**]

Best: Dunn, Jammieson, Onley, Cerato.

Round 7

Peter Charles, 'Tough Job for East', *Sporting Globe*, 14 June 1967, p. 14.

'Peter Weekes has returned from St Kilda Reserves and his 6 ... frame should ... difficult for Noble's ...'

Seniors

Mentone 11.10.76 def. Oakleigh District 8.10.58

Round 8

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Oakleigh Too Good for East Malvern', *Moorabbin News*, 21 June 1967, p. 24.

'... Mentone was untroubled to hold second place with an easy win over Noble Park'.

Seniors

Mentone 17.12.114 def. Noble Park 7.6.48

Goals: G. Truscott 3, Brown 3, A. Truscott 2, Vale 2, Foy 2, Kelt, Baird, Marsh. [**2 goal kickers missing**]

Best: A. Truscott, Rasmussen, Wallace, J. Cockburn, Wyld, Scanlon.

Reserves

Mentone 14.18.102 def. Noble Park 7.3.45
Goals: Rae 4 [**10 goal kickers missing**]
Best: McKenzie, Rae, Zarth.

Thirds

Mentone 16.13.109 def. Noble Park 7.9.51
Best: Hangar, Ryan, Haysom.

Fourths

Mentone 13.18.96 def. Noble Park 2.6.18
Best: Sharhcott, Dunn, Ensor.

Alan Schwab, 'Federal Football. Highett's Surprise Win', *Moorabbin News*, 28 June 1967, p. 24.
'... East Malvern, fifth on percentage, was no match for the confident Mentone side and was beaten by more than eight goals'.

Round 9

Seniors

Mentone def. East Malvern

The ladder at the half way stage of the season was as follows:

Glenhuntly	9	0	187	36
Mentone	8	1	177	32
Springvale	8	1	152	32
Oakleigh District	5	4	125	20
East Malvern	5	4	110	20
Cheltenham	5	4	106	20
Black Rock	5	4	105	20
McKinnon	4	5	99	16
Noble Park	3	6	87	12
Clayton	3	6	86	12
Highett	3	6	77	12
Parkdale	2	7	88	8
Bentleigh	2	7	49	8
Caulfield	1	8	53	4

The ladder at the end of the season was as follows:

Mentone	17	1	1783	878	203.1	68
Glenhuntly	16	2	1841	1088	169.2	64
Springvale	15	3	1768	1194	148.1	60
East Malvern	12	6	1500	1258	119.2	48
Cheltenham	9	9	1530	1418	107.8	36
Oakleigh District	9	9	1312	1249	105.0	36
Clayton	9	9	1432	1495	95.7	36
Black Rock	9	9	1226	1349	90.8	36
McKinnon	7	10	1375	1396	98.2	28
Noble Park	6	12	1178	1471	80.1	24
Highett	6	12	1259	1652	76.2	24
Parkdale	5	13	1401	1521	92.1	20
Caulfield	3	15	1007	1779	55.9	12
Bentleigh	3	15	977	1821	53.6	12

Second Semi Final

Peter Charles, 'Malvern Win It', *Sporting Globe*, 6 September 1967, p. 4.

'In all, Glenhuntly has met Mentone on 17 occasions with the Hunters in front 11 games to 6 ... Last year Glenhuntly beat Mentone when they met in the first semi, but this year Mentone has improved greatly under captain-coach Gary Rasmussen ... Mentone relies on and gets good service from its star

ruckman Peter Weekes, but the pressure could be on him this week when he meets Gary Byers, Don Urwin and Peter Johnson who will ensure he gets plenty of opposition ... Ted Vale, the federal League's leading goalkicker with 84 [*sic.* 94] goals will cause Glenhuntly's defence most concern ...'

Peter Charles, 'Mentone Look Set', *Sporting Globe*, 13 September 1967, p. 5.

Estimated attendance: 2300

Mentone 10.16.76 def. Glenhuntly

Goals: Vale 3, Groves 2, Lewis 2, Baird, G. Truscott, Foy

Best: Groves, Weekes, Baird, Lewis, Baldock, Rasmussen

Grand Final

Peter Charles, 'Toast of Mentone', *Sporting Globe*, 27 September 1967, p. 5.

