



# WESTERN BULLDOGS PAST PLAYERS

Newsletter June 2022

## Redeem reserved seats for the Hawthorn game on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June NOW

- To obtain a free ticket and reserved seat click on the link below and fill out the form.  
<https://forms.office.com/r/CtqrmaN9xs>
- **Use this link for ALL** home games in Melbourne. You will be able to book the remaining home games six days prior to the games.
- Tickets will be emailed by the club by the close of business two days before the game. One free ticket per paid-up member of the Past Players and WBFC. When filling out the form, remember to include your WBFC membership number which is on your plastic membership card.
- The reserved seats are near the Victory Room, which is the Past Players Room, on level one on the harbour side wing. Enter via Gate 7.
- Tickets can be displayed on your smart phone to gain entry to the Stadium and the Victory Room.
- Guest tickets will cost \$45 per adult and \$25 per junior (15 or under) and the members will be called to take payment prior to the tickets being sent.

Any questions, please email [linda.west@westernbulldogs.com.au](mailto:linda.west@westernbulldogs.com.au)

## Pre-match Functions

- The Victory Room will be open 90 minutes before the first bounce at home games. Kevin Hillier will interview former players and there will be a Recognition Jumper presentation. There will also be time to socialise with mates. Food available: Chef served Hot Roast Beef with salad or on crusty roll with coleslaw and gravy. Vegetable pasties.
- **R7 v Essendon.** Kevin Hillier interviewed Brian Lake. Barry Standfield and Kevin Delmenico were presented with their Recognition Jumpers.

*Photo above right: Barry Standfield with Scott West.*

*Photo below right Kevin Delmenico with his wife Eileen and Graeme Cook who was best man at their wedding.*



### • **R8 v Port Adelaide**

in Adelaide. Darren Grant organized and was MC of the Function in North Terrace. Nathan Eagleton was presented with his Recognition Jumper by Matthew Dent and Tony McGuinness was presented with his Recognition Jumper by Shannon Corcoran. Others who attended included Cameron Faulkner, Gary Irvine, Jordon McMahon, Ray Huppertz, Sam Phillipou & James Fantasia.

*Photo: Matthew Dent and Nathan Eagleton*

- **R11 v West Coast** in Perth. The WB Western Australian supporters group ran the function on the night before the game. It was enjoyed by Ryan Hargraves, Peter Quill, Gary McGorlick, Ilija Grgic, Phil Cronan, Andrew Purser, Dennis Blair, Glenn Calvert, George Brown, Ross Abbey and Bryan Peitner. Dennis Blair received his Recognition Jumper and local stalwart, Pat Costello, received a Special Award from the club.





- **R12 v Geelong.** We hosted a group of Geelong Past Players. Kevin interviewed Lindsay Gilbee and Bernard Toohey. Special guest Barry Round presented Ian Rickman with his Recognition Jumper. The reserved seats were all used. It was great to see Steve Wallis, Jose Romero, Zeno Tzataris, Matt Mansfield, Neil Cordy, Mark Komp, Scott West, Terry De Koning and Simon Beasley mixing with a host of regulars



- *Geelong Past Players: Tom Floyd, Marty Christensen, Andrew Bews, Bernard Toohey, Neville Bruns, Ray Card, Nick Walsh, Wayne Hovey and Damien Christensen*

- **Western Bulldogs Past Players' polo shirts:** Polo shirts are available for \$65 (including GST, postage and handling). Shirts for former senior players will include their player number on the shirt at no extra charge *Photo: Gary Irvine*
- To order, [Click here to download the Polo Shirt Order Form.](#)



## The Two Dogs Podcast

**Episode 18:** Neil & Brian Cordy

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-two-dogs-podcast/twodogs-ep303>

**Episode 19:** Wheels and Geoff Jennings

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-two-dogs-podcast/twodogs-ep304>



## Website

Our website includes:

- previous editions of the newsletter
- podcasts
- match day information

The address is:

[www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers](http://www.westernbulldogs.com.au/pastplayers).



