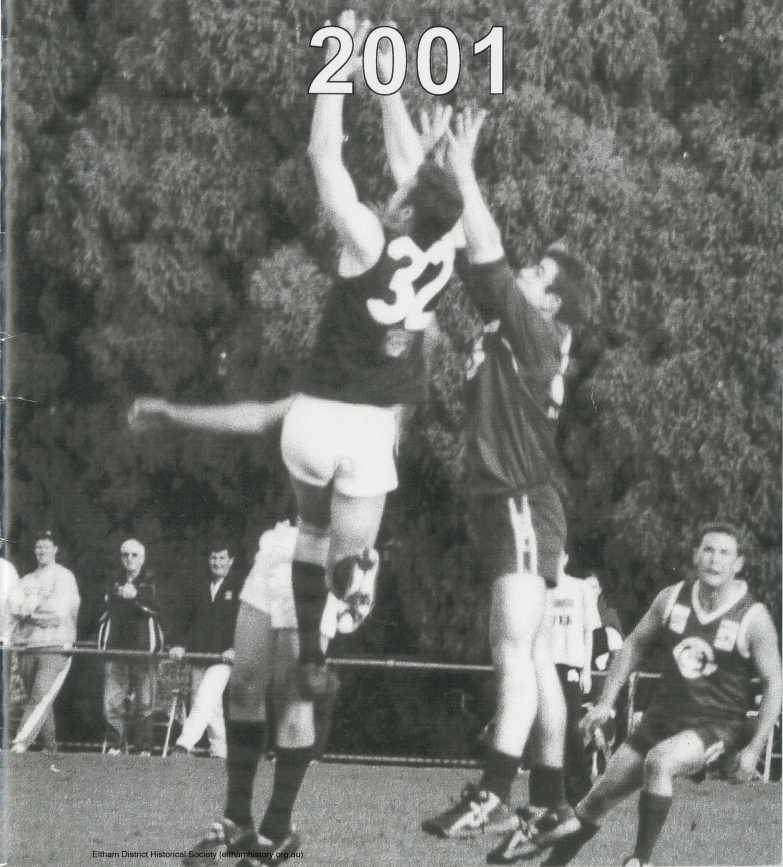


PANTHER YEAR BOOK 2001



Panther Year Book 2nd Edition

The 2001 season may look bad on the scoreboard, even in the financial pages, however the Eltham Football Club still managed to put together three competitive senior teams and in the process fielded over 106 different players. Our supporter membership increased 500% reaching 115 and both coterie groups, the Eltham Past Players and Supporters Association (EPPSA) and the Panther Group, continued into their second years.

This second edition of the Panther yearbook has again been produced by the members of the EPPSA, not only through their annual membership contribution but also through vital information supplied by them on the Club's history. Without such support, this book and other initiatives could not be possible. The EPPSA have continued to update and maintain the proud historical records of the Eltham Football Club. In doing so it assists in developing a strong Club culture and most importantly encourages future involvement and interest of as many of our past and present players and supporters.

The yearbook aims to recognise and celebrate the achievements of season 2001, at both a Club and a personal level. It provides a statistical look at the year as well as past seasons, it endeavors to honour past players, introduce the new players and provide a colourful look at some of the current players as they pass personal milestones.

The 2001 Season

The Eltham Football Club has not enjoyed the planned on-field success in season 2001. The A grade team did not win a game. They had their chances in the first few rounds, however in the latter half of the year those opportunities dried up. Thirty-eight different players played in the senior side, eight of these players coming from either last years under 17 or 19 teams.

The seconds were an aging group with most of last years B grade premiership team playing on. The reserves were competitive and won five games as well as a draw. If it was not for some tired old legs they could have put a few more wins on the board.

The under 19's played 46 different players throughout the year with several of these players playing games in the seniors and others helping when the reserves were short of numbers. The under 19's produced the game of the year, when they played topside Bundoora. Running out with 17 players, they played their hearts out and won by two goals. This spirit was the hallmark of the team. They finished with seven wins.

Although it appears, to those who watch the teams play on a Saturday, that the Club has been more competitive with every season in division one, the overwhelming statistics do not lie. The last three campaigns in the top division have been of major disappointment to the players and supporters alike. The record speaks for itself, one win and 53 losses. A dramatic change in the way the Club prepares for promotion into division one needs to be implemented in order for the Club not to continue to suffer the same embarrassments.

2001 Memberships

The total number of individual members for the Club in season 2001 was 227. These members were purchased memberships in the following categories (note that some members may acquire more than one type of membership):

Category	Number
Life member	21
Playing member	56
U19 playing member	24
Non-playing member	97
Social member	30
Panther group member	18
EPPSA member	32
TOTAL	278



During 11 of season 2001, the Eltham Football Club played 11 games, winning 7, drawing 1, and losing 3.

Season 2001 Player Listing

Players Name	Jumper No	D.O.B	Recruited From	First Played	Goals 2001	Games 2001			Career Open Age	Career Games		
						1 st	2 nd	3 rd		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Aldred, Brett	6	24/01/82	Eltham Juniors	1999	6	0	5	18	6	0	6	37
Aldred, Darryl	31	12/01/57	Reservoir Lakeside / Epping	1999	0	0	2	0	7	0	7	
Apostola, Matt	11	07/03/82	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	17
Borchers, Tim	58	25/07/81	Eltham Juniors	1999	20	10	0	5	48	47	1	6
Brewer, Dean	45			2001	3	6	10	0	16	6	10	
Brincat, Chris	5	19/01/82	Eltham Juniors	***	5	0	0	12	0	0	0	30
Brincat, Steve	34	30/06/84	Eltham Juniors	***	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Brown, David	4	28/06/73	Eltham Juniors	1999	1	18	0	0	174	157	17	
Buckingham, Andrew	50	10/11/73	Greensborough	2000	1	0	13	0	23	0	23	
Burleigh, Jayson	1	30/08/82	Eltham Juniors	***	22	0	0	17	0	0	0	36
Burton, Adam	17	24/03/82	Eltham Juniors	1999	13	2	0	14	7	7	0	30
Bux, Reece	14	25/05/83	Eltham Juniors	2001	8	2	0	15	2	2	0	15
Cahill, Rob	25		Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Callaghan, Josh	26	04/04/83	Eltham Juniors	2001	1	1	0	17	1	1	0	17
Clarke, Andrew	59	09/08/67	Bacchas Marsh / Albion	1996	3	0	10	0	65	30	35	
Cordina, Stephen	55	07/03/81	Eltham Juniors	2001	0	0	8	0	8	0	8	15
Cox, Alex	36	28/07/82	Yarrambat	***	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	26
Davidson, Keith	41	05/07/83	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	17
Daw, Chris	7	23/01/77		1998	3	0	7	0	35	0	35	
Dean, Marcus	44	16/09/81	Ivanhoe / Marcellin	2001	9	16	0	0	16	16	0	16
Dickson, Ash	1	02/04/74	Eltham Juniors	1994	15	7	2	0	126	120	6	
Dintonsante, Maurice	30	02/12/66	West Preston / Preston	2001	9	14	0	0	14	14	0	
Dodd, James	24	20/12/82	Eltham / Research Juniors	2001	1	0	2	17	2	0	2	35
Donato, Jay	52	25/03/81	Eltham Juniors	2001	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	13
Downs, Adam	18	05/05/80	Eltham Juniors	1998	1	0	4	0	46	29	17	
Drapac, James	30		Eltham Juniors / Ivanhoe	***	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11
Eaton, Zennon	7	22/02/77	Braham	1996	13	16	2	0	104	61	43	
Ferns, Luke	9	21/01/74	Eltham Juniors	1998	1	0	13	0	52	28	24	
Freeman, Wayne	3	26/07/57	West Heidelberg / Preston	2001	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	
Gardam, Reid	39	25/06/75	Eltham Juniors	1998	0	3	15	0	65	3	62	
Garrard, Ben	32	26/08/82	Eltham / Research Juniors	2001	1	0	7	2	0	2	0	18
Garrard, John	21	25/01/80	Eltham / Research Juniors	1997	17	2	0	0	74	67	7	
Goring, Stef	45	01/03/74	Bundoora Juniors	1997	2	0	9	0	9	0	9	
Grant, Brett	15	19/04/75	Eltham	1996	5	16	0	0	112	107	5	
Hall, Andrew	5	05/05/72	Montmorceny Juniors	2000	4	0	4	0	6	6	6	
Haydock, Craig	31	29/05/73	Eltham Juniors	1994	2	0	7	0	97	76	21	
Haydock, Paul	33	03/08/82	Eltham Juniors	2001	10	0	1	14	1	0	1	32
Hewish, Joel	4	13/08/81	Marcellin	2000	2	0	2	10	4	2	2	24
Hingston, Andrew	2	16/04/68	Eltham Juniors	1987	1	0	14	0	179	57	122	
Howse, Leigh	46	12/10/77	Eltham Juniors	1997	1	0	13	0	53	40	13	
Huff, Steven	37	05/04/82	Eltham Juniors	***	4	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Hughes, Andrew	5		Eltham Juniors	***	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Iddon, Mick	27	10/10/75	Eltham Juniors	1995	7	1	17	0	104	17	87	
Jackson, Scott	23	10/12/73	Research	1997	1	2	10	0	70	9	61	
Jones, Kevin	54	16/06/80	Eltham / Lower Plenty / Bundoora	1998	11	15	3	0	18	15	3	
Jones, Rhys	41	14/09/81	Eltham / St Mary's	***	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	11
Jordan, Rob	8	24/02/76	Northern Eagles	2001	6	0	14	0	14	0	14	
Kay, Trevor	7		Jacana / Eltham Juniors	1996	0	0	5	0	18	0	18	
Kennell, Luke	24	23/04/81	Eltham Juniors	2001	22	9	9	0	18	9	9	19
Kilby, Steven	34	15/03/75	Eltham / Preston	1994	1	17	0	0	111	108	3	
Loughnan, Ryan	10	18/04/83	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Lowry, Ben	22	02/03/82	Eltham Juniors	***	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3