'Teddy Vale was the toast of Mentone on Sunday night. He kicked his 100th goal of the season in helping his team beat Glenhuntly to win the 1967 Federal League Grand Final. Teddy scored three goals in Mentone's 14.10.94 – 11.9.75 victory. Bruce Garvin, his opponent, made him fight all the way and it wasn't until near the end of the third quarter Vale kicked his century. Mentone's pace and play-on style was a feature of its game but its biggest factor was its fitness. Coach Gary Rasmussen deserves praise for making Mentone the fittest team in the league. Last Sunday's win was Mentone's third premiership in the league since joining in 1909. Its other two were in 1928 [*sic.* and 1935] and 1956. Glenhuntly wasn't disgraced. It fought back determinedly after its poor show in the second semi-final and at one stage hit the front in the third term.

No Weakness

Mentone didn't have a weakness ... In the last quarter Mentone's physical strength and fitness told and gradually they took the initiative to go on to a well-earned victory. To Rasmussen it was a personal triumph. It was his first season with Mentone and the work and effort he put into making Mentone the fittest team in the League was justly rewarded.

My Best

3. Frank Seymour (G). Solid in defence. Had a great season and is a credit to Glenhuntly and the game.

2. Rod Foy (M). It's hard to pick a Mentone player because there were so many good ones but Foy's will to win at all costs and elusive play gets the nod.

3. Peter Wiseman (G). Roved brilliantly and did his bit around the goals by kicking 5 ...

The Umpire

6. Len Eddy. A far better display than in the second semi-final. At times was puzzling with a few decisions, but overall a fair effort ...

Scores:

Mentone	Glenhuntly
6.3.39	1.1.7
9.4.58	6.3.41
10.8.68	10.7.67
14.10.94	11.9.75

Goals: Vale 3, Lewis 3, Weekes 3, Foy 2, A. Truscott, G. Truscott, Rasmussen

Best: Foy, Groves, Bignell, J. Stein, Lewis, Weekes.

The Federal Souvenir Grand Final Record, 23-24 September 1967, p. 30.

PLAYERS' AGES, HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS							
MENTONE			GLENHUNTLY				
	Age	Ht.	Wt.		Age	Ht.	Wt.
G. Baird	19	5.9	11.11	D. Stephens (C.)	24	6.0	13.4
D. Groves	22	6.0	13.0	D. Urwin	25	6.2½	13.4
A. Truscott	21	5.11½	12.7	B. Garvin	24	5.11	12.12
E. Vale	24	5.9	12.10	M. Williams	28	6.2½	15.2
G. Truscott (V.C.)	25	5.7	10.11	K. Rogan	23	6.1	14.8
N. Bignell	19	5.7½	10.12	G. Sturdy	23	5.11	12.0
R. Foy	20	5.8½	12.4	P. McCracken	17	5.9	11.7
J. Wallace	27	5.9	12.0	R. Read (V.C.)	22	6.0	13.4
B. Cockburn	23	5.11	12.10	P. Johnson	20	6.2½	13.7
J. Stein	19	6.1½	13.0	P. Sheedy	21	5.10	13.12
J. Marsh	23	5.11	13.0	P. Aron	21	5.10½	12.0
J. Scanlon	22	6.2	14.0	G. Byers	27	6.3½	13.9
C. Lewis	27	5.11½	11.12	F. Seymour	26	5.8½	11.8
K. Wyld	23	5.10	12.0	T. Allen	19	5.9	11.4
J. Cockburn	22	5.8½	12.0	P. Wiseman	22	5.10	12.0
J. Kelt	26	6.1½	13.11	R. Prosser	22	5.10	12.2
G. Downie	20	5.8½	11.2	R. Burns	20	5.10	12.12
J. Baldock	20	5.11	12.0	B. May	29	5.9½	10.10
G. Rasmussen				J. Clapp	20	5.7	10.7
(C.&C.)	29	6.0	13.12	R. Coggan	20	5.8	11.0
P. Weekes	20	6.3½	13.0	M. Kay	20	6.2	13.4
N. Zarth	19	5.10½	12.0	B. Bursey	29	5.8	12.3
B. Haysom	24	5.9	10.10	R. Nilsson	28	5.10	12.0
				K. Matthews	20	6.2	12.10

The Federal Souvenir Grand Final Record, 23-24 September 1967, p. 15.