## Stephen Power

**177 Games (1969-79); 25 Goals; guernsey number 21**

By **ROSS BRUNDRETT**



*As a kid growing up in Footscray, Ross Brundrett wore Dave Darcy's no. 15 on the back of his Bulldog jumper and his main claim to footballing fame was being in the same year at Kingsville Primary School as Ted Whitten jnr. His first job as a journalist was at the Footscray Mail where he covered Bulldog games for eight years, and for a further three years at the Western Times. He later wrote for the Sunday Press before spending the last 24 years of his career as a senior feature writer and columnist for the Herald Sun.*

Officially, Stephen Power came to the Bulldogs via that great footballing nursery known as St Kevin's College but the plain-talking ex-defender prefers to say he was a product of Werribee juniors.

"I was a Werribee boy, I only ended up at St Kevin's for two years on a scholarship," he explains.

It wasn't just Power's footballing ability that caught the college's eye. Power was also an outstanding



*Gordon Casey, Riley Garcia, Ted Whitten & Steve Power at the 2020 Recruits Dinner*

junior athlete, finishing third in the Australian under 18 400m hurdles.

But footy was his first love and despite following Fitzroy as a youngster his dad was mates with former Bulldog fullback Bernie Lee who arranged for Power to try out with the Footscray under 19s before the 1969 season.

"I played a bit of a pre-season game on the Saturday and did all right and then got invited to play in the reserves hit-out on the Sunday and did all right again," he says in his laconic way.

“Not long after, E.J (Whitten) came up to me for a talk and said ‘you won’t be playing in the under 19s’ and I started that season playing bout six games in the twos and then played the next six games in the seniors...”

A light and speedy rover and winger in his early playing days, Power would have been lucky to tip the scales at 60kg (a tad over nine stone in the old) when he started his senior career but gradually built himself up, in the process transforming from a free-wheeling wingman to a hard-nosed defender.

Around the same time he also picked up his nickname – Snapper. “I liked to give people a nickname and a fellow player Graeme Joslin and I both knew a bloke called Bob Fisher, whom I dubbed Snapper, but it didn’t stick and instead it bounced back on me and just caught on,” he laughed.

Like so many aspects of his career, things just happened by accident. For instance, he says he never worked to put on weight and become one of the side’s hard men, it just happened naturally. And he didn’t ask to be put in defence. “That was Bob Rose’s idea. He wanted a half back line of me, Bernie Quinlan and Ross (Abbey) ..... which allowed us a bit of run out of defence.”

But too often Power (a Collingwood six-footer) had to stand up to much taller forwards such as Berry Breen and Tiger monster Neil Balme which might have shortened his career.

“I got a few knocks later in my career which took their toll including an injury to my kidney and a calcified thigh which probably stopped me from reaching 200 games.”

It didn’t help that there was a change of coach with Royce Hart taking the helm. “I asked Royce whether I could ease into training because I needed some extra time to come good but he virtually said I had made up my mind to finish up so that was that.”

It was too late to try at another VFL club so instead Snapper headed to Yarraville in the VFA, coached at the time by Denis Pagan, only to have his season cut short after four games when he suffered an ACL injury. He ended his playing career in Super Rules playing alongside Brownlow medallist Peter Bedford for Collegians.

Throughout his career Power made his name as a dogged competitor who didn’t like to be beaten, or let down his teammate, and at the same time, a truly skilful athlete who, in a better team, may have proven to be one of the game’s great wingers.

“I think the wing was my best position because it allowed me to use my run and carry but really, all that mattered to me was that my teammates saw me as someone they could rely on, that I was someone who would always put in.”

With that sense of being a true clubman, it’s no surprise to learn that he was on the front line when the past players group re-

connected with the Bulldogs. A dozen years later, he still attends most past player functions, always wearing a smile and while he may not be as fast on his feet these days, he still knows how to deliver a razor-sharp retort.