Players Name	Jumper No	D.O.B	Recruited From	First Played	Goals 2001	Games 2001			Career Open Age	Career Games		
						1 st	2 nd	3 rd		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Macumber, Russ	28	13/04/79	Trentonham	1999	1	6	11	0	50	6	44	
Maher, Shane	7	19/10/83	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	14
Mash, Lloyd	16	01/10/81	Eltham / Research Juniors	2000	14	13	0	4	23	23	0	14
McArthur, Luke	28		Panton Hill	***	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
McCreery, Rob	6	11/11/78	Eltham / Nightcliff NT	1998	0	16	1	0	58	55	3	
McHugh, Andrew	22	07/03/79	Eltham / Montmorceny L19s	2000	1	11	4	0	29	15	14	
McKay, Craig	14	07/06/72	Reservoir / Nth Heidelberg	2000	8	18	0	0	36	36	0	
Meurer, Tom	34	20/04/81	Kangaroo Flats / Sandhurst	2001	0	0	6	0	6	0	6	
Miller, Leigh	39	27/07/71	Eltham / Oakleigh Districts	1988	4	0	18	0	180	150	30	
Minney, Mark	3	09/03/76	Eltham / Torquay	1995	14	17	0	0	122	122	0	
Mintern, Chris	24	30/10/78	Eltham / Montmorceny Juniors	1999	0	0	0	0	42	22	20	
Monahan, Shaun	9		Mansfield	***	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Morgan, Chris	50	05/02/82	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	32
Moriarty, Glenn	17	29/01/76		2001	7	5	5	0	10	5	5	
Nardella, Dale	33	02/02/77	Research / St Mary's	***	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	24
Nixon, Simon	33	02/02/77	Eltham / Montmorceny	1994	3	0	2	0	88	79	9	
O'Donnell, Liam	35	08/09/82	Haverbridge	***	3	0	0	11	0	0	0	30
O'Sbourne, Robert	16	05/11/84	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Paniciotis, Mario	51	07/12/77	Eltham Juniors	1996	0	0	3	0	18	0	18	
Paul, Lucas	5	23/10/73	Yarra Glen / Greensborough	1997	6	12	0	0	87	86	1	
Peck, Nathan	23	25/07/84	Eltham Juniors	***	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Pellegrino, Shaun	9	16/02/82	St Damien's	***	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	28
Penny, Michael	18	05/10/83	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Philpotts, Dean	35	17/03/68	Bulleen Templestowe	1996	0	0	16	0	108	62	46	
Pittard, Grant	47	21/02/74	Eltham Juniors	1995	9	4	13	0	134	33	101	
Ploenges, Andrew	13			***	3	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Pratt, Jeremy	4	15/06/83	Eltham Juniors	***	1	0	0	16	0	0	0	16
Priece, Shane	15		Montmorceny Juniors	***	6	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
Richardson, Lachie	9	16/01/80	Eltham / Preston Knights	1998	0	12	0	0	56	56	0	
Richardson, Tom	8	16/01/80	Eltham / Preston Knights	1998	0	0	0	0	26	26	0	
Ritchie, Damien	22	27/02/83	Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Roberts, Travis	36	01/06/76	Jacana / Eltham Juniors	1995	1	0	2	0	12	10	2	
Russell, Steven	21	16/05/69	Eltham / Mansfield	1989	1	0	10	0	143	92	51	
Salvador, Grant	16	18/07/63	Epping / Preston	2001	4	12	1	0	13	12	1	
Savage, Bradley	20	04/07/81	Eltham / St Mary's	***	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	20
Sheehan, Bradley	8	24/09/81	Beverley Hills	***	4	0	0	9	0	0	0	19
Smith, Byron	25	23/08/67	Eltham / Warrnambool	1989	1	0	17	0	179	25	154	
Smith, Paul	26	04/02/69	Eltham Juniors / Heidelberg	1986	10	1	17	0	216	181	35	
Sparks, Ken	8	29/01/70	Eltham / Diamond Creek	1989	1	0	2	0	16	0	16	
Stirton, James	32	19/09/80	Montmorceny	2000	17	12	0	0	31	31	0	1
Strickland, Corey	2	24/12/81	Eltham / St Damien's	2000	18	9	0	6	25	25	0	10
Strickland, Brett	33	20/02/80	Eltham / Bundoora	2001	2	0	6	0	6	0	6	
Strickland, Danny	53	12/02/83	Eltham Juniors	2001	3	16	0	1	16	16	0	1
Strickland, Greg	11		Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Strickland, Shannon	60	12/02/83	Eltham Juniors	2001	12	16	0	1	16	16	0	1
Tallack, Matthew	11	14/11/73	Eltham	1998	2	12	6	0	64	38	26	
Turnbull, Grant	24	24/06/66	West Preston / Epping / Bundoora	2001	7	16	0	0	16	16	0	
Turnbull, Mark	41	07/05/67	West Preston / Epping / Bundoora	2001	11	7	11	0	18	7	11	
Turner, Andrew	46	03/03/81	Eltham Juniors	1990	0	0	1	0	131	15	116	
Waddell, Cameron	43	16/03/81	Eltham Juniors	1999	0	6	0	0	34	34	0	1
Walker, Mark	12	12/03/72	Eltham Juniors	1991	0	0	13	0	74	34	40	
Ward, David	43	21/12/74	Research / Macleod	1998	0	0	4	0	26	0	26	
Waterman, Ben	58		Research / Ivanhoe	***	33	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
Woldall, Scott	3		Eltham Juniors	***	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wichstein, Matthew	22	15/11/74	Yarra Glen / Montmorceny	1997	6	0	13	0	77	54	23	
Wilson, Greg	13	10/06/72	Eltham Juniors	1991	0	0	0	0	158	49	109	

C Grade 2001 Game Summary

Rd	Played	Venue	Result	For	Against	Pos	%
1	Epping	Recreation Reserve	WIN	17-7-109	6-6-42	2	260.0
2	Montmorency	Central Park	LOSS	8-6-54	22-6-138	6	90.6
3	Heidelberg	Warringal Park	WIN	15-9-99	5-6-36	5	121.0
4	Lower Plenty	Central Park	WIN	15-15-105	7-8-50	4	138.0
5	Bundoora	Yulong Reserve	LOSS	7-11-53	19-12-126	5	107.0
6	Nth Heidelberg	Shelley Park	LOSS	2-6-18	15-12-102	5	88.7
7	Greensborough	Central Park	LOSS	8-8-56	10-4-64	6	88.5
8	West Preston	J.E. Moore Park	LOSS	7-13-55	13-10-88	5	85.0
9	Alphington	Central Park	WIN	11-9-75	3-5-23	5	93.3
10	Epping	Central Park	WIN	11-16-82	3-5-23	5	102.0
11	Montmorency	Parra Road Oval	LOSS	6-9-45	15-13-103	6	94.5
12	Heidelberg	Central Park	WIN	8-6-54	3-7-25	6	98.2
13	Lower Plenty	A. K Lines Reserve	LOSS	6-7-43	9-9-63	6	96.0
14	Nth Heidelberg	Central Park	LOSS	5-2-32	24-15-159	6	84.5
15	Bundoora	Central Park	WIN	10-3-63	6-11-47	6	86.6
16	Greensborough	War Memorial Park	LOSS	10-16-76	13-7-85	6	86.8
17	West Preston	Central Park	LOSS	8-12-60	10-9-69	7	86.8
18	Alphington	Northcote Football Ground	LOSS	7-12-54	14-10-94	7	84.7

