

## FINAL TRIVIA

Including the first VCA Final Match played in 1908/09, 89 matches have been played, 40 at the Albert Ground, 19 at the MCG, 15 at St Kilda. Other venues have been Prahran (3), Richmond (3), East Melbourne (2), Collingwood (2), Fitzroy (1), Hawthorn/East Melbourne (1), Carlton (1), South Melbourne (1) and Melbourne Uni (1).

A total of 72 centuries have been scored. Bowlers have taken five or more wickets in an innings on 77 occasions.

### **Only Match A Final!**

In 1927/28, Christopher Sloane Robinson played his only 1st XI match in the Final of that season. One week short of his 39th birthday, Robinson played for South Melbourne against Hawthorn-East Melbourne in the Final, played at the MCG. Robinson scored 0 and 0\* and had bowling figures of 3-0-18-0 as the Hawks comfortably won outright by 7 wickets. Robinson had taken 24 wickets @ 18.46 in the seconds that season and presumably came into the side to replace Frank Morton, who was touring New Zealand with an Australian team at the time.

### **Two Matches, One A Final.**

In 1922/23, North Melbourne's James Connery played for North Melbourne in the Final against Prahran at Toorak Park. It was Connery's second and last 1st XI match, having been promoted on the strength of his 16 wickets @ 21.10 in the seconds that season. Prahran won the flag – their third in succession – easily, Connery scored 1 and didn't even get a bowl!

In 1955/56, South Melbourne picked Graham Wainwright for the Final against Hawthorn-East Melbourne at the Albert Ground. Like Connery, the Final was his second and last 1st XI match. Wainwright, a left-arm quick from Western Australia, had taken 34 wickets @ 14.79 in the seconds that season and was selected in the semi final team to play Fitzroy, scoring a duck and taking 1/18 and 1/5. He came into the side from the seconds with another promising left-arm quick, Ian Meckiff, who had taken 37 wickets @ 9.19 in the seconds, to replace Ian Johnson, just departed as skipper of the 1956 Ashes Tour, whilst veterans Max Reeve and Des Fitzmaurice were both dropped. Retained for the Final, Wainwright scored another duck, 8 in the second innings and had the bowling figures of 17-3-43-1 as the Swans easily went down to the Hawks by an innings and 77 runs. South had controversially won its last-round match against North Melbourne when it declared its second innings closed at 0/0, the resultant outright win securing a semi finals berth.

### **Three Matches, One Premiership.**

Since 1889 around 6,500 players have played VCA 1st XI cricket of whom 988 have played in a VCA Final. It is unlikely that the record of University's CA Morris will be repeated – his tally of just 3 District matches in 1928/29 contained a VCA premiership! Batting at number eight, Morris scored 23 in Uni's win over Fitzroy. Closest to Morris' record are St Kilda's William Munro (just 5 matches including the 1925/26 flag win) and former Queensland and Australian Test player Alec Hurwood (just 7 matches for Melbourne included the 1932/33 premiership win) when his employment brought him to Victoria from Brisbane.

### **Two Matches, One Premiership.**

In 1967/68, South Melbourne selected 17 year-old John Raymond Stephens for the Final against Essendon. Stephens had scored 365 runs @ 36.50 in the seconds, but the Final was just his second 1st XI match and his last game for the Swans. South won the Final at the Albert Ground by 120 runs on the first innings, Stephens contributing 18 and 6. South Melbourne had qualified for the finals by the narrow margin of just 0.001 percent. At the start of the following season, Stephens' studies at Melbourne University tied him to that club, for whom he played a further 50 1st XI matches as well as 4 first class matches for Victoria. Stephens was also a talented rover for St Kilda in the VFL, heading the Saints' goalkicking in 1972 with 53.

Other players to "parachute in" for premiership success were H Teague (Prahran – 9 matches including the 1910/11 flag) and MH Monteath (St Kilda – 10 matches including the 1926/27 flag). WJ Egan (Collingwood 1970/71), V Gretton-Watson (St Kilda 1961/62), DA McNees (Fitz-Donc 2001/02) and AR Williams (Fitz-Donc 2001/02) all played 11 matches which included a premiership.

### **19 Matches, Two Premierships.**

Richard Sherman played just 19 First XI matches for the Saints, but was a member of their 2000/01 and 2002/03 premiership teams.

### **45 Matches, Two Premierships.**

Northcote's Phil Burn played just 45 First XI matches, but played in two premierships, the Dragons' winning 1965/66 and 1973/74 teams.

### **43 Matches, Three Premierships.**

LeRoy Levin played just 43 matches, but this tally included three premierships – one for Melbourne in 1919/20 and two for St Kilda in 1924/25 and 1925/26. Despite his brief career, Levin still holds two club partnership records for the Saints.

At the other end of the scale, Brendan McArdle (380), Gary Watts (322) and Leigh Baker (319) all played over 300 matches for just one appearance in a Final, whilst North Melbourne's Bob Dempster played 248 matches without ever playing in a Final. Footscray's Rainer Reber (247), Northcote's Wal Dudley (240) and North's Len Maddocks (237) were also unlucky during their careers.

### **Fathers & Sons Premierships**

EL a'Beckett (Uni 1928/29, St Kilda 1933/34) & EC a'Beckett (St Kilda 1964/65)  
CJ Dart (Melb 1972/73 & 1975/76) & SP Dart (Melb 1997/98)  
NL Emerson (Coll 1974/75) & DA Emerson (Coll 1987/88)  
MR Harvey (Fitz 1938/39, 1939/40 & 1953/54) & GL Harvey (Fitz 1966/67)  
BK Jones (Carlton 1956/57, 1957/58 & 1968/69) & DM Jones (Carl 1980/81, Melb 1988/89, 1994/95 & 1997/98)  
JD Kinnear (Melb 1934/35, 1935/36, 1936/37 & 1937/38) & CB Kinnear (Carl 1977/78 & 1978/79)  
JT Leehane (Carlton 1945/46 & 1947/48) & JF Leehane (Rich 1976/77)  
NW Lynch (St Kilda 1961/62 & 1964/65) & AW Lynch (St Kilda 1984/85 & 1985/86)  
W Munro (St Kilda 1926/26) & CD Munro (Haw/EM 1950/51)  
KVJ Walker (Ncte 1965/66) & DK Walker (St Kilda 1991/92)

### **Brothers Premierships**

RM Cowper (Haw/EM 1962/63 & 1971/72) & DR Cowper (Richmond 1976/77)  
LF Freemantle (Haw/EM 1927/28) & RM Freemantle (Melb 1929/30)  
AJ Grant (Prah 1983/84) & PJ Grant (Prah 1983/84)  
HF Guthrie (St K 1923/24, 1924/25, 1926/27, 1931/32) & J Guthrie (St K 1933/34)  
MR Harvey (Fitz 1938/39, 1939/40 & 1953/54), CE Harvey (Fitz 1938/39), R Harvey (Fitz 1953/54 & 1960/61), RN Harvey (Fitz 1953/54), BC Harvey (Fitz 1960/61)  
JF Horan (Prahran 1908/09) & TIB Horan (Prahran 1908/09)  
JD Kinnear (Melb 1934/35, 1935/36, 1936/37 & 1937/38) & WG Kinnear (Carl 1945/46 & 1947/48)  
BA Kline (Fitz 1960/61) & LF Kline (Melb 1958/59)  
AJW Lansdown (Fitz 1930/31) & HC Lansdown (Fitz 1930/31)  
JA MacWhirter (SM 1967/68) & MA MacWhirter (SM 1967/68)  
DK Mathieson (Prahran 1954/55) & K Mathieson (Prahran 1954/55)  
CC McDonald (Melb 1948/49 & 1958/59) & IH McDonald (Melb 1948/49 & 1951/52)  
LE Nagel (Melb 1929/30, 1932/33, 1934/35, 1936/37 & 1937/38) & VG Nagel (Melb 1929/30, 1935/36, 1937/38)  
MJ O'Sullivan (Ncte 1986/87) & TDB O'Sullivan (Ncte 1996/97, St Kilda 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05 & 2005/06)  
MB Quinn (Rich 1982/83 & 1989/90) & PA Quinn (Rich 1982/83 & 1989/90)  
ER Rush (Prahran 1908/09) & TR Rush (Prahran 1908/09 & 1910/11)  
GM Watts (Fitz-Donc 1993/94) & LJ Watts (Fitz-Donc 1993/94)

### **Premierships For More Than One Club**

WG Ayres (Melb 1988/89, 1992/93, 1994/95, 1997/98, Dandenong 2006/07)  
EL a'Beckett (Uni 1928/29, St Kilda 1933/34)  
DS Berry (Fitz-Donc 1993/94, Ncte 1996/97)  
DD Blackie (Prah 1908/09, 1910/11, St Kilda 1923/24, 1924/25, 1925/26, 1926/27, 1931/32, 1933/34)  
GR Booth (Melb 1975/76, Prahran 1983/84)  
RJ Bright (Foots 1979/80, Rich 1989/90)  
NR Buszard (Carl 1977/78, 1978/79, 1980/81, Coll 1987/88)  
IW Callen (Carl 1980/81, Ncte 1986/87)  
GJ Cosier (Ncte 1973/74, St Kilda 1984/85, 1985/86)  
GS Feben (Melb 1981/82, Prahran 1983/84)  
LO Fleetwood-Smith (St Kilda 1931/32, Melb 1934/35, 1936/37)  
H Ironmonger (Melb 1914/15, 1919/20, St Kilda 1923/24, 1924/25, 1925/26, 1926/27, 1931/32, 1933/34)  
DM Jones (Carl 1980/81, Melb 1988/89, 1994/95 & 1997/98)  
SP King (Uni 1928/29, St K 1931/32, 1933/34)  
AW Lampard (Prah 1920/21, 1921/22, St Kilda 1923/24, 1924/25)

TDB O'Sullivan (Ncte 1996/97, St Kilda 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05 & 2005/06)  
 WH Ponsford (St K 1923/24, 1924/25, 1926/27, Melb 1932/33, 1934/35, 1935/36, 1936/37, 1937/38)  
 JF Power (Prah 1954/55, Ess 1963/64)  
 CS Reidy (Haw/Wav 1998/99, Fitz-Donc 2001/02)  
 MV Richardson (Footscray 1979/80, Ncte 1986/87)  
 RD Robinson (Carlton 1968/69, Ncte 1973/74)  
 DJ Saker (Rich 1989/90 & Ncte 1996/97)  
 EW Seccombe (Carl 1956/57, St Kilda 1961/62, 1964/65)  
 MWD Sholly (Melb 1981/82, 1992/93, 1994/95, 1997/98, Uni 1990/91)  
 KR Stackpole (Coll 1970/71, Carlton 1977/78, 1978/79, 1980/81)  
 JA Sutherland (Uni 1990/91 & 1995/96, Melb 1992/93)  
 KA Whichello (Carl 1978/79, 1980/81, Coll 1987/88)  
 WG Whiteside (Rich 1982/83, St Kilda 1985/86, 1991/92)  
 HS Wootton (Prah 1921/22, Haw/EM 1927/28)

### 3 Finals – 3 Different Clubs

TJ Matthews played in the 1909/10, 1913/14 and 1922/23 Finals for St Kilda, East Melbourne and North Melbourne respectively. The first one for the Saints remained his only premiership.

### Most Finals Without A Premiership

5 - MTG Elliott (Coll 4, C/Mag 1), RD French (Coll 4, C/Mag 1), CA Ingram (Coll)  
 4 - EV Carroll (E Melb 3, Ncte 1), MA Johnson (Coll), LPJ O'Brien (Rich), RJ Sincok (Rich), RP Taylor (Coll 3, C/Mag 1)

### Cricket & Football Premierships

|              | Cricket                                   | Football                 |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| JG Baird     | Carlton 1947/48                           | Carlton 1945 & 1947      |
| PJ Beames    | Melb 1932/33, 1935/36<br>1936/37, 1937/38 | Melb 1939, 1940, 1941    |
| CE Bradley   | Melb 1988/89                              | Carlton 1987 & 1995      |
| GJ Brown     | Essendon 1963/64                          | Essendon 1965            |
| CN Crompton  | Melbourne 1958/59                         | Melbourne 1964           |
| LS Dockett   | Richmond 1946/47                          | Melbourne 1948           |
| CA Fergie    | Melbourne 1919/20                         | Fitzroy 1922             |
| JC Francis   | Haw/EM 1927/28                            | Carlton 1938             |
| AL Gallagher | Carlton 1968/69                           | Carlton 1968, 1970, 1972 |
| IK Law       | Haw/EM 1962/63, 1971/72                   | Hawthorn 1961            |
| E Lockwood   | Collingwood 1912/13                       | Collingwood 1902, 1903   |
| MJ McCarthy  | Melbourne 1981/82                         | Hawthorn 1978 & 1983     |
| AC Mutch     | Collingwood 1912/13                       | Collingwood 1917 & 1919  |
| W Naismith   | Collingwood 1912/13                       | Fitzroy 1904 & 1905      |
| AE Price     | Carlton 1945/46, 1947/48                  | Carlton 1945             |
| CA Ruddell   | Fitzroy 1938/39, 1939/40                  | Essendon 1942 & 1946     |
| WH Turner    | Carlton 1945/46, 1947/48                  | Carlton 1945 & 1947      |

### The following cricketer/footballers came close:

|             | Cricket                    | Football                        |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| JA Atkinson | Fitz 1919/20 runners-up    | Fitzroy 1922                    |
| FA Baring   | E Melb 1913/14 runners-up  | Essendon 1911 & 1912            |
| EJ Buist    | Fitz 1912/13 runners-up    | Fitzroy 1913 & 1916             |
| BG Davis    | Ess 1965/66 runners-up     | Essendon 1965, NM 1975          |
| C Kiernan   | Fitz 1912/13, 1919/20 r-up | Fitzroy 1898                    |
| EA McDonald | Fitz 1912/13 runners-up    | Fitzroy 1916                    |
| RS Reynolds | Ess 1945/46 runners-up     | Essendon 1942, 1946, 1949, 1950 |
| C Sherry    | Ncte 1923/24 runners-up    | Fitzroy 1922                    |

### Premierships – All Four Elevens

PR Josephson (Melb) is the only player to have played in premierships for all four XIs.