“I enjoy a bit of fun,” he says, before adding that he’s not always politically correct... or words to that effect.



# Ayce Cordy

27 Games (2011-15); 15 Goals; guernsey number 49

By NEIL CORDY



*Neil Cordy played 235 VFL/AFL games with Footscray and the Sydney Swans. After his AFL career Neil coached and played for East Sydney. He worked for Network Ten for 15 years as a reporter/presenter and on their AFL coverage. He was the AFL Editor for the Daily Telegraph from 2011 to 2018 and is currently a member of ABC Grandstand's AFL broadcast team.*

I knew my nephew Ayce Cordy had a shocking run with injury in his time at the Bulldogs but when he sat down recently and gave me the full detail of it, it was nothing short of heartbreaking.

How he stuck it out for seven years when his young body was clearly not ready for AFL footy is a minor miracle and a testament to his inner strength and persistence.

I realise now why I didn't know the full story, Ayce endured this ordeal without a word of complaint and so did his father Brian. Whenever I spoke to my brother he was always positive and optimistic about Ayce's situation, no matter how bad the injury or difficult the surgery he was about to go through or recovering from.

It isn't hard to see where Ayce gets his tenacity from.

Remarkably he's still playing today at the age of 31 and loving it.

So there is a happy ending to this story. But before we get to that let's go back to the beginning.

Ayce was behind the eight ball from the start.

When he was drafted in 2008 (Pick 14, Father and Son selection) he weighed just 72kg and was 203cm tall. Caleb Daniel (The smallest player in the AFL) is 71kg and 170cm tall. Ayce was so skinny he had to run around in the shower to get wet.

For a first round draft pick he didn't have much experience either having started organised footy at 14 after playing basketball and tennis as a youngster.

It wasn't a good omen when he arrived at the Bulldogs recovering from a right shoulder reconstruction after dislocating it in a school match for Geelong College.

"I did as much of the pre-season as I could and was ready to go in round 2, 2009," Ayce said.

"But in my sixth game in the VFL I was stretchered off after going for a mark and getting tunnelled. I woke up in hospital. I'd cracked my L2, L3, L4 and C5. That was the end of me for year one and the start of the surgeries. That year I had an arthroscopy on my left knee and a left shoulder reconstruction."



Brian, Zaine and Ayce Cordy embrace after the 2016 Premiership win

A limited pre-season had him ready to go in the VFL for round one (2010) against Collingwood at Victoria Park. "I didn't have any confidence in both shoulders because of a couple of incidents in pre-season," Ayce said. "They both dislocated multiple times throughout the game. I kept putting them back in and continued to play. I sucked it up and kept playing and kept putting my shoulder back in. After that game the club and I had a chat about if it was sustainable to play footy." Ayce and the club agreed to give it another go and opted for a new shoulder reconstruction called Latarjet.

It involves taking a bone graft from the front of the shoulder blade and attaching it to the front of the shoulder socket. He had the procedure on his right shoulder and then his left eight weeks later.

"I was upset and angry and probably depressed," Ayce said.



"I hadn't had much life experience and this was really difficult. There was heaps of expectation but physically my body wasn't ready to play AFL. When I came back the confidence to fly was gone. I was starting from scratch. I was feeling around in the dark trying to make my way."

It was a crossroad moment for Ayce whose career was under threat before it had even started.

"The club and I had another chat about my ability to play footy," Ayce said.

"I hardly played footy for 3 years, I was dislocating my shoulder at training, tackling and doing chin ups. I went back to Uni and started studying again doing Bio Medicine at Melbourne. Thankfully the Dogs gave me another contract at the end of the year."

Slowly Ayce began to rebuild. The shoulder surgeries were working as Ayce started to play consistently for Williamstown. A broken hand unfortunately saw him miss the grand final. The following year (2012) he played his best footy in the AFL, 12 senior games under Brendan McCartney.

