

1 December

LEIGHTS TO HELP COACH WOMEN'S TEAM

By Phil Skeggs

One of Ivanhoe football club's favourite sons Leighton Pearce is teaming with Bill Emerson to help coach the club's founding women's team. Leighton has been Bill's assistant coach since they took the under 19s to a premiership in 2014. The duo enjoyed back-to-back flags when they coached the reserves to a premiership in 2015.



Leighton Pearce (left) and Bill Emerson (right) during the 2015 Reserves premiership season.
Pic: Phil Skeggs

“Leights”, a popular teacher at Ivanhoe Primary, became the proud father of a baby girl with his partner Kim last March and club footy took a back seat this season. But this week he confirmed his availability for next season and Bill was rapt to hear it. “I am very pleased to have my right-hand man with me again to help bring success to our first women’s team. Leighton is not only a great fitness coach, his input on match days has been insightful and invaluable,” said Bill. “Our coaching styles complement each other and our ideas on women’s football and how to assist the girls in reaching their potential and enjoying their football are totally in-sync. “The women’s side have had 22 players to training but we need more and this inaugural team is a terrific opportunity for girls to create something special and memorable, so any girls wanting to give it a go or even just train for fitness should come down and they will be made most welcome.”



Leighton (let) and Bill (right) in 2015. Pic: Phil Skeggs

Leighton’s skills have been well honed over the journey at Ivanhoe Park. He was a three-time winner of junior club B&Fs in the early ’90s and equal B&F in under 19s. He played 117 senior games, including the 1995 C grade grand final, as a midfielder and onballer. He was also a runner-up in the seniors B&F. Knee injuries curtailed his playing career, but Leighton assisted his dad – club doyen Rob Pearce – in coaching Ivanhoe junior teams. He is looking forward to the next challenge. “I am super excited to be working with Emmo again and the first women’s team to put on the Hoers’ kit,” he said.

Women interested in playing for Ivanhoe next season can contact Bill Emerson on 0407921951, or Leighton Pearce on 0402421653. Training nights are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm.

21 November

VALE ALAN SALTER – A GREAT COACH & MENTOR 1984-1986

By Brendon O'Brien

The Ivanhoe Amateur Football Club community is deeply saddened by the passing of former coach and mentor Alan Salter, a man who we were honoured to have had as part of this great club. As coach of Ivanhoe during the halcyon period of the early to mid 1980’s where the Mighty Hoers graced A Grade and dominated in its short stints in B Grade, Alan provided the guidance, intuitiveness and football smarts to make us a power to be both highly respected

and feared. For long before we were able to entice Alan to Ivanhoe, we knew of his prowess as a master coach and his record had no equal in VAFA ranks: A grade premierships with Coburg Amateurs ; multiple and successful coach of Victorian Amateur Football representative and carnival teams; A Grade grand final coach on 3 occasions with University Blues.



Ivanhoe's 1984 grand final coach Alan Salter (centre) with his former assistant coach Brendon O'Brien (right) and former captain Peter Gittos (left) at the player reunion at Ivanhoe Park in August 2014. Pic: Phil Skeggs

Very quickly after his appointment, Alan's infectious personality, caring heart and sharp edged football brain forged us into a tough, disciplined, talented and cohesive unit which swept through B grade, only losing 4 games and sending a clear message of trepidation to A grade. Such was Alan's ability to both determine players best positions, their innate football talents and worth to the team that in 1984, three IAFC players Peter Gittos, Tony Balcombe, Michael McDonald were selected and played for the Victorian Amateur team which defeated the Victorian Country and this was followed up with more Victorian representation by Greg Cameron, Peter Adams and Ted Flynn in the following 2 years.

My own experience with Alan went back to Coburg Amateur days and subsequently I had the good fortune of coaching beside him at Ivanhoe, initially as his Reserves Coach and then Assistant Senior Coach and Chairman of Selectors. I observed standing beside him on the hill at Ivanhoe, not only a thorough preparation for each individual game, a master tactician

within a game, but also the ability to mould a team into a particular and unique brand based on uncompromising, hard running, handball and numbers to the contest. But Alan was more than this, as he was a person who cared deeply for every player and he was all inclusive and loaded with the common sense, quick wit and sense of humour to put all at ease around him when tension arose as inevitably occurs in football clubs.



The 1984 Grand Final team coached by Alan.