PEN PICTURES . . .		GLENHUNTLY	
<p>GEORGE ALLEN — Coach. George is the first ever non-playing coach for Glenhuntly. A student of the game, George always puts a great deal of thought into every move. He is well respected by all players and this has paid great dividends for the Hunters.</p>		<p>PAUL ARON — Paul has played most of the season at full-forward, where he has done well. However, when he was switched to a half-forward flank Paul became a most devastating player. 17 games.</p>	
<p>DOUG STEPHENS (Captain) — Doug is the height of consistency as a back man. He is also a popular captain and his cool, fearless dashes in defence are a great inspiration to his team. 58 games.</p>		<p>GARY BYERS — One of the Federal's best ruckmen. Gary is in his 15th year with the Hunters, starting as a junior in 1953. He spent half a season with Melbourne firsts in 1962. 98 games.</p>	
<p>RON READ (Vice-captain) — A brilliant utility player who joined the Hunters from Melbourne in 1964. 59 games.</p>		<p>FRANK SEYMOUR — A former rover who has played brilliantly since he was switched to a back pocket. 74 games.</p>	
<p>DON URWIN — Don has featured in most positions for the Hunters over the years and this year was no exception. However, he has played mostly as a defender at centre half-back, a position that seems to suit Don's style of game. 107 games.</p>		<p>TOM ALLEN. A very determined and courageous wingman, who joined the Hunters from Ormond Amateurs this year. 17 games.</p>	
<p>BRUCE GARVIN — A very negative defender. Bruce at full-back certainly makes his opponents earn their kicks. 97 games.</p>		<p>PETER WISEMAN — An extremely talented rover who's pacy dashes and long raking kicks are a tremendous asset to the Hunters' side. 68 games.</p>	
<p>MERV WILLIAMS — Merv. joined Glenhuntly this year from Williamstown. A strong marking ruckman who excels himself when resting in defence. 14 games.</p>		<p>BRIAN MAY — Although now in the veteran stage, Brian still has fantastic pace. Brian reached his century of games earlier this year. 112 games.</p>	
<p>KEVIN ROGAN — Kevin was also recruited from Williamstown this season. Rugged and cool, Kevin has torn many an attack apart with his fearless play. 10 games.</p>		<p>JOHN CLAPP — John is a busy little rover and he is in his first season with Glenhuntly after playing for Port Melbourne for several years. 5 games.</p>	
<p>GEOFF STURDY — A "jack in a box" utility player who keeps on bobbing up when most needed during a game. Geoff would probably be the safest mark in the Federal for his size. 54 games.</p>		<p>BOB COGGAN — Bob, although lacking in height, is a natural defender. He may well be remembered for his great play in last year's Reserve final series. 20 games.</p>	
<p>PETER MCCracken — Peter, at the tender age of 17, looks as though he is going to be a great senior player. Following in his father's footsteps, Peter is a real dasher reminiscent of the great Ron McCracken. 14 games.</p>		<p>RAY NILSSON — Old Glenhuntly player from "way back." Ray is the only player still playing who was a member of our last two premierships in 1955 and 1958. In the interim Ray has featured in 80 League games with Melbourne and South Melbourne. 15 games.</p>	
<p>PETER JOHNSON — Peter was recruited from Melbourne this season and has really made an impact in the Federal League with his brilliant forward play. 17 games.</p>		<p>KEVIN MATTHEWS — Kevin has matured as a senior player this year. A safe mark and a long kick, Kevin has been invaluable in the ruck this season. 36 games.</p>	
<p>PAT SHEEDY — Probably the most rugged forward in the game. Pat's tremendous strength and uncanny goal sense has been a great asset. 29 games.</p>			

The Federal Souvenir Grand Final Record, 23-24 September 1967, p. 13.

PEN PICTURES . . .

MENTONE

G. RASMUSSEN — Ruck, Captain-coach. In his first year Gary's enthusiasm and desire to succeed has been communicated to the entire club. A shrewd tactician, his strong play in the packs, although often going unrecognised, is of great benefit to the team.

G. BAIRD (Half-forward Flank) — Gary's ability to mark and willingness to contest for the ball belie his build. Graduated from our juniors.

N. BIGNELL (Wing) — An elusive and fast player with outstanding ball control. Also a strong and accurate kick. Graduated from our juniors.

J. BALDOCK (Half-back Flank) — Strong, attacking player who also has graduated from our juniors.

T. BOYCE (Half-forward Flank) — A local boy, who, over his two years with our club, has progressed from an occasional game with the Reserves to the 1st XVIII.

P. BROMLEY (Ruck) — A member of our 1966 3rd XVIII premierships side, Peter has returned from Richmond and his height and strength will be an asset to the team. A player of unlimited future.