Sadly the injury curse was back the following year (2013) when a stress fracture in his lower leg ruled him out for 12 weeks.

In 2014 Ayce finally started enjoying his footy again and played in Footscray's 2014 VFL Premiership. The 2015 season was his last but gave Ayce the chance to play with his brother Zaine who'd arrived that year. They didn't play seniors together but the following year they celebrated the 2016 premiership.

At this time Ayce was studying full time and playing for Williamstown who disappointingly fell in the 2016 and 2017 preliminary finals. The following year he moved to Uni Blues in the VAFA and played the best footy of his life winning the Woodrow Medal for League Best and Fairest. He won it again the following year but this time added captaining his team to the premiership.

It was a big year, he also became engaged to his wife Hayley, bought a house and gained admission to Medicine at Deakin University.

He declined the offer and is now working as a project manager for Powercor. Eight months ago he and Hayley celebrated the arrival of Jack.

"It a tough start to my footy career but I wouldn't change a thing," Ayce said.

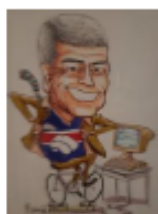
"Those experiences have made me who I am today."



## Gary McGorlick – Team Manager 1990-2003

### Knows where the skeletons are buried

By MICHAEL STEVENS



*After a short stint playing Under-19s and reserves with Footscray in the 1960s, Michael Stevens completed a cadetship at the Footscray Mail before starting a long career in sports journalism, which ended in 2007 after 27 years at the Herald Sun.*

Any chance Gary McGorlick had of forging a successful career with the Bulldogs in the late 1960s went begging after an unfortunate altercation with an opponent during an Under 19s match.

McGorlick, now 72, recalled the incident during a wide-ranging interview detailing his long and rewarding association with the club as a supporter, player, team manager and now past players committee member.

After a promising junior career with Seddon under then coach Merv Hobbs, McGorlick had a stint with the Bulldogs under 19s (coached by Norm Gardiner) and then graduated to the reserves, coached by Don McKenzie.



*Gary McGorlick, Adam Contessa, Sam Power, Brian Royal & Matthew Croft at the 2020 Recruits Dinner*

But the fateful afternoon occurred in the under 19s, when playing at full-back, and he pushed his opponent in the side to gain first touch of the ball.

"It was only a very minor incident, but it got blown out of proportion," he said. "A boundary umpire ran out and said he was reporting me for striking.

"I called him an effing idiot and said something like, 'If I see you after the game I'll throttle you'.

"That was it, I was reported for abusive language and threatening an umpire and

copped a 16-week suspension.

"Next season, I turned up for pre-season training, but Ted Whitten and Jack Collins fronted me and said, 'We hear you got a 16-match suspension. The season is only 18 weeks, so take your gear and come back next season'."

At 19, McGorlick reasoned his time at the Bulldogs was over, and he then played in the Essendon District League for a few seasons, including a C grade premiership as playing-coach, before calling it quits at 25.

Always a Bulldogs supporter through his friendship with Footscray High teammate Peter Welsh, McGorlick was drawn back to the club after the 1989 Fightback campaign and started doing some behind the scenes work for coach Terry Wheeler.

On an end of season trip to Cobram, Gary Merrington asked him if he would be interested in a team manager's role with the reserves, then coached by Trevor Fletcher before Terry Wallace took over.

That role continued until Alan Joyce took over from Wheeler, and Joyce asked him to take as the seniors team manager.

McGorlick vividly remembers Joyce's first game as coach at the MCG. "I was sitting on the bench with headphones on next to the runner Chris Burton when a message came through, 'Tell big Stewie to push back harder'.

"We both looked at each other wondering who big Stewie was, and eventually asked Joyce.

"'Big Stewie Wynd, the captain, was the reply.'"

That was just one of many humorous anecdotes McGorlick relayed during our chat. Many of the stories he remembers date from the numerous end of season trips he was involved with, taking in the United States, London, Spain and Bali.