After a very successful year in 2000 and some promising players feeding through from the 17's, the young Panther team started the season hoping for a good year in the competitive division one competition. They started off well with a good win against Epping. Against Montmorency in the second game it was evident that success would not come easy and more work was needed to be done. The young Panthers gained some confidence with good football displays against Heidelberg and Lower Plenty notching up 3 out of 4 wins but again struggled against Bundoora in round 5. This seemed to dent the guys confidence and had the coaching panel scratching their head's following further consecutive defeats against North Heidelberg, Greensborough and West Preston. A good win against Northcote Park, with the boys showing a bit more determination and teamwork, saw in the half way mark to the season. Again, the lads proved too strong for Epping at Panther Park. The game against Montmorency showed the great character of the side, even though they went down by 50 odd points there was only a couple of kicks in the game at three quarter time. A good win against Heidelberg and a disappointing loss to Lower Plenty saw their finals aspirations squashed. The boys battled hard against North Heidelberg but were outclassed. Against Bundoora the team seemed to reach their lowest ebb with only 17 players running onto the ground. But this seemed to spur the guys on and they were magnificent. They were never headed, played run on team football and deservedly won by 15 points. It was the highlight of the thirds season and went a little way to averting last years grand final loss. The guys carried this form in against Greensborough and with the help of 4 under 17 players put on a great display to finally go down in a game they probably should have won. Against West Preston they were unfortunate to get early injuries and again relying on the 17's guys were unable to overcome a determined opposition. This year showed us that division one is very tough and competitive football, but the supporters were very proud of the way the young Panther boys competed.

Highest winning score :	17-7-109 round 1 verses Epping
Highest losing score :	10-16-76 round 16 verses Greensborough
Lowest winning score :	8-6-54 round 12 verses Heidelberg
Lowest losing score :	2-6-18 round 6 verses North Heidelberg
Highest score against :	24-15-159 round 14 by North Heidelberg
Lowest score against :	3-5-23 round 9 & 10 by Alphington & Epping
Greatest winning margin :	67 points round 1 verses Epping
Greatest losing margin :	127 points round 14 verses North Heidelberg
Smallest winning margin :	16 points round 15 verses Bundoora
Smallest losing margin :	8 points round 7 verses Greensborough

Web-site Player of the Year Award

Season 2001 saw the introduction of the Eltham Football Club web-site player of the year award. The award was an open contest of players from all grades competing against each other. The voting was in the form of three separate methods for each game.

Method 1 – Team Votes	Method 2 – Positional Votes	Method 3 – Individual Acts
The voter gave at least 5 players votes ranging from 1 – 10 with the aggregate of the votes given equaling 20.	The voter awarded votes in the 3-2-1 format for the backs, midfielders and forwards. The best player that started on the bench was given 2 votes.	Votes were given for the best individual acts performed in each match. The voter awarded 4 votes for each of the best defensive and attacking plays and 3 votes each for the best smother, tackle, shepherd and mark.

After 18 rounds, the winner of the inaugural WPOTYA for season 2001 was decided by the narrowest of margins, half a vote. Mark Minney on 131½ votes was able to hold off a late charge from Keith Davidson who finished with 131. In third place was David Brown on 101 votes. The individual acts revealed the players most responsible for the "one-percenter". Grant Pittard, Paul Haydock and Russ Macumber we voted the best at smothering, tackling and shepherding respectively. These skill attributes have never been measured in the past. Another interesting statistic was that the top five place getters in each of the defensive and attacking play categories were back men and forwards respectively. While this is understandable, it was not expected, as both defensive and attacking play is not restricted to a particular part of the ground. The leading vote getter of the marking category was Marcus Dean, with the top 7 either ruckman or key forwards.

OVERALL STANDINGS

1.	M Minney	131½
2.	K Davidson	131
3.	D Brown	101
4.	B Grant	95
5.	P Smith	87
6.	L Richardson	86
7.	L Mash	82
8.	A Burton	81
9.	M Dean	77
10.	P Haydock	73
11.	S Strickland	68
12.	Z Eaton	68
13.	B Waterman	63
14.	M Weisheit	63
15.	B Aldred	61
16.	G Pittard	61
17.	C Brincat	58
18.	R McCumber	58
19.	R Gardam	57½
20.	A McHugh	56½
21.	L Ferns	56
22.	J Pratt	55
23.	L Kennell	54
24.	L Howse	53
25.	J Garrard	48

Best Defensive Playmakers

Keith Davidson
Chris Morgan
Lach Richardson

Best Smothering Player

Grant Pittard
Paul Haydock

Best Backman

Keith Davidson
Mark Minney

Best Attacking Playmakers

Mark Minney
Luke Kennell
Matthew Weishiet

Best Shepherding Player

Russ Macumber
Best Marking Player
Marcus Dean

Best Forward

Ben Waterman
Best Off Bench
Shane Price



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Season 2001 Milestone Memories

Anything but Common

Paul Smith No 26 for the Panthers played his 200th game for the Eltham Football Club in Round 2, 21 April 2001 against Montmorency. Smithy and his family came down from the NSW country town of Orange and he first played for the Panthers at the U/15 level. He soon progressed through the ranks and at the age of 17 played his first senior game for the Club in 1986 against Thornbury. Smithy was a golden hair boy with long blonde flowing locks. The Goldlocks' look was the entire rave; women loved him, as did the football coaches. He was your Simon LeBon of the Eltham Football Club. The trouble now is after 16 hard seasons of Diamond Valley football he looks more like Charlie Watt than yesterday's pin up boy.

Smithy had a solid background in rugby and has used this tackling experience along with his natural determination throughout his playing career. This boldness nearly saw his senior career cut short after two games when he slammed Watsonia's well-seasoned Charlie Sherik into the Eltham mud with a fair but hard tackle. Now Charlie was about as friendly and attractive as the Eltham Hill mob with no beer. The crowd shuddered with fear knowing the last rights for Smithy were about to be read. But the young Smithy did not flinch and kept on playing. Charlie blood was boiling from that moment on until he put Eltham's Captain/Coach Darryl Megna on a stretcher.

Grand Final success came early for Smithy. In 1989 at the age of 20 he played in his first victorious senior Grand Final in the back pocket. He added two more premierships with wins in 1995 and 1997 as Captain of the Club. He is only the second person to captain two Eltham premiership teams. Last season, as a mature player, he added his fourth flag, a Club record held with Rodney Bray, Greg Irvine, Brian Pardon who were all part of the 1969, 70, 72 and 74 flags.

Looking back on his four flags Smithy cited last season as his most memorable. Well when you're pushing his age, you're never too sure which memories are which. "Last season's flag was unexpected after finishing fifth with poor form leading into the finals series. This made it even more pleasurable knocking off all favoured teams along the way to win the flag."

During the years, Smithy has just about played with every of the 725 odd blokes who have walked through the door. Those who have stood out for their brilliance have been Andrew "Bluey" Russell, Andrew Dale and Mark "Skips" Minney. And there have been others for their prevailing character and reliability at getting the job done, fellow stalwarts Garry Ramsay and Steve Russell.

Smithy is and has always been a fine role model and member of the Club you can not find many black spots on his playing card. However, you will not hear him mentioning the run in he had with Macleod's big Tommy "The Pelican" Meligan. A long six weeks on the sidelines saw that rage disappear.

At local clubs, coaching is like musical chairs and at Eltham, there have been 11 coaches that Smithy has heard the wisdom of, some with high reputations like Peter Moore and Andrew Dale. There have also been others whose like their dress sense were a bit wayward "Hey doesn't everything go with trackies?" The Smithy's biggest rap goes to Mick Jones, a bloke who has been sacked, reinstated, asked back again, filled in and whatever but he must have had something to stand out.

The golden haired boy is a great player but can't drink for shit. Getting a Paul Smith notch on your drinking belt is about as common as a pissed Growly. Smithy rarely mucks up but after the 1995 flag in the old snake pit at the Eltham Pub, he decided to give the cleaners some extra work. He tried to juggle pot after pot in his drunken state, catching a



few and smashing about twenty. Players and supporters were walking everywhere on grass but even solid warnings didn't stop him.

On the Monday after the 1997 flag sitting in the Eltham RSL (before Ash Dickson's Disco high flyer), Smithy decided to get his head shaved. Like a true captain he marched his team down to Tadarlo's hairdressing salon. The team came out looking like Beagle Boys on parade, he came out shining looking like the glamorous Andrew Willis. In years to come the premiership photo will deceive many into thinking it was a tough and rugged team of hard nuts.