B. COCKBURN (Full-back) — A scrupulously fair player with judgment and ability to "read the game" above the ordinary. A great kick. Graduated from our juniors.

J. COCKBURN (Wing) — Marking, strength and ability to kick long distances make this player very difficult to subdue. Graduated from our juniors.

R. FOY (Rover) — The quiet man of the team, who combines pace and desire to get the ball. He is a very valuable player. Graduated from our juniors.

D. GROVES (Ruck) — The exact opposite to R. Foy, the walkie-talkie of the team, and his strength and liveliness in the packs have helped considerably in the team's success. Graduated from our juniors.

J. KELT (Centre Half-forward) — Ex-M.H.S.O.B. amateur side and has proved a valuable player, with his coolness and ability to rise to the occasion. An exceptionally long and accurate kick.

C. LEWIS (Half-forward Flank) — A typical flanker with a deadly right foot, whose ability to pop up at the

right time is always a concern to the opposition. Graduated from our juniors.

J. SCANLON (Ruck) — In his second year with our club and has proved a valuable find. Has great pace for a big man and uses it, together with his strength, to great advantage.

J. STEIN (Centre Half-back) — A strong mark which, combined with his pace and willingness to attack, makes John one of the leading centre half-backs in the League. Graduated from our juniors.

A. TRUSCOTT (Centre) — Ex-St. Bedes and Carlton Reserves. The outstanding centreman of the League, he has fitted in with our play-on style with great success. In his third year with the club.

G. TRUSCOTT (Rover) — Vice-captain. A clever and tenacious rover who is "firing" at the right end of the season. A great team man with an insatiable desire to win. Graduated from our juniors.

E. VALE (Full-forward) — This season's leading goalkicker, with 94 goals to the end of the first round games. Ted's strong leads and marking ability has been a constant threat.

J. WALLACE (Back Pocket) — Ex-captain and star centreman, with 200 plus games to his credit, although only 27 years of age. Has great ball control, balance and judgment and has fitted into the back pocket with great success. Graduated from our juniors.

P. WEEKES (Ruck) — Another junior player who has returned from St. Kilda this year. A player of outstanding ability, his marking and pace has consolidated our rucking strength.

K. WYLD (Half-back Flank) — Ex-Chelsea. In his first year with our club. He plays the game with one purpose, to get the ball and get it into attack. His pace and judgment assist greatly in achieving this aim.

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1967 Senior Premiership team

B	J. Wallace	B. Cockburn	J. Scanlon
HB	K. Wyld	J. Stein	J. Baldock
C	N. Bignell	A. Truscott	J. Cockburn
HF	G. Baird	J. Kelt	C. Lewis
F	D. Groves	E. Vale	R. Foy
RR	P. Weekes	G. Rasmussen	G. Truscott
19th	G. Downie	20th	P. Bromley
Coach: G. Rasmussen			

The Grand Final was played at the Mentone Reserve. Estimated attendance: 6000. In the photograph below, Gary Rasmussen marks in front of Gary Byers (Glenhuntly). John Stein (left), John Wallace (centre) and Bruce Cockburn (right) are also in the action, along with Peter Johnson (Glenhuntly) [Photo by Mentone Photographic Centre].





1967 First XVIII Premiers

Back Row: J. Davis (Trainer), J. Baldock, J. Stein, D. Groves, J. Kelt, P. Weekes, P. Bromley, J. Scanlon, C. Lewis, N. McDonnell (Team Manager).

Centre Row: B. Cockburn, J. Cockburn, B. Gatford (President), G. Rasmussen (C.C.), G. Truscott (V.C.), J. Wallace, E. Vale, K. Wyld.

Front Row: N. Bignell, G. Downie, C. McKenzie (Mascot), G. Baird, C. Brown (Mascot), R. Foy, A. Truscott.

Insets: P. Corboy (Treasurer), R. Pope (Secretary).

John Wallace being congratulated on 200 games by Bruce Gatford and Gary Rasmussen.



Standard News, 6 December 1967, p. 19

John Ward, from Black Rock, won the Federal League best and fairest award in 1967. No Mentone players finished in placings for the Seniors, Reserves, Thirds or Fourths.

The Best Clubman for 1967 was Norm McDonnell. Peter Corboy and Paddy Mulvogue were Awarded Life Membership at the conclusion of the 1967 season. The senior Best and Fairest award for 1967 went to Tony Truscott.