One of the most memorable, he recalled, was a trip to Florida when a couple of players (no names, no pack drill) wanted to hire a Camaro for the day to explore the coastline.

McGorlick waited anxiously for the car to be returned intact, which it was, then a couple of other players felt like taking it for a drive as well -- and promptly hit an aluminium pole, which skewered through the back window.

That involved a \$5000 debit on McGorlick's credit card, but the money was duly repaid by the player involved.

One of the rules of overseas trips was that players could not refer to their teammates by their nicknames, which brings us to how McGorlick acquired his nickname of "Brutus", by which he is still known today.

"It was the last match at Carara and we were at the casino until 5am," he said. "Barry Standfield had bought a Keno ticket, but had fallen asleep, so when I saw the ticket I ate it.

"From then on, according to Hawk (Doug Hawkins) I was Brutus."



*Gary McGorlick with Tracey Goss & Clare Delaney*

McGorlick also has fond memories of an incident on a trip to Bali involving Danny Hargreaves, whom he regards as one of the most talented Bulldog players, who never fulfilled their potential.

"Collingwood were also in Bali and when police questioned Danny about some minor items that had gone missing, he told them he was a Collingwood player," McGorlick said, "The police fronted Collingwood and their players weren't allowed to leave their motel for three days."

McGorlick's tenure at the Bulldogs evolved into a full-time role for three years helping Paul Armstrong with player welfare, organising interstate trips and match day duties before ending in 2003 when he returned to his life-long job with Consolidated Bearing Company (now known as Inenco), a supplier of power transmission equipment.

Between 1990 and 2003, McGorlick was team manager in more than 350 games, which earned him a club life-membership and the Most Valuable Person award in 1999, following in the footsteps of Chris Grant and Wallace.

In recent years, McGorlick and his family have been traumatised by the death of his son Glen from cancer at the age of 47. "It was a tough five or six years going through all that," he said.

Nowadays, apart from catching up with old friends like Simon Atkins and Steve Kretiuk, McGorlick keeps himself fit with regular swimming sessions, something he has been doing throughout his life.

And we couldn't finish this tribute without one last story that shows that sportsmanship within the football fraternity is something to be cherished.

McGorlick told of an incident involving Bulldog Ben Harrison and North Melbourne's Glenn Archer, who were both reported for wrestling and each fined \$3000.

"Soon after Harrison received a letter with a \$3000 cheque from Archer with a note saying, 'Sorry mate, it wasn't your fault'."

## Thank you

Thank you to the following Past Players and Officials for their support.

This list of financial members is as at 31st May 2022.

The asterisk (\*) indicates people who have a partner pass.

* Abbey, Ross	Dimattina, Paul F.	Kenny, Scott	* O'Neill, Kevin
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Blackman, Peter	Forrester, Bruce	Lundberg, Kenneth	Roberts, Sue
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Brown, George	Gordon, Peter	Marsh, Ivan	Sandilands, Laurie
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* Cook, Graeme	Ion, Graham	Morton, Barry	Wells, Kim
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Croft, Matthew	* Jennings, Geoff	Norris, Pat	Wheeler, Terry
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Dalipis, Lonnie	Jong, Lin	O'Connor, Neville G.	Whiting, Wayne
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* Delmenico, Kevin	* Kellett, Nigel	O'Connor, Rodney	Williams, Peter
Del-Re, Danny	Kennedy, Rick	O'Halloran, Eddie	
Di Natale, Jack	Kenny, Jeffrey	* O'Keeffe, Philip	

## Player Welfare

We strongly recommend past players join the AFLPA Alumni.

Benefits include:

- up to \$500 refund on excess payments when in hospital, if you are in a private health fund
- up to \$8000 refund for extra operation charges should you require surgery on body joints, including damaged teeth
- an opportunity to seek funds from the Geoff Pryor Fund or an Injury and Hardship fund in the event of suffering financial hardship.