Now at the age of 32, gone are the short sleeves courtesy to two broken arms. Gone are the golden locks of hair due to his genes; gone is the pace (hang on that was ever there?); Gone is that guarantee 2pm appointment. But these are superficial and what remains is what has always been there, a hard dedicated determined Eltham player who has been surpassed by so few, if any, at the Club over the last 15 odds years.

Billy "BG" Elliot

The Australian Ballet Company saw their next extraordinary dancing talent scrimmaging in the mud at Panther Park. Their scouts were watching Brett Grant play his 100th game on Saturday 5 May 2001 against Lower Plenty knowing he was a future principle dancer. They believed he would bring classical ballet dancing back to mainstream audiences. He is hip, dashing, debonair and ultra charismatic. He mixes well with the young yet grandmothers can not get enough of him.

BG, as he is affectionately known, has the natural ability to perform all the roles. From the purest academic classicism to poetic romanticism and dramatic theatricality, from intellectual formality to a simple expression of the exhilaration of dancing, he has the imagination, musicality, technique and artistry to make the choreographer's vision a reality on stage. The Australian Ballet Company wanted him and was willing to pay top dollar.

As the Billy Elliot of the Panthers, BG has fond memories of his football upbringing. "I had a perfect breeding ground to practice my skills. After school the local kids met at Glenister Drive, formulated teams and just went for it. In those days footy was tough. Playing until dark on a bitumen surface, you could roll your ankle at any time in the gutter. But you couldn't afford to take your eye off the ball or the likes of Scott "Goose" Mitchell would accept the opportunity to take a cheap shot. It was great for my competitiveness. Duncan and Mark Minney, the Doc's - Craig, Dean and Paul, Scott and Luke Mitchell, Willo and Fuzz sorted the weak from the strong.

"At the time the street competition was enough. I didn't need to launch into the junior football scene. I'd played the best at Glenister, I didn't need my ego pampered."

Others not in the Glenister Drive Click make strong inferences that his mother would not let him play. She said that her son did not have "the physique for such a rough game." Said he had "a lithe body not fit for a contact sport." These may be misquotes, but she encouraged him into basketball, cricket, tennis and even watched with pride as he ran the boundary as an umpire. Is this true?

BG refrained to comment other than to say, "That was a long time ago..."

BG was a skinny kid. Back at school, his friends remember the day he wore a blue parka coat under his football playing. They said he looked like the Michelin Man. He claims to feel the cold weather and it is no different now. With no muscles or fat like the seasoned Panther veterans to keep him insulated, he rubs "Deep Heat" or "Dankerub" over his entire body. Some question if he is going out to play football or planning to swim the English Channel with what looks like whale oil smeared over his body?

BG protests at the accusations of being soft. "Some may laugh, but it is a risky undertaking applying all that heat cream. A bit on the knackers would get any future dance soloist into a pirouetting high kick."

BG made his debut for the Eltham Football Club in round 2 1996 at Greensborough, the day of his 21st birthday. He played in the seconds and recalls his first kick was a disciplined opposite foot around the boundary line and his second kick was a right foot snap straight through the big sticks. After five games in the seconds, BG opened his A grade account in round 7 1996 at Montmorency. His natural ability at finding the football, evasive skills and enthusiastic approach ensured he has never played another seconds game. His football career highlights include his two premierships. The first coming in 1997 against Mernda, when he was knocked out and finished the game in hospital and his second in 2000 against Watsonia where he starred on the half-back line.

These successes were hard fought. It was not until round four 1997 after 21 consecutive losses that BG played in a winning side. In one of those games he met his toughest opponent (not that he was the only one to play on him that day). Weighing in at wringing wet 67 kilograms BG faced up to the 144 kg ex-VFL champion and North Heidelberg full-forward Jamie Shaw. Over the course of the afternoon, Shaw kicked a record 17 goals. Eltham managed three.

BG has a highly competitive nature, whether it be betting, drinking, playing football or cricket, is best witnessed on the dance floor. We recently spoke to Steven "Killa" Kilby regarding this issue. "Dancing does not come natural to many, especially footballers. However, there are times when everything is going your way. You're the dancing king, can't be beat. The right song

for your limited body rhythms is playing, you're visualising the steps in perfect choreography, you're heart is beating at the right speed, your limbs are coordinating and most importantly you've drank the right amount of alcohol. Your dancing juices are flowing in perfect harmony. The girls are enraptured by your technique, your smooth moves and clean lines. You feel everyone's eyes are on you.

"BG smells such confidence like a red rag to a bull. "A competitor!" he delights. All of a sudden, he is there, in your face taking you on. He's a combination of Fred Astaire, John Travolta and Michael Jackson all rolled into one dancing phenomenon. Instantly you're shot. Legs buckle, torso droops, so you head off to the bar for more self-assurance. He calls you a coward. "You coward", he says not breaking step. The girls now tune into him so he takes them on too. He's not sexist. Their numbers eventually dwindle until he's beaten them all, dancing solo for the crowd of eager onlookers. That's BG at his best, on centre stage. Even when taking the stretches at training he performs to the crowd. And we love him."

Sam, his fiancé, recalls the center stage performances in ballets such as "Madame Butterfly" and "Swan Lake". However, his most memorably display for her was in the local production of "The Wizard of Oz". His masterful role as the Scarecrow was all brain. Sam believes his greatest asset is his spindly legs. "They allow him to torque perfectly into spins on his Pointe shoe." Maybe his professional dancing career may reflect his football career, timid at the start, gallant to the end and many smooth talks in between. The Billy Elliot of the Panthers.

Eltham were never too keen on letting BG go when approached by the Australian Ballet Company. They saw leadership qualities, his desire for the Club to stay in division one and his ability to help nurture the junior talent coming through the under 19's. It was not until the Australian Ballet Company came up with the offer of six barrels that the Club relented.

We Forgive You Killa

Steven "Killa" Kilby played his 100th game for the Panthers in Round 6, 19 May 2001 against North Heidelberg. Lining up for the A grade team on all but three occasions, Killa has successfully led the tall man (not big) department for the Club for a number of years. Killa, may have a villainous sounding name, but his persona is to the contrary. Sweet Steven... Often referred to as the nicest guy, the quietly spoken, considerate gentleman's gentleman is, on all accounts, unblemished. Except for the McDonalds Affair.

The gangly tanned beanpole made his open age debut in the seniors, round 12 July 1994 against Whittlesea at the Showgrounds. The trip to the country was unsuccessful for the boys but Killa created a few highlights when he finally surfaced from the bench in the third quarter to kick three goals.

The high marking, athletic and graceful "Killa" Kilby typified the young brigade that surfaced during 1994-95. He was fearless, naturally talented and eager to compete, qualities that remain with him today. In his first full season, the young Panthers won the 1995 premiership with Killa playing a best on ground performance in the Grand Final. It was no surprise he was voted as Division 2 "Player of the Finals Series" by the Diamond Valley League.

Killa elected to pursue football at the highest level in 1997, playing at Preston in the Victorian Football Association. Luckily the Panthers have a gravitational pull for its favoured sons and Killa returned. In 1998, the Club was back in division one and Killa was its number one recruit. Lean, tanned and trimmed from ocean surf life saving Killa was a picture on the track during pre-season. Unfortunately the Panthers had a very disruptive and unsuccessful year but this did not quell the outstanding individual performance of Killa, he finished second to Lucas Paul in the senior best & fairest.

Killa had another outstanding season in 2000. He won his second premiership medallion and his second 2nd best & fairest award after being pipped at the post by the dynamic Lachie Richardson. Taking nothing away from the very worthy winner, Killa was unlucky to be injured in the last two matches of the season. Like all footballers, a career goal for Killa is to win the senior best & fairest award along with seeing the Club and its young players flourish in division one.

Killa too was one of those poor unfortunates to have lined up on Jamie Shaw the day he booted 17 for North Heidelberg in 1996. But in the return match at Panther Park Killa played on him for the entire four quarters and held him to only two majors. Besides big Shaw, Killa believes his most difficult opponent was Trevor Robinson of Bundoora. In 1996, playing against one of the best Diamond Valley players in his prime Killa, just learning the ropes, quickly learnt the amount of physical running and hard hitting the top players force on their opponents. "On top of all that, Killa adds "Skill wise, he never missed his mark."

"Skill wise he never missed his mark." Is there a double meaning here? Killa is an organiser who never misses his mark, but is he the anonymous brains behind many great triumphs? Whilst the deed is being done is he conveniently absent covering his tracks? Did he organise the Ronald heist? Is it the only black spot in his book?

