

*29th April*

## **JACK BLACKWOOD JOINS HALL OF FAME**

THERE was no club Hall of Fame when long-time secretary Jack Blackwood passed away in 1983. But if there was, he would have been an early nominee.

Jack's contribution to the Hoes was finally acknowledged when he became the latest name to join about 15 club legends to be admitted to the Hall of Fame. Jack was the father of club stalwart Don Blackwood and grandfather of committee man Luke Blackwood, both past players.

He played footy for the Flemington CYMS and captained premiership teams in the 1930s. After moving to The Boulevard post-war, Jack was recruited to the club for his organising abilities about 1954.

He remained in that capacity until 1979 when poor health forced him to step down.

Russell Knight, who nominated Jack for this club honour, told the life members' luncheon on Saturday about Jack's behind-the-scenes role in keeping the club running smoothly.

In accepting the award on Jack's behalf, Don Blackwood said his dad was intensely loyal and reliable and always there to help out. Jack had worked for SP bookies and as a storeman and was active in the union movement and local politics.

He said Jack raised countless pounds/dollars for the club – much of it through betting comps on highest and lowest footy doubles. He was also a skilled peacemaker, settling rows on committee and making sure the club was onside with umpires and the VAFA.

Don said Jack would be secretly very proud to have been made a Hall of Fame member.

Well done Jack



Jack Blackwood with Don on the far right

*29th April*

### **3 WINS AT HOME**

Round 3 proved a great week for the Hoes with wins to all 3 sides. Congrats to Chip and Reece Cotter who both played game 100 for the club, along with a mention to Will Cuthbert making his senior début in the win over Elsternwick.

The week ahead is a big day as we travel over the Eastern Freeway to take on Kew. It promises to be a great day with 2 hard fought games, get along in your Ivanhoe colours to support the boys in this derby game.

Post-match will be a dinner and drinks function at the Harp Hotel. We have booked an area from 6pm onwards, so have a beer or 2 at Kew, then make your way up to the pub. We get 10% of all money spent if you use the IAFC loyalty card, so eat up and drink up with your mates! Bring your family and friends along so we can make it a great evening.



Will and Reece get wet

*15th April*

## **LEIGH COLE'S HISTORIC DOUBLE**

**by Phil Skeggs**

WHEN former senior coach **Leigh Cole** was awarded life membership on April 10, he became only the third person to be a life member of both the football club and the Ivanhoe Cricket Club. He joins **Russell Knight** and **Ron Tucker** to share that rare honour.

Cole, a premiership allrounder with ICC, is also the only person to have coached both clubs at a senior level. It's been a decade since Cole first pulled on the boots for the Hoes one unseasonably warm Saturday in early May against Old Carey at Bulleen. *The Hoer* newsletter recorded how a week before his debut, Cole had been named club champion at the ICC's presentation night and was down at Hoe Park for a premiership team photo.

As he watched the footy club going through their paces at training, then ICC president **Paul Kennedy** (father of under-19s centremen **Liam Kennedy**) asked Cole whether he missed playing footy. Cole, who had played onball and centre-half back at Mill Park a few years earlier, admitted that he did. The upshot was he trained the next two nights and came down to watch a home game on Saturday afternoon despite a 5.30am finish after the ICC's presentation night. Cole proved to be a handy key position player, mainly as a centre-half back in the resses, and playing a few senior games late in the season. He won the resses B&F in his first year and again in 2006, when he also topped the resses goalkicking.

But if anyone needs reminding just how important Cole has been to the football club's revival, it wasn't that many years ago the club was faced with the difficult question of a merger with Old Ivanhoe. As our then under-19s coach, Cole, with support from several of his young charges, strongly argued the case against a merger at a special club meeting to consider the proposal.

**Cole spoke of how the establishment of a successful Ivanhoe under-19s team had been, and would continue to be, pivotal to the club's future development both on and off the field in the seasons ahead. Under-19 players provided anecdotal evidence that the Grammarians were only interested in a merger to ensure they had unfettered access to players emerging from the Ivanhoe Junior club.** The determination of Cole and his players

and their devotion to the club singularly impressed the club's committee and it later resolved to continue as a stand-alone entity, with special focus on player development from within our junior ranks. Ivanhoe Junior club leaders were also very supportive of this direction.

Since then, the club has celebrated its centenary, reached the 2012 D3 grand final and been promoted to D2 under Cole's coaching, and our under 19s have been regular finalists. And some of those former under 19s are now reaching the 100-game milestone – the most recent being **Jack Garth**. If anyone needs further evidence of the club's depth of talent and playing stocks, just look how many enthusiastic players are on the training track midweek and the strength of our reserves team.

Thanks Coley, as **Rob Pearce** said in presenting you with your life membership medallion, the club will be forever indebted to you.

Senior coach **Paul Harris** was also awarded life membership during the club's life members luncheon last Saturday. The presentation was fittingly made by another larger-than-life character in triple club B&F **Billy McWhinnie**, who like Harro, was a courageous, skilled and inspirational player who became a playing coach dubbed the Little General. Billy highlighted the fact that Harro had overtaken his record by winning four club B&Fs.

Harro joined the club in 2002 on the invitation of former Parade schoolmates **Peter Flynn** and **Ben Joyce**. He was nearly killed in the Bali bombings in October that year, and showed true grit to recover from serious burns to 15pc of his body and a back injury to play most of season 2003 wearing a body suit to protect skin grafts. He was joint B&F in 2004 when we made the D2 finals and proved last year that age is no barrier when as club captain he won both the club and competition B&Fs