The one-off joining fee is \$50. To join, contact Chris Smith at AFLPA on 0400 019 391 or [csmith@afplayers.com.au](mailto:csmith@afplayers.com.au).

**Tim Harrington** (WB #805, 1989–90), pictured with Mitch Hannan at the 2021 Recruits Dinner, is the AFL Players' Association Football Operations Manager and Head of Alumni.



## 2022 Events Calendar

**Thursday 30th June v Brisbane**

**4.30pm**

Pre-match Function at The Norman Hotel 10 minute walk to the Gabba.

(Contact Geoff Jennings: 0408 770 659 or Neil Cordy 0419 116 315)

[Click for details](#)



*Photo: Geoff Jennings, Laurie Sandilands, Neil Cordy, Dale Morris. Wayne Foreman and Barry Round. All are likely to be at the Brisbane Pre-match Function*

**Sunday 6 November**

**11:00am**

**AGM venue TBC**

**12:00noon**

**End of Year Lunch**



**Sunday 20 November**

**9:30am**

**same venue as the  
AGM**

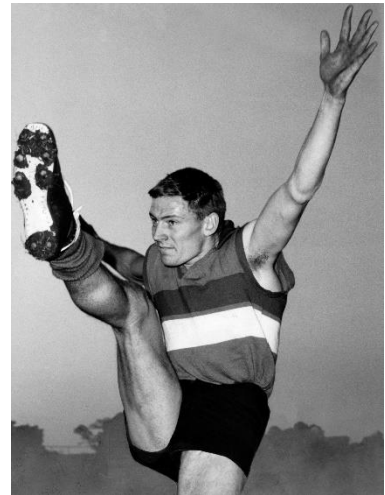
AFLCPP Bowls Day at  
Altona Bowls Club  
(Contact Len  
Cumming: 0418 374  
079)

## **Congratulations! 80th birthday**

**Rod Coutts**

WB #510

16 games, 1963-64



**Don McKenzie**

WB #499

137 games, 127 goals, 1962-70

Senior Coach 1978-79, 1982

Photo: Don McKenzie with Lachlan McNeil at the 2021  
Recruits Dinner

## **70th birthday**

**Roger McHardy**

WB #586

2 games, 1970-71

**Ivan Rasmussen**

WB #625

35 games, 1973-7

## 60th birthday

**Richard Cousins**

WB #775

60 games, 1987-91



**Russell Shields**

WB #791

3 games, 1988. Also played 17 games for Hawthorn in 1983-84

## 50th birthday

**Steven Kretiuk**

WB #826

170 games, 1992-2003



## 2022 Committee

President

Vice President

Ross Abbey

Phil O'Keeffe

0412 073 092

0402 007 270

Secretary	Owen Madigan	0408 105 151
Treasurer	Andrew Howlett	0418 510 635
Committee	Les Bartlett	0416 485 652
	Adam Contessa	0416 081 259
	Graeme Joslin	0412 771 235
	Gary McGorlick	0409 804 057
	Ilija Grgic	0413 677 736
AFLCPP Delegate	Jack Slattery	0425 746 148

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Midway Concrete and Garden and Building Supplies services the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne with centres at Melton, South Marang, Laverton North and Craigieburn. It is a family-owned business run by Dave Boxshall. It was established in 1984.



Flash Fabrications specialise in customised architectural metal fabrication in the construction industry. It is a family-owned business run by Dave Marsh. It was established in 2004 and is in Hoppers Crossing. (Dave is the son of Ivan

Marsh who represented the Bulldogs with distinction in 77 games between 1963-67)





Australian Luggage Company have a wide range of products including hard and soft sided trolley cases, suitcases, wheels bags, cooler bags, wallets, backpacks, business bags, accessories and much more. It is a family owned business run by Noel Pearce and his sons. It was established in 1996 and has a factory outlet in East Keilor.