"WHERE'S RONALD?" was the theme of the 1999 footy trip following the mysterious transformation of Ronald McDonald from his humble perch outside East Doncaster McDonalds to the church across the road during the season. The episode is entrenched in Panther folk law, but the facts remain a mystery. The jury is still out. There are too many unanswered questions.

Why were plain clothed police inspectors asking questions of the whereabouts of Killa on that mid-winters Thursday night after the weekly pilgrimage to the Cherry Tree Hotel?

What was Killa's involvement in the McDonalds affair? Was he the instigator, the man with the wrench, the get away driver or the one that confessed to the cops first? Luke Ferns had this to say. "No comment, other than to say Killa can be very convincing. He applies a very nasty Chinese burn. You get him and Dicko together, next minute you're copping wedgies, you're being poked and even green-arsed! They can be very persuasive. I'm a teacher and my students don't do that shit. We were terrified."

Terrified of what? This is the next question. Ash Dickson provided us with more insight, "Killa is a born ringleader. He told us to keep quiet. He'd do all the talking. At first, he told the police that we saw Hamburgular and that purple thing with two legs, that no one knows the name of, carry Ronald across the road. But the cops didn't buy into it. So he then changed our story saying Ronald was on a siren from God. You know, that's why they found him at the church. It was as if he was having an out of body experience. I'm not sure if it was Killa or Ronald?"

From this point, the facts are scarce. Whom did the police nab in the end? Did Killa, in a shameless crying mess, confess the truth and become the prosecutions star witness? The 1999 mystery continues and the McDonalds file remains open.

Regardless of the facts, the real paradox is "We forgive you Killa... for being so nice".

Running on a Treadmill

Dean "Fill Pits" Philpots, once a very apt name, has come along way since his beer swilling days as a freelance alcoholic. Gallowgating around in the late 80's early 90's with ultra long black curly hair in the Paul Stanley of KISS style (later known as the Ace of Spades style) he was a law unto himself. Coining the football trip phrase "Eating is Cheating" whilst downing his third for the morning before getting on the plane to Tasmania, this now mild mannered individual of society is a contradiction of his former self. Age, maturity and above all marriage do wonderful things.

The Barman (as his name would suggest) "Potsie" Philpots is set to played his 100th game with the Eltham Football Club in Round 9, 16 June 2001 against Northcote Park. Before selection he believed he was primed for a promotion to the seniors, not that Potsie felt he was in any sort of form. He simply reflected on his last game against the Cougars in 1998 when he kicked his only two first division goals and half the teams score. He booted one major when opposed to David Kernahan who was unceremoniously replaced with Matty Amad after which he kicked his second. Despite Potsie's efforts, the Panthers went down 4.5.29 to 34.25.229.

Potsie has never been a gifted footballer, never really had a turn of speed or silky skills. What he has going for him is an excellent football brain, a vigorous determination and a recognition of his own abilities. Coaches love him. He trains, he talks and he gets the job down without fanfare.

Although respected greatly by his peers, Potsie negotiates, conjures, debates, talks to his teammates, etc similar to the way he plays an opponent. He nags, nudges, harasses until agreed with or overcome. "Keep it in tight.... Slow it down at the front.... Keep it together.... Shoulder to shoulder.... Around the posts...." Is he an annoying bastard? If it was boxing the towel would be thrown. "Man up.... Come back, come back.... You on-ballers follow your men down back.... Punch, punch, punch.... Boundary, boundary...." Luckily in season 2001 Potsie decided to join the committee as Vice President and vent his frustrations out on them.

Potsie recommenced his playing career at Eltham in 1996 after moving to the amateur club Bullen-Templestowe following his junior days at Panther Place. His first impression was good and was excited by the Club's prospects in division one. Debuting in the seniors, he watched the unfurling of the 1995 premiership flag and at half time had every reason to think the Panthers were going places. The boys led by five points at the main break but Heidelberg took a fancy to the inexperience of their opponents banging on nine goals in the last quarter.

The defeat gave Potsie an immediate reality check for the tough year ahead. The twenty and seventeen goal shellackings in the next two rounds had the knees of the old fellow weakening and not looking forward to North Heidelberg in round four. "It left me scratching my head thinking it could not be this bad."

Potsie, who could not run out of sight on a dark night, went on to play the next 61 games straight in the seniors, including the 1997 premiership. He regards the premiership win as more of a football reward rather than a career highlight. "For me it was a struggle getting through 1997 after falling ill mid-season, trying to carry the illness through and remain fit at the same time. I never really got over it until I rested after the celebrations."

Eventually the weight of the axe was too great and the aging legs were given a new lease of life in the seconds. "You can only run on the spot for so long" recalls his best critic Bopper on the round nine dumping in season 1999. Pottsie went on to captain the two with Willo to the 2000 premiership and regards the entire season as his career highlight, getting to play with his mates each week.

Since getting the chop, Pottsie the treadmill boy has played only one further 2pm game. "Yes, the day I became the highest paid player in the history of the Club. Against Hurstbridge last year, I punched the ball once and had one of those pissy handballs when getting tackled, all for \$60 less insurance. Imagine if I got twenty touches, \$1000 my way at that rate." The Panthers lost and Pisspots was rewarded with a full game in the twos.

Pottsie's 15 seconds of fame came in the seniors in 1997 when he had his one and only running bounce. The play was captured on Optus television. The clip showed a dashing Philpotts running through the middle of Panther Park, exposing Diamond Creek's lack of pace and stabbing a grass cutter of a pass lace up to Skips Minney on the lead. One for the grand children.

Another clip for the highlights reel was the "Almost Football Legend" speckie Pottsie took in 1998 against Lalor at Eltham Central. The footy was kicked to the leading ex-Collingwood and Richmond journeyman Terry Keys when Pottsie came over the back to spoil. "On that occasion I passed the point of familiarity, getting a leg up off someone and reached a height never experienced. Petrified, I missed the ball with my fist but it went on and hit me on the shoulder. Thinking only of how to get down, the ball took its own path, ballooning in the air and landing in the same place as me. I simply completed my speckie. The mark of my career over an AFL player."

Shaving his head after the 1997 premiership is not necessarily one of his regrets but on explaining the situation to his wife Kelly he defended his actions by declaring "It's not as bad as Willo's head." Funnily enough Willo kept telling Michelle, his wife, that he could lie easy knowing Pottsie had the worst melon. Leaping reckons neither would be out of place next to a Halloween pumpkin.

In what could be the last season for the sprightly 33-year-old veteran, Pottsie is looking for easy times at training. He gives his toughest opponent mantle to Ash Dickson who in successive one-on-one contests gave Pottsie a fat lip, a whack to the nose and another to the mouth making his teeth bleed. Does Dicko know when to go soft? The meaning of 60 percent? Then Craig "Macca" McKay decides to poleax Pottsie in a tackle that made him see stars. Full on hits. "Worst of all they probably didn't even know what they did to me. I'm not counted as a scalp to them. It's like beating Leaping in a game of pool, the win just doesn't count."

The players he would most like to play on are Willo and Johnny "Hollywood" Garrard. "How easy for me? Neither like to run very far and lead as if they're calling for a waiter. 'Over here maître d', just serve up the menu with a bottle of red. Hey, while you're at it tell the guy with the ball to kick it up high slightly over Pottsie's head.' I'd do what I do best, punch all day."

May his pot be always full.



Replacing the Milk Man

On Saturday Round 14, 21 July 2001 the sensational speedster Zennon "Hungry" Eaton played his 100th open age game for the Eltham Football Club. Not regarded as a pure natural footballer, with his awkward kicking style, Zennon has proved, especially this season, that he is very effective. To his legion of admirers their faith in his ability has been vindicated.

Undoubtedly, Zennon's strongest attribute is his pace. Running around like a whipplet and burrowing into packs has served Zennon well in his unique quest to gain possession of the footy. This in turn feeds his greatest desire, kicking goals. No u-turn is too small, no handball ever required, no obvious short pass visible, no distance too far, forever the optimist, Zennon will rely on himself to get the job done. This can be very frustrating for teammates who all want to kick the goals themselves.

Hungry's love for a goal especially frustrated the puddling out of last seasons resident full forward Willo. "I'd give the perfect lead and he'd run and bounce. I'd be 'Johnny on the spot' and he'd use me to baulk his opponent, more likely opponents. Then, I'd be in the goal square on my Pat Malone and he'd kick it over my head. With him, Pitts and Mickey it's a wonder I kicked any goals."

Zennon started playing football in the juniors at Eltham. Firstly he played in the U11's to only progress down into the U10's the following year. Then it was back to the U11's for another go. It all sounds very confusing. The remainder of his junior development was in country Victoria at Barham.