The 1968 Season in Review

Round 6

'All-In Brawl in Federal', *Sporting Globe*, 25 May 1968, p. 11.

'Mentone beat Oakleigh Districts 14.10.94 to 8.8.56 in a game marred by a brawl in the second quarter in which players, trainers and supporters were involved. Mentone goaled through Ted Vale within minutes of the opening siren. Mentone had the advantage of a strong wind, but Oakleigh's defence, led by Peter Brenchley, George Wilson and Jim Naismith made their forwards work hard. Oakleigh penalised themselves by manhandling their opponents and this helped Mentone lead at quarter time. In the second quarter Oakleigh had several chances to score, but congestion on the forward line spoilt their chances. Rex Thompson's goal inspired Oakleigh after Derreck Moore missed from five yards out. A brawl broke out just before half time involving nearly every player, supporters and trainers'.

Scores:

Mentone	Oakleigh District
3.4.22	1.0.6
3.4.22	6.8.44
14.10.94	8.8.56

Goals: Vale 1 [13 goal kickers missing].

Peter Charles, 'Tough for Federal', *Sporting Globe*, 5 June 1968, p. 5.

'Federal League faces one of its toughest matches against eastern District league next Monday, at Mitcham. It's a prestige game, for the Federal claims to be fourth ranked league in the metropolitan area'. The squad included a number of VFL players, including Mentone's Peter Weekes from St Kilda, and Charles noted with surprise that David Groves and Tony Truscott had been left out of the squad. Mentone were to play Cheltenham on the Saturday and the representative game was scheduled two days later.

Ladder after Round 7:

Mentone	7	0	161.9	28
Springvale	6	1	168.8	24
Glenhuntly	6	1	134.5	24
<u>Oakleigh District</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>169.3</u>	<u>20</u>
Highett	4	3	102.3	16
Noble Park	4	3	83.7	16
Cheltenham	3	4	98.4	12
East Malvern	3	4	84.4	12
Bentleigh	3	4	84.2	12
Clayton	2	4	81.1	10
Parkdale	2	5	82.2	8
Black Rock	1	5	86.5	6
Caulfield	1	6	65.5	4
McKinnon	1	6	63.0	4

Round 9

16 June 1967, Mentone versus Parkdale in a Sunday game.

Round 12

Peter Charles, 'Vale for the Flag', *Sporting Globe*, 10 July 1968, p. 7.

'After inflicting the first defeat on Mentone for the season, Springvale have become favorites to win the 1968 Federal league Pennant'. In the forthcoming match against Bentleigh, Charles claimed that Mentone had 'no reserves to cover the loss of Rod Foy, John Stein and Gary Rasmussen'. Mentone were still sitting on top of the ladder, with eleven wins and just one loss.

Round 14

'Federal League', *Sporting Globe*, 20 July 1968, p. 12.

Scores:

Mentone	Glenhuntly
4.1.25	0.0.0
4.2.26	2.7.19
6.5.41	6.7.43
9.10.64	7.7.49

Round 18

Peter Charles, 'Hot Job for Caulfield', *Sporting Globe*, 14 August 1968, p. 7.

In previewing this round, Charles claimed that 'Mentone look to[o] classy for Clayton who will fight it out to the finish'. Mentone were still atop the ladder with sixteen wins and one defeat.

Semi Final (Reserves)

Peter Charles, 'Vales Pick in Semi', *Sporting Globe*, 21 August 1968, p. 7.

Mentone Reserves were scheduled to play Bentleigh in the first semi final at Mentone at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 24 August. The senior team finished on top of the ladder with a percentage of 184.5.

Peter Charles, 'Ian House is Federal Best', *Sporting Globe*, 24 August 1968, p. 8.

As in 1967, no Mentone players finished in the placings for Federal Best and Fairest awards.

Second Semi Final

Peter Charles, 'Weekes to Lift 'Tone', *Sporting Globe*, 28 August 1968, p. 15.

'Star ruckman Peter Weekes returns to Mentone for their clash with Oakleigh District in the Federal League second semi-final at St Kilda's Moorabbin ground. Weekes has played the past three weeks

with Melbourne, and his return will be a great load off the shoulders of the Bromley brothers Wayne and Peter in their combat with the strong Oakleigh pair Terry Haining and Reg Thompson. This game should produce firework ... Captain-coach Gary Rasmussen broke his leg in the first game and Mentone's approach became ragged ...'