One game at Old Paradians in 1984 stands out for a combination of all of the above characteristics that Alan brought to the club. Old Paradians were on an 8 game winning streak and we needed to defeat them away from home to remain on top and secure the double chance. Before the game Salts (as he was affectionately nicknamed) went to buy a pie from the canteen to calm his nerves and was confronted by a particularly high counter. Kelly Edwards and Tony Balcombe, our two great rovers from the period (just ask Tony if you have an hour to spare) saw the comedic scene unfolding, as the ladies could only see Salts' wavy hair above the counter and they yelled out to the Canteen ladies to please serve little 'Dicky Knee' (Hey Hey Its Saturday fans will remember this character). Needless to say the name stuck and Salts was still answering to 'Dicky Knee' at our great reunion in 2014. However, it was his footy smarts that won us this important game, as he judged to kick against a 5 goal breeze, then loaded up the backline with shorter, quicker runners beside Peter Gittos at Centre Half Back. We held Parade to 3 goals by quarter time and then he moved Peter Gittos to Centre Half Forward both quarters with the breeze, where he proceeded to kick 5 goals. Paradians were demoralised, never to be a serious threat from that point onwards in 1984. But the following Tuesday night Alan instructed our fitness instructor John Stevens to run the onballers into the ground and as Kelly Edwards and Tony Balcombe were lay prostrate gasping for oxygen, Salts smilingly called to his two prone onballers 'Dicky Knee! Dicky Knee!', as he led the rest of the squad off the training track.

We owe to Alan Salter our gratitude for the manner in which he coached us with great integrity and care for all his players and his clear understanding and constant reminder to us that it was his responsibility to coach the whole club and not just the Senior Eighteen. We mourn his passing and remember his wonderful backstop and support in Yvonne who was also a great friend and confidante to us all and we know she carries her wonderful memories

of Alan. Ivanhoe Amateur Football Club thanks you both and remains indebted to your influence on the lives of our players from a special time in our history.

18 November

PARIS ARISTOTLE AT IVANHOE AFC



Paris Aristotle in the 1984 B Grade Grand Final photo when playing for Ivanhoe AFC.

After yesterday's announcement that former Ivanhoe AFC player Paris Aristotle had been named the Victorian Australian of the Year 2017, we thought we'd look closer at Paris' time at Ivanhoe Park.

Although only 182cm, ("a Collingwood six footer") Paris could absorb a fair bit of punishment in order to maintain front pozzie in a marking contest against some pretty handy key forwards. He wore No. 20 in the infamous 1982 B grade grand final against Old Melburnians at Elsternwick Park. (Infamous because of the brawls on and off the field that led to the match day alcohol bans in the VAFA games).

The Amateur Footballer described him as: "Paris has played over 50 games with the club and is a terrific Clubman. During the year Paris underwent a "nose job" following a head clash and in his true form played three weeks later. A dashing player who moulds the backline into one unit." Ivanhoe unfortunately lost that GF by 13 points. (he wasn't in our best six, according to the footy record). He was also in the 1984 B grade GF against St Bernards.



The 1984 Grand Final team. Paris seen third from the left in the second back row.

Paris also played all his juniors at Ivanhoe Junior FC from its inception in 1972. Once again, we are very proud of you Paris, congratulations!

17 November

PARIS ARISTOTLE WINS VICTORIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to past Ivanhoe AFC player Paris Aristotle on being named the 2017 Victorian Australian of the Year. Paris played for Ivanhoe in the late 70s, early 80s and was a tough half back flanker/CHB playing in mainly A and B grade. He played in our B grade grand final team against Old Melburnians. A great person he showed a similar commitment to his football at Ivanhoe as he has in his life helping refugees who are victims of torture. He has built Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House). To find out more about Paris and his amazing recognition [click here](#).

PRE-SEASON KICKS OFF IN FINE STYLE

It was a great first night of pre-season last night at Ford Park. Under new Men's Senior coach Leigh Cole around 40 players were on the track, with others sending their apologies. It is great to see some new faces there to. As well as the Men's teams, the newly established Ivanhoe AFC Women's team had 15 players turn up, with 28 already registered, what a fantastic start! Bring on Season 2017!

12 November

COACHING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2017

The Ivanhoe Amateur Football Club committee are excited to announce the appointment of the coaches for the Men's Reserves and Women's Senior teams for 2017.