In 1996, Zen came back to the club to play in the U19's but after 3 games they folded due to lack of numbers. Not perturbed, Zen tried his luck in the reserves side. Fortunately for him he played in the Club's only victory for 1996 when the reserves beat Reservoir Lakeside in round 7 at Panther Park.

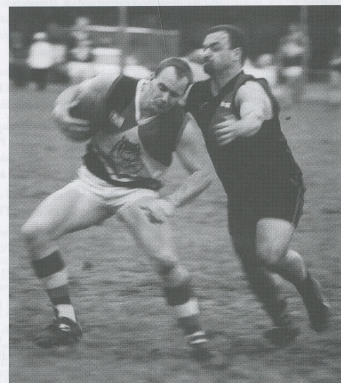
The following year Zennon progressed into the seniors playing 19 out of a possible 21 games, including a spot in the 1997 Premiership team. Zennon added a Reserve grade premiership in 2000 leading the unstoppable mosquito fleet of Riddles Gardam, Mickey Iddon, Senior Haydock and David Collis.

Through 1999 and 2000, Zennon played most of his football in the earlier game and he became noticeably frustrated at the lack of opportunities he was given to prove himself. Up he would go into the A grade team, spend a few quarters on the bench only to be ousted the next week. Starting off 2001 in the two's made Eats even more determined. Eventually he was provided with a full game in the seniors in round four against Lower Plenty. He burned and followed it up with solid performances to stamp himself as an automatic selection. Overall, before this Saturday he has played 56 seniors and 43 reserves games.

Zennon has been looking for love and work for as long as the Panthers have been training under kerosene lanterns. With work he has tried almost anything. Tinker, tailor soldier, sailor... They must have been referring to Eats? In matters of love, love does not matter. Never scared of the knock back Zen professes to play the odds. The more females you ask the better chance you have got. "Pick a hundred, I'm bound to lay one."

Then Zen tripped over the notion that he could combine his passion for love and his need to work. Why not slip on the yellow jacket, hop on a scooter and become a Postman (he would have been a milk man except they are a dying breed)? Delivering the package, for one so endowed, in a street near you now has the Governments 45 cent stamp of approval. Zen's new motto is "If the Postie is a knockin', why have a frock on?" Fellow wannabe gigolo Brett Strickland may take notice and follow Zen's professional lead.

A very experienced Footy Trip campaigner Zennon has many a sink ship story. Tassie 97, Albury 98, Adelaide 99 and Albury 2000 has seen them come and go, but Zen and his tackle are always shooting for Footy Trip perfection - sex with sisters, best girlfriends, large women and at worst getting pissed. Zen's skills are undeniable allowing him to generally bring one home to roost.



Half Made Mick

How to play 100 games in your sleep – the Mick Iddon way. It would be a good title for his memoirs. The picture is all too familiar. You're in the changing rooms before the big game. Psyching yourself up, urging your mates on. Credibility is on the line. In walks the unmade bed. Ruffled clothes hanging off as if they are an afterthought, Blunstone boots half slipped on, hair scrunched from a restless night on the pillow (or floor), dark bloodshot eyes under heavy lids but and the unmistakable smile of Mickey Iddon. Credibility gone, jokes start.

The very likeable larrikin, Mickey played his 100th game for the Eltham Football Club in Round 14, 21 July 2001 against North Heidelberg marking a milestone in what has been an extraordinary career. Very unfashionable, Mick has no fear. His courage and hardness at the ball will be lasting legacies admired by his peers. Up to this point Mick has played 16 senior and 83 reserve grade games.

Mick first played for the Club in the Juniors at the under 10 level in 1986. Mick worked his way through all the junior grades until he played open age football in 1995. During his debut season, Mick won the best & fairest award for the seconds. A fantastic achievement considering the A grade team won the premiership. Mick played his first two o'clock game against North Heidelberg the following year in 1996. After starting on the bench Mick came on, injured himself, missed the next few games, and did not get another chance until the next season. It was not a notable game for him or the Club.

In 1997, Mick played the first 13 games in the one's before being dropped. Unfortunately he failed to make it back and hence missed out on playing in the 1997 premiership team. The following season he played all of his games in the seconds and was runner-up in the 1998 Best & Fairest behind Andy Turner.

A pre-season injury suffered on the dance floor at the now defunct Red Heads Nightclub "cost" Mickey most of the 1999 season. The groin injury was a good excuse to hit the piss big time. However, the good mail suggests the injury was caused trying to get his leg over whilst drunk as a mute. As described earlier, Mick always has looked like an unmade bed but during 1999 he moved into pig-pen status. Maybe it is true that a good women stands in the way of modern man receding back into Neanderthal man. At the time Mickey was a shining example.

Mickey did manage 7 games in 1999, one at Pantom Hill where he cracked a couple of VB cans on Eltham-Yarra Glen Road driving up to the game. That day Mick won the meat tray raffle but in his inebriated state could not be bothered collecting his prize. What would he do with raw meat when he was only interested in beer?

Two weeks later was the annual trip up the mountain to Kinglake. Mick, like many others, thrived in the bus trip environment. Mick has always loved a drink, a quite smoke, sometimes Bob Hope, and along with Riddles getting his gear off. During the night back at the rooms, the band sensed that Mick was a troublemaker. For their protection they placed chairs all around the stage to barricade him away from them. Mick's reply was to take off his kit.

Remarkably, "Half Made" Mickey also struggles to get into nightclubs, already zonked or looking a mess you can hardly blame the door bitches. But it does not stop him getting his clothes off in protest. Always a winner for his devoted Footy Trip admirers.

Mick had braces on his teeth as a youngster to beautify his smile but sadly he has lost a tooth since. On several occasions he has had the tooth replaced but getting sloshed and constantly falling over has continued to unbalance his famous cheesy grin.

After missing out on a chance of playing finals in the two's in 1999, Mick promised himself, and anyone who would listen over a quiet beer or two, that he was going to get deadly serious about his football. It was the turning point in not only his football but arguably his life. True to his word, over the pre-season Mick got himself mentally right, physically fit, maintaining this renewed enthusiasm throughout the season.

The fantastic improvement that came from him, Riddles Gardam, Jack Jackson and Kenny Sparks significantly aided the second's team to reach the premiership heights they so deservedly achieved. The greatly matured Mick personally had a sensational season, regarded unofficially as the recruit of the year. His form saw him promoted into the senior team for two games before returning to be a part of the successful reserve premiership side.



about to second now getting clearing

Serendipity

Reid "Riddles" Gardam played his 50th game for the Eltham Football Club in Round 3, 28 April 2001 against Heidelberg. Reid has been playing for the Club since 1983 in his early junior days following in the footsteps of his three elder brothers Shane, Adam and Marcus. He has continued on the Gardam dynasty which has seen the Club represented by a Cliff and Val Gardam sibling in open age football since 1984. The incomplete records of the Club suggest the Gardam brothers have played a combined total of over 250 games in the red and black.

Riddles made his open age debut in 1994 as a young irrepressible but highly skilled player. He only managed a couple of games in his first season before he recessed for three long years. The punters in the outer enjoyed his company for this period, but the desire to play with his mates Mickey Iddon, Scott Jackson and Shannon Tesh saw him make a come back in 1998.

Like many of the Eltham "rogues" recruited from can hill, until recently, his off-field exploits have outweighed those on the field. On his day Riddles is a very funny guy and after a few amber liquids loves putting on a show. His most memorable performance was at the Continental Hotel in Albury during the 1999 football trip when he performed his Lady Man act to the lunch time regulars. Clothes off and legs together, it was a beautiful sight. The publican need not have bothered ordering him off the premises with his tail between his legs, because it was already there.

Season 2000 was a pivotal year in Riddles football career and possibly his life. He started the season in great form, playing the larrikin whenever possible. His football was good for a seconds player but not exceptional for someone with the natural ability and talent that Riddles possesses. The turn around came on one of those regular Saturday nights at the pub celebrating what was becoming a landslide season for the Panther second eighteen.

Micky Iddon continues the story, "Riddles was on his ear and the bar staff refused to serve him. Riddles, not one to take no for an answer, especially when he wants a beer, decided to take matters into his own hands. He firstly gave the manager a few lessons in dress sense, suggesting that his tie needed tightening and even helped him. Similar to the way the Boston strangler would assist. Then he verbally upset his girlfriend Jessica and her mother whilst they were escorting him out. He was a mess."

"The next day he was given the ultimatum from Jessica. Shape up or I'm out of here."

Riddles placed himself on a "self-enforced" drinking probation and the pub slapped a ban on him for good measure as well. As the final were approaching Reid publicly declared he was "laying off the grog" until the end of the final series. This looked like true commitment to the team and to his mates, but maybe the love of a woman had more to do with this honourable decision.