Preliminary Final

John Rice, '15 Reported! Federal Final Fiery Affair', *Sporting Globe*, 11 September 1968, p. 1. [A full, front-page spread]

'Last Sunday's Federal League preliminary final between Mentone and Glenhuntly should have been played at Festival Hall instead of Moorabbin Oval. Look what happened –

- Boundary and goal umpires reported 15 players, eight from Mentone and seven from Glenhuntly.
- Three policemen on duty had to eject supporters from the ground
- After the siren 200 angry fans jumped the fence and abused field umpire Vin Bourke
- A Mentone trainer tried to strike a Glenhuntly player
- Later several off-duty umpires stood outside Umpire Bourke's room to ward off another lot of irate spectators
- Glenhuntly president Mr Ken McLachlan and coach George Allen were ignored by Mentone officials and jeered by supporters when trying to make an after-match speech.

They'll Front the Tribunal

Those reported were David Groves (Mentone) on a charge of striking Doug Stephens. Groves was carried off on a stretcher with a torn cartilage so he won't be playing anyway. Tom Allen (G) and Noel Sherritt (M) by both boundary umpires on a charge of attempting to strike each other. Gary Baird (M) on a charge of striking Don Urwin (twice). Peter Bromley (M) on a charge of striking Don Urwin. Don Urwin (G) on a charge of striking Peter Bromley. Bob Burns (G) on a charge of striking Gary Downie. Pat Sheedy (G) on a charge of kicking David Groves. Peter Johnson (G) and David Groves (M) on a charge of striking each other. Bob Burns and Gary Downie on a charge of striking each other.

All reports were laid by boundary and goal umpires. Central umpire Bourke did not lay one charge. Mr Wally Beckwith, Federal League president said, "I am amazed at what went on. I hope we never have another spectacle like that again". Mr Daryl Molloy, Federal League secretary, said that in his 28 years as a player and official he can't remember anything like it. I was very disappointed. It wasn't in accordance with our presentation of football" he said. Mentone with only 15 players through injuries and the eight players reported, could be in trouble mustering a team for next Sunday's Grand Final against Oakleigh district, also at the Saints Moorabbin ground at 2.30.

The Federal League executive will meet on Wednesday night to discuss possible action. Mr Molloy said that the most surprising feature of the incidents were that both teams have been noted ball players for many years. He said that there had been no animosity between the two clubs to his knowledge. Moorabbin police didn't "book" anybody.

Mentone won 10.6.66 to 4.13.37. As for the game, Peter Charles says:

"From the opening bounce Mentone were out to shake off the image they created last week, by going in hard.

Fearless!

Players who sidestepped that day became fearless crusaders and gave everything they had. This took Glenhuntly by surprise and from the first quarter the result was never in doubt as Mentone kicked 4.4 to 1 behind. They were fast, teamed better, and their defenders thrashed the hunter forwards. Gary Byers withdrew through a knee injury and was replaced by Bruce Garvin, who played well in checking Ted Vale. Glenhuntly threw away any chance by managing only 1.4 in the second term after having nearly all the play. Mentone (5.2) in the third wrapped the game up. Glenhuntly, in between fights, held the winners scoreless in the last quarter but outkicking 2.6 didn't help their cause.

Best Players

3. Norm Bignell (M). Brilliant game on the wing. Played the Moorabbin ground to perfection.
2. Frank Seymour (G). Solid and dependable in the back pocket.
1. Gary Baird (M). Creative all day on his flank. Dropping to the reserve bench did him the world of good last week.

The Umpire

Vin Bourke, 2, for his consistency in being completely out of control”.

Scores: Mentone 10.6.66 def. Glenhuntly 4.13.37

Goals: Baird 2, Lewis 2, P. Bromley 2, Ryan 2, Groves, J. Cockburn.

Best: Bignell, Baird, Scanlon, Ryan, A. Truscott, Lewis.

John Rice, ‘A Sleepy Night at the Tribunal’, *Sporting Globe*, 14 September 1968, p. 17.