Following the appointment of Leigh Cole as Senior coach, fellow past Ivanhoe coaches Peter Rawley and Travis O'Neill return to co-coach the Men's Reserves team. Peter previously

coached the Reserves to a Grand Final in his only year in the role back in 2014 and is joined by great mate Travis O'Neill who returns after previously being the Thirds coach in 2015. They will no doubt be an exciting duo to play under and we wish them well in the roles in 2017. Peter and Travis take over the role from two time IAFC premiership coach (2014 U19s and 2015 Reserves), Bill Emerson.



Peter in action in 2014. Pic: Phil Skeggs



Travis in action in 2015. Pic: Phil Skeggs

Bill however is not lost to our club and has taken on the huge role as inaugural coach of the Ivanhoe Amateur Football Club's Women's Senior team. It is so exciting for our club to have a Women's team in the VAFA's inaugural season and Bill has been working on getting a team going for a couple of years, so it is perfect that he now can lead them onto the park. We are so excited and know the team is in wonderful hands.



Bill with the 2015 Reserves Premiership Cup. Pic: Phil Skeggs

Congratulations to all three men on taking on such important roles at the club, bring on Season 2017!

11 November

IVANHOE AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Ivanhoe Amateurs Football Club are forming a foundation team in the inaugural VFA Women's footy competition for 2017. Their aim is to provide an opportunity for local girls and women to participate in the fastest growing female participation sport available, recording a 162% growth in the past 6 years, with almost 285,000 participants nationally.

The new elite AFL Women's League for 2017 will increase the attraction even further, creating the elite level for girls to aim for, from local grassroots clubs like Ivanhoe Amateurs and Ivanhoe Juniors. A complete pathway will soon be a reality for female footy where girls can start in the Ivanhoe Juniors FC playing Auskick through to Under 18 Youth Girls, be introduced to senior Women's football with Ivanhoe Amateurs, and look at opportunities to be drafted to an elite AFL Club.

In 2017, Ivanhoe AFC and Ivanhoe Juniors return to Ivanhoe Park with newly built, expanded and refurbished rooms, including female specific change rooms. With over 100 years of tradition and a new long term strategic direction in place, Ivanhoe AFC have consolidated their position in Division 1 and looks forward to an exciting future.

Ivanhoe AFC is seeking interest from prospective female players aged 16 and above (girls up to 18 can also play with Ivanhoe Juniors FC) as well as coaches, trainers, sponsors and supporters. Please contact Peter Marshall on 0417 203601 or ivanhoewomensfooty@gmail.com.

24 October

PRE-SEASON KICKS OFF

A message from Coach Leigh Cole:

G'day guys, Pre-season training will start on Wednesday the 16th of November for all Seniors, Reserves and U19s and will continue on Monday and Wednesday nights starting at 6pm leading up to Xmas. I will let you know a venue closer to the date.

There will be plenty happening behind the scenes between now and then including the appointment of Reserves and U19s coaches and the recruitment of a few new players. If you know of anybody that may have an interest in playing in any of the 3 teams then let me know and I will give them a call.

If for some reason you are unable to train then you need to let me know. Also, if there is anything you want to talk about between now and the start of pre-season or throughout the year, then please give me a call on 0417555121.

Looking forward to getting into what will hopefully be a big year!

Coley

20 October

REFURBISHMENT LOOKING GREAT

Check out these latest pictures from inside and outside the clubrooms. It is so exciting to see what we can look forward to in 2017!!



Pic: Luke Blackwood



Pic: Luke Blackwood



Pic: Luke Blackwood



Pic: Luke Blackwood

15 October

YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF IVANHOE, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE IVANHOE OUT OF THE BOY!

The club is extremely excited to announce that Leigh Cole will be the Senior coach in 2017. It is great to continue having such an Ivanhoe person at the helm of the club, with Leigh previously being the Senior coach from 2010-2013 (including the 2012 D3 Grand Final) and the Under 19 coach in 2009. Leigh has spent the last three years in a couple of roles. In 2014 he worked as an assistant coach under Gary Ayers at Port Melbourne in the VFL before taking the Senior coaching role at West Preston Lakeside in Division 1 of the NFL for 2015 & 2016. He will be bringing along some invaluable experience from these three years and combine it with his intimate knowledge of the VAFA and our great club. Congratulations and welcome back Leigh!! Bring on 2017!

All other coaching roles will be announced soon.



Leigh Cole in action in 2012. Pic: Phil Skeggs