Regardless of the reason, the affect was remarkably instantaneous. As each week passed Riddles' game day performance improved, his desire to be a part of a winning team heightened and his leadership qualities blossomed. He was an energetic whiz of footballing gifts spinning around waiting for someone press the right switch. And that person was motivational talker Peter Nicholson and the switch was "serendipity".

Riddles was sitting in the front trying to listen attentively. Like everyone else he was still coming to terms that a long jumper at the Olympics leaps further than the width of the changing rooms, when out of the blue he was hit in the face with the word "serendipity". He shook his head smiling, "serendipity" he said to himself, "serendipity" as if he was Isaac Newton after the apple hit him on the head.

Riddles played a blinder of a final series, capping it off with a magical game in the premiership decider. He was awarded the best finals player for the seconds. To this day his mates say that all the time the little master was in a trance whispering the word "serendipity, serendipity..."

Riddles is yet to play a senior game but with this new outlook on his football career, improved fitness, unquestionable skills on both sides of his body and impeccable form in the opening two games of this season a senior debut with the firsts is beckoning.

So how did he go during the grand final celebrations? What chance do you have when you spend the Sunday night with the likes of Jacko, Ace Eye, Pitts, Micky and Goose sitting around a bomb fire fuelled by wood remnants of the changing rooms (and the leaning post/beer rest used by Johnny Barnes, Hans & co.)? Seriously drunk and bleary eyed he shook his head at Jack and spat, "What the f... does serendipity mean, anyway?"



Mouse & Funnel

Mighty Mouse Matt Tallack stepped out for his 50th senior appearance for the Eltham Football Club on Round 4, 5 May 2001 against recent fierce rivals, Lower Plenty. With scant junior football experience Mouse has quickly developed his footballing prowess to become a regular one's player, and achieved A grade premiership player status last season in only his 46th game.

His football career emanated from humble origins, after being conned by Lucas "Spook" Paul and Matty "Whitman" Weisheit to strap on the boots for the under-manned Yarra Glen "Riverpig" reserves in 1996. Once exposed to the game his competitive nature lured him back for more. Even the appalling conditions in real country footy could not dampen his enthusiasm nor thirst for more footy.

Playing in the reserves at Yarra Glen involved running out in knee deep mud, such was the extent of the mire a massive Spook torpedo would sail only 25 metres with the gale force wind at his back. Even daunting trips to Olinda, Gembrook and Woori Yallock did not deter him.

Prior to his blossoming footy career, Mouse dedicated his weekends to being a low-life scumbag basketball referee. Once the insatiable desire to play footy kicked in, refereeing was given the "lemonade", and thankfully the guy gained some credibility.

In 1998 with Spook and Whitmans having joined the Panthers they again coerced Mouse into playing for the reserves. Since then Mouse has donned the red and black guernsey with pride and distinction, even though wearing the colours must cut him deep to the bone being a one-eyed lunatic Magpie mug.

Mouse made his debut against Montmorency in round 1 of season 1998 playing in the seconds until he broke down midway through the year. In round 16 of season 1999 against Hurstbridge he ventured out for his first A grade match. Mouse played the remaining three home & away matches plus three finals in the seniors including the deflating preliminary final loss to Whittlesea. He was recalled into the seconds for the grand final the next week but the team was again undermanned in strength against the Whittlesea twos. Since then, Mouse has played entirely in the firsts for a career tally of 29 A grade games and 20 B grade.

Mouse's career at Eltham has been highlighted by two major achievements, the premiership medallion he earned in 2000 and the "Download Best Footy Tripper Award". On that trip Mouse was to carve a reputation for himself and bring to prominence his feared funnel. At 5:30am Friday (morning of the trip) Mouse arose from his slumber and delved deep into the fridge at the almighty Dobbo Street bachelor pad, and extracted a couple of cold tinnies. Guzzling them on the way to the airport before brekky and one could sense Mouse was on a mission.

Arriving at the hotel in Adelaide at 10:30am, Mouse unleashed the funnel. In the hotel bar Mouse demonstrated his powerful handling of the beer funnel, sculling stubbies at break-neck speed. After his pre-lunch onslaught he managed to land himself on stage at the Hindley Street strippers, and provided the boys with plenty of entertainment.

After copious amounts of alcohol, Mouse provided another special moment on that trip. Brett "BG" Grant and himself coaxed a couple of the fairer sex back to the hotel, only to have them sprayed with fire extinguishers, whilst the single lads tried to make the most of Mouse and BG's offerings. The funnel has since reared its ugly head down at Central Park, where it has claimed many a victim.

Being the great club man that he is Mouse was kind enough to volunteer his lovely girlfriends services to run water for the two's one season. Coincidentally, water became a very sought after commodity for a time back then, and the beautiful Bec was always cheerful and helpful even when she received a little squirt of her own back every now and then.



Oh, to be young again

One of Eltham Football Club's emerging stars passed his first milestone of 50 open age games in Round 10, 23 June 2001 against Epping. Standing at 6 foot 4 in the old scale and over 100kg (to be fair), the young Luke "L. Mac" McCreery has had a great deal of expectation heaped on his shoulders. To his credit, he has carried the burden well for one so inexperienced in his craft. Now with 50 games under his belt, the expectation is that he has set a great foundation for himself to become one of the Clubs cornerstone players.

L. Mac played his first senior game against Bundoora in 1998 after promotion from the Willo coached under 19's. He went on to play a further four senior games for the season with other under 19 players Tom & Lach Richardson, Chris Moyle and Kalev Jones as the Panthers blooded its young promising champs.

One of his most memorable wins came that season when the seniors beat Epping. Lukey cannot actually remember if he played in the game, he just recalls the great piss-up afterwards. Oh, to be young again.

If there was ever a kid with raw talent, it was Lukey Mac when he breezed under the trestle bridge into Panther Park. As a youngster, the big fellow preferred to concentrate on basketball rather than football. The one hand holding the football with the other used for fending off the opposition has been a hard trait to drop. Critics are safe to conclude that the young rucking Mystro is still in the midst of his development cycle. With ruck idols Byron "Bopper" Smith and Andrew Clark to help his progress, what brighter future can one have?

In 1999, Luke played all 21 games in the seniors playing mainly in the ruck. After the Victorian winter had finished he packed his bags and jetted off with Johnny "Hollywood" Garrard to Darwin for more football in the Top End's summer competition. "It was like playing in a sauna. Hot and sticky, a sweat box and when it rained it was even hotter."

As pre-season for 2000 approached the lads back home were talking up the prospects of having their two key position players trimmed, fit and raring to go. It was all quiet the opposite. "You could not help feeling they had trawled the great Southern Ocean all summer with their pod and beached themselves at Warmnambool." was all that Lachie Richardson could remember thinking on their first night back at training. "They left hoping to souvenir a Darwin stubbie and came back looking like a pair. A promoters dream as a WWF tag team combination."

The boys played about ten games each for the Nightcliff Football Club, later joined by another Panther, Ashley Dickson. For a day boy, Luke washed cars for a car hire place. At night, he had a stable diet of fresh vegetables, fish and lots of water then was tucked into bed and kissed on the cheek by Hollywood. Well, would you believe constant re-hydration through excessive beer swilling, takeaway food (when affordable after buying booze), night clubbing, snore filled restless sleeps and massive hangovers? Oh, to be young again.

Dicko remembers the harrowing experience when L Mac hired a car from his work and "drove" them up to Catherine Gorge. "He's a madman behind the wheel. He thrashed the car senseless (as you do with work/hire cars). Even considering the ridiculous things I've done, I'm surprised we got back alive. Being in the car was like being cooped up in a nut house. Lukey, white knuckled on the steering wheel, driving at speeds in excess of 200km, with bugs and shit hitting the windscreen every ten seconds and Johnny screaming fearfully in the back like a girl 'Slow down, slow down, your gunna kill us, abhhhh...', the trip was crazy."

At some stage Lukey must have suited up like a regular member of society when he met Melissa, his girlfriend, at a nightclub in Darwin. He impressed her enough for her to move down with him to wintry old Melbourne. The things you do for love.

After an injury plagued start in 2000, Luke resumed back in the reserves for two games of remedial therapy with Bopper & Clarky to set him back on the straight and narrow. They did not work on his fitness or weight, simply showing him that you can play effectively no matter what body God has given you.

It worked wonders. Luke went back to the ones and was part of the winning A grade premiership team. He had a magnificent finals series particularly in the elimination final against Diamond Creek. In the last quarter of that match, after the Panthers were headed for the first time in the game, his energetic and courageous efforts lifted the team to a hard fought win.

Besides his many loyal fans, Luke has always had his family supporting him. His mother Marie, father John and older brother Mark are well known at the Club. John is remembered for his infamous Kinglake bus trip bet with Willo. John had to drink a VB can for every goal Willo kicked. He finished with eleven.