‘Snoozing bodies were sprawled everywhere waiting for the end of the Federal League tribunal on Wednesday night. The hearing, which lasted 7 ½ hours, surely a record for a “football court”, arose after 15 players were reported in the “Festival Hall” preliminary final last Sunday at Moorabbin between Mentone and Glenhuntly. The Tribunal started at 8 pm and finally adjourned at 3.25 am. “It was the longest in Federal history” said secretary Mr Daryl Molloy, who’s been with the League for 28 years. “When I went into the foyer there were sleeping bodies everywhere” he added. The chap who had the longest wait was field umpire Vin Bourke. He had to give evidence in the last case. Bourke didn’t report anybody, but was called by Glenhuntly. All reports were by boundary and goal umpires. And here’s how proceedings ended:-

- David Groves (Mentone): four weeks on a charge of striking Doug Stephens and a further four weeks for striking Peter Johnson.
- Peter Johnson (Glenhuntly): Four weeks on a charge of striking David Groves. He’s a brother of former Melbourne follower Big Bob Johnson.
- Pat Sheedy (G): Charge of kicking David Groves dismissed.
- Tom Allen (G): Guilty of attempting to strike Noel Sherritt (M), reprimanded.
- Sherritt (M): Was cleared of a charge of attempting to strike Allen.
- Gary Baird (M): Four weeks for striking Don Erwin (twice).
- Don Erwin (G) and Peter Bromley (M): Given benefit of the doubt and cleared of a charge of striking each other.
- Bob Burns (G) and Gary Downie (M): Striking charges dismissed. Tribunal was satisfied it was a case of mistaken identity.

Mr B. White, Tribunal chairman, in his summing-up commended the goal and boundary umpires, for their attempt to correct a situation – “which had been allowed to develop from lack of control from another source”. Mentone, who will meet Oakleigh District in the Grand Final at Moorabbin tomorrow, came out of proceedings extremely well considering they had eight players on the mat. Gary Baird is the only one they lost. David Groves wouldn’t have played anyway as he was carried off on a stretcher with a torn cartilage.

Oakleigh District, led by ex-Melbourne player Peter Brenchley, will start favorites to win their first Federal League flag at the Saints ground at 2.30 tomorrow. They’re known as the tough boys of the League so things could become fiery again as Mentone have already shown they won’t stand any rough-house. Mr Molloy said, “I don’t intend to apply for extra police. However, if this arises, Moorabbin Police Station is just down the road”. After the siren last week angry fans jumped the fence and abused field umpire Bourke. A threatening mob also milled around the umpires’ dressing room for some time after the match.

Tomorrow’s teams:

Oakleigh District

From Brenchley, Thompson, Derek Moore, D’Arcy, Meaney, P. Smith, B. Smith, O’Connor, Fowler, Cameron, Evans, Bevan Naismith, Wilson, McDowell, Miller, Richardson, Kelly, Ward, Tremellen, Haining.

Mentone

Backs: Wallace, B. Cockburn, W. Bromley. HB: Baldock, Scanlon, Sherritt. C: Bignell, A. Truscott, Seddon. HF: J. Cockburn, Evans, Lewis. F: P. Bromley, Vale, Ryan. Foll: Weekes, Kelt,. R: G. Truscott. 19: Crozier. 20: Downie. Emerg: Zarth.’

Grand Final

'Pace Offsets Vigor', Undated press report, Wayne Bromley Collection, 1968.

'Mentone climbed off the ground after the fiery preliminary final and defeated Oakleigh District 6.17.53 to 5.13.43 to wins its second successive Federal League grand final at the weekend. Mentone's chances became better as the week progressed. Firstly it lost only two players to the tribunal, David Groves and Gary Baird; its injuries proved only minor ones; and the sun shone to make the day perfect for football. This suited 'Tone's smaller team, which used its pace to offset Oakleigh's vigor ...'

Peter Charles, 'Left 'Em Gasping', *Sporting Globe*, 18 September 1968, p. 20.

'Reports and injuries after the fiery Preliminary Final didn't stop Mentone getting up off the ground and downing favorites for the Federal flag, Oakleigh District, by 10 points. As the week progressed it was obvious Mentone were coming right back into calculations. They came out of the marathon tribunal by losing only David Groves and Gary Baird, and had worthy replacements in David Evans and Keith Seddon. Their injuries proved only minor, and in perfect weather Mentone won it with its pace.

As predicted earlier on the big Moorabbin ground, Oakleigh had several chaps looking for somewhere to sit down after half-time. Big blokes in Reg. Thompson, Derek Moore, Graham Cameron, plus veteran Jack D'Arcy, didn't relish the hard, fast conditions one bit. Yet it didn't look that way in the first quarter as Oaks jumped the gun and kicked two quick goals. They were faster, went in harder and showed far more purpose. Terry Haining ruled the roost in the ruck and his work with rover Brent Smith instigated nearly all the favorites' moves.

In the second term, Mentone realising they had the job ahead got their game going. Tony Truscott, Peter Weekes, Jim Kelt and David Evans all became prominent but for most of the quarter its forwards fiddled around with the ball and kicked only 2.4 while holding Oakleigh to 2 points. At half time it appeared Oaks were wilting and coach Peter Brenchley's interval speech hinted just this.

Mentone went on from where it left off in the second quarter, but nearly threw the game away, scoring only 2.6 to make their tally 4.12 for three quarters. Oakleigh kicked poorly too, but the Mentone lapses were in front of goal where as the Oaks were harassed off balance by Tone's determined defence. Towards the end of the third quarter, Oaks managed to kick 6 behinds to keep them still in the play. This seemed to ... them, and in the final quarter it became a ... battle as both lines of defence worked overtime blanketing their opponents.

Oakleigh's Alan Evans, Brent Smith, Haimey, Meaney and Brenchley did everything possible to pierce Mentone's backline but John Wallace, Bruce Cockburn, Neil Sheritt and John Baldock wouldn't be denied. On the other hand, Kelt, Weekes, Norm Bignell, Colin Lewis and Ted Vale fought just as hard trying to break through Jim Naismith, George Wilson and Laurie Miller. The break came with minutes of play left when Norm Bignell showed the forwards how goals should be kicked by "dobbing" a gem of a goal from deep in the pocket. Mentone gained confidence and held Oakleigh out for the remaining minutes. The "Tigers" have now won 4 flags in the Federal League, the others were in 1928, '56, and last year, while coach Gary Rasmussen has had two titles on end. Oakleigh are to be congratulated as it joined federal Football only in 1964 and to reach a Grand Final in only five seasons is first class.

My Votes:

3. Terry Haimey (O). Rucked magnificently and took several strong marks and easily best big man on the ground.
2. John Wallace (M). Backed judgement and never put a foot wrong in the back pocket.
1. Brent Smith (O). Best rover, had plenty of pace and never wasted a kick.

6. Umpire Don Baird showed who was boss. From the start and despite a few free kicks missed did worthwhile ...'

Scores:

Mentone	Oakleigh
0.2.2	3.4.22
2.6.18	3.6.24
4.12.36	3.12.30
6.17.53	5.13.43

Goals: Truscott, Vale, Bignell, Evans, Lewis, Ryan.
Best: Wallace, Bignell, Truscott, Kelt, Sherritt.

1968 Senior Premiership team

B	J. Wallace	B. Cockburn	W. Bromley
HB	N. Sherritt	J. Scanlon	J. Baldock
C	N. Bignell	A. Truscott	K. Seddon
HF	J. Cockburn	D. Evans	C. Lewis
F	P. Bromley	E. Vale	N. Ryan
RR	P. Weekes	J. Kelt	G. Truscott
19th	G. Downie	20th G. Crozier	Emerg. N. Zarth
Coach: G. Rasmussen			



1968 First XVIII Premiers

Back Row: J. Kelt, N. Bignell, G. Downie, P. Weekes, P. Bromley, J. Wallace, W. Bromley, A. Truscott (VC), A. Wishart (trainer)
Centre: J. Davis (trainer), N. Sherritt, J. Scanlon, R. Pope (secretary), B. Gatford (president), G. Rasmussen (Coach), B. Cockburn, J. Baldock, G. Grozier, N. McDonnell (team manager)
Front: E. Vale, J. Cockburn, N. Ryan, G. Truscott, K. Seddon, D. Evans, C. Lewis,
Mascots: Colin McKenzie, Peter Davis, Peter Kerr
Insets: D. Groves (captain), G. Baird

The Best Clubman for 1968 was David Burton. Norm McDonnell was awarded Life Membership at the conclusion of the 1968 season.



Senior Best and Fairest award winner in 1968 and dual Premiership backman (1967/68), John Scanlon (above), also played in the 1976 Premiership team.



Dual Premiership full forward (1967/68), Ted Vale, also won the senior Best and Fairest award in 1972.

Memorabilia of the 1967 and 1968 Seasons

The club is keen to complete its records of the 1967 and 1968 premiership seasons.

Please contact Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au, mbeasley@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or Brett.Marchant@csa.gov.au if you would like to donate items or provide material for copying.

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