

## **A LEGEND OF THE CLUB**

Robert Malcolm Smith better known as Smithy or Bobby. One of Bob's claim to fame was in the early days when the Club reformed in 1956 is that one day he played at full back and his opponent on the day was a young fella by the name of John Coleman who kicked 10 goals on Bobby this day and he went on to be a champion full forward for the Essendon football club.

When I got to the club Bobby was the team manager of the firsts in these days the team manager had to get all players and trainers runners to sign the team sheet. After this was done Bobby would exchange it with the other team manager then he would do the same with the umpires, the match balls and a copy of the team sheet.

Then when you looked out of the rooms here was Bobby with a fag in 1 hand and a can of VB in the other. At the start of the game Bobby would make sure the drinks were ready for quarter time then it was time for a fag and beer and this would happen every quarter.

One Thursday night after training and a few beers at the club, Bobby drove home. The next night he was telling us about a letter box that he demolished on his way home. To Bobby's surprise Graham McNaught informed Bobby that it was his letter box that he had hit. Bobby turned around to Graham and said that it should not have jumped out in front of him, what can you say to that? I could go on for ages about this legend but leave this for a later time.

### **Leigh Gauge Premiership Coach.**

I think this happened in 1992, Leigh was Captain/Coach and we were playing Pearcedale for the Bushman's Cup. We were both in the Nepean League then and in the third quarter Leigh copped a good smack in the face. I saw it and so did the umpire, I started to run out to him but he got up straight away so went back to the bench and

at three quarter time, Leigh went to talk and his jaw just rattled. So off to hospital he went. After the game I asked the umpire why he didn't do anything about it and he said when Leigh got up so quick he thought that he must have missed. The next season he got us a premiership and one of those players is still at the club that is Darrel Patterson.

### **JC (John Cleary)**

I came to the club in 1966 I trained at Langy but was playing for Glen Iris in the south suburban league and because I worked in Frankston I was unable to train. My first game with the club was against Rye. I played under the name of Ken Peace. I had not had a bad game, kicked a couple of goals, went to work on the Monday and got a smack in the back of the head it was from Ken Peace. When I finished playing I would watch the seconds and under 19s, these played away and the firsts and 17s would play at home with no trainer so I then became a trainer for the club. I did this for about 20 years, then I had a heart attack and could not do the training anymore. I became the interchange Steward for the next 10 years, some of you will know me and for the last 3 years I have been a time keeper for the club. That is 51 years' service to the club this year. My name is John Cleary most people know me as JC. There will be many more stories to come at a later date.