Lukey has been blessed with this ability to drink but unfortunately, unlike other crime fighting superheroes who have unrivalled qualities, he uses his extraordinary talent against mere helpless mortals. His pet habit is sculling his beer to set a sprinters pace. "Who's next shout?" Those drinking with him end up like froth at the bottom of the pot - irrelevant.

There was one night when Luke matched his drinking prowess against those of Adam Downs. Downsy and Luke went scull for scull at Pug Mahoneys. It was bourbon after bourbon until Downsy was carried out. No contest, well so it seemed.

On the way home, at the corner of Manningsham and Thompsons Road, Luke displayed common drunken characteristics for the first time. Stopped at the lights, Luke opened the car door, crawled out and layed comatose in the gutter. For the next five minutes, Trap Daw and Tommy Richo tried to carry him back into the car. Two flyweights out of their division, what hope did they have? They needed help. Brushing the boys aside, Laura got out of the car, gave him a good deal of a girls grip and the big feller resumed his seat. You never admit being drunk around a lady. Oh, to be young again.

Indian Rubber Man

The young champion Lachlan Richardson played his 50th game on Saturday 7 July 2001 against Heidelberg. The 2000 best & fairest winner and premiership player is making a name for himself as one of the best defenders in the division one competition. With his Indian rubber man defensive tactics and evasive skills, quickness and athletic marking he has proven more than a hand full to the opposition. "Clone him," is the general cry from the terrace at Panther Park when he is in full fight. "He is cloned," is the general reply. "Well clone him again."

The first senior game Lach played for the club was back in round 7, 1998 at Central against Greensborough. The Club has had all three Richardson boys' play. His twin Tom has played 26 games and is yet to resume after injuring his knee in a practice match last 2000. Nick, the older, wiser and original "Richo", has played 44 games, being constantly torn between his football, study and work. The latter two are now prevailing. All three are held in high regard for their peers at the Club.

Lach played his junior football at Eltham and in 1995 his talent was officially recognised when asked to train with the Northern Knights. Over the prevailing three years Lach played 16 games in the Victorian under 18 competition. In 1998, Lach had the opportunity to remain training with the Knights but was told he would get little game time until later in the year. At the same time Lach was selected to play in the seniors for Eltham. In 1999, Lach played for the Diamond Valley in the division two representative game against the Footscray League at Bayswater along with other Eltham players Tom Richo, Skips Minney and Spook Paul.

The highlight so far of Lach's short career is the 2000 season. He was instrumental in the premiership victory over Watsonia after being targeted by other Clubs earlier in the finals campaign. Over the season, Lach quickly gained the reputation in the Valley as a potent attacking backman, one of Eltham's top players. This reputation was confirmed on vote count night when Lach won the Club's senior best & fairest award, coveted in a premiership year.

To many Lach is a nice quiet bloke. Says hello when you walk by, laughs at your jokes and nods reassuringly when you talk. He has a sweet "boy next door" smile, a conservative approach and reassuring demeanor. His brothers cannot believe he has everyone fooled.

There is a conspiracy theory that Lach is eradicating anyone who is trying to tarnish his spotless public image or even worse, attempting to take the limelight off him.

Resident full-back Cameron Waddell, tending a sore knee asserts, "Lach didn't like the fact that I went into the forward line for a few weeks while he remained in down back, so he tweaked by knee." Then his brother Tom confessed, "He told me to back off when I was starting to get more accolades than him. I'll never be the same."

BG believed he was next. "I headed off to the Blue Mountains one week to hide. Lach overheard someone from the crowd say that I was almost as good as the 'elastic fantastic' Lach Richo and that I might even be 'Dolly' the sheep clone that a stool pigeon in the crowd suggested. I was in the changing rooms putting my blue parka on when he silently told me that the parka was a good idea, it would soften my fall."

I put this conspiracy theory to his brother Nick and he just laughed. "It's all true. At home, Lach is the bad cop but never gets into trouble. To mum and dad he is the golden child. The James Hird of the house and it's the same at the football club. You just can't get any mud to stick on him. Look at me, I used to kick a football 50 meters with precision every time, after Lach got to my legs... whatever, I basically prefer to handball. If I told the truth of what happened you would believe me?"



"I'm the good twin," Tom professes. "There was this one time at band camp when Lach and me and these other guys... It was really funny. Lach makes me do all these things to make him look good. Like when he really wants to impress a girl he makes me go out with her. Or the time we were at the "Dobbo" frat house and he made me pay for a slab of Heineken. We took turns at guzzling them with Mouse's funnel but he made out that he had drunk all 24 himself."

Whatever of his dubious shady side (sometimes people take things out of context), Lach has played outstanding football in the Panther guernsey and his teammates and supporters alike enjoy the thrill of watching him ply his trade. His courage is second to none, his leadership qualities are excellent and he is none other than an outstanding young man.

Quiet Company

Leigh Howse played his 50th game for the Eltham Football Club in Round 13, 14 July 2001 against Lower Plenty. A utility player, best described as a Collingwood six footer, Howse has been used as a key defensive and attacking player with equal success. At Panton Hill in 1997, he kicked four in the first quarter and six for the day playing as a mobile centre half forward, proving that he was not just a decoy to allow Ash Dickson a free run on the flank. His best football is played running off the half back-line where his strong marking, poise and vision is fully employed.

Howsey is the middle son of three Howse boys to play at the Club. Leigh, his elder brother Simon and younger brother Daniel all played juniors at Eltham. Leigh started at the tender age of six (or maybe seven) in the under 10's, playing through to the under 17's. Simon paved the way for his younger brothers in juniors but did not go past the under 17's. Daniel debuted in the senior side after being plucked from the under 17's in 1996 playing 11 senior games. He moved onto Heidelberg after the 1997 round 1 clash against Reservoir. The game was the debut for Leigh after a year off in 1996 and the only time the two brothers played in the same team at senior level.

The two have continued the tradition of Eltham players and their ex-patriot brothers not facing off against each other in a game of open-age football. Leigh played in the two's in the clash at Heidelberg and last week played a blinder of a game in the same grade whilst Daniel menaced the Eltham roving division in the one's. The Haydock, Smith and Sinclair brothers are others that could have been on opposing sides but never have.

Leigh took over jumper number 18 from Daniel playing 20 senior games before being overlooked for the 1997 grand final side. The decision is not often discussed. He was a rookie player, often asked to play out of position to cover for Lach of height. He

became starved of game time as players came back from injury, arguably lost form and found himself out of what became the premiership team. It is very questionable if the decision was right or wrong. Many agree he was harshly treated. To say the least, it was a difficult time for Howsey.

Howsey missed the 1998 season, well not all that much as the Club struggled poorly in division one, to return to the fold in 1999 wearing number 21. He once again played the entire season in the seniors, this time mostly in the backline. He added 21 games to his 19 and was stopped short of his premiership goal when the team was humbled in the preliminary final against Whittlesea.

Last season he put his football career back into recess to commit his time at the Police Academy. The irony is the Club had its most successful season since 1974 winning the A and B grade premierships. As the old saying goes "you do not have to be still to be dead" lives true for Howsey, but at the ripe age of 23 his many admirers will have plenty to rave about in the future.

In joining the Johnny Hoppers, Constable Howsey became the second Copper at the Club following in the footsteps of Constable Skips Mimney and leading the way for our third Bluey Lucas Spook. Being an Inspector Plod of this world must be a stressful and time-consuming job, for our law enforcement trio are seldom seen on the track. But on reflection, is the stress just on their stomachs consuming all those free McHappy Meals from Ronalds and KFC fried chook? It is no wonder that John "Hollywood" Garrard wants to join the long arm of the law so he can protect the safety of patrons from Hamburgular whilst downing a McFlurry. What an excuse not to attend training? At least it would save the Club a bit on tape and massage oil.

After being coaxed back this season and donning Andy Turner's proudly worn number 46 jumper, in the round 3 game against Heidelberg, Howsey played his first reserve grade match. In consideration to his strong form over recent weeks, he should force his way into the senior line up before the end of the season.

Off the playing field, Howsey is as quiet as he is on. He is methodical, foresighted and calm. His mate Nick Richardson or BOT (brother of twins) could not cast too many shadows over Howsey's rock solid boy next door façade. But if you muck around with BOT it is not as if trouble will follow. BOT had this to say about his early days with Howsey. "Me and Howsey used to terrorize the wannabe tough kids round Eltham, hanging out with our gang around the Post Office. We had our black beanies, tight Faberge jeans, Eastcoast top and a pack of cigarettes up under the sleeve. No one dare enter our turf." Unfortunately, mud does not stick on rays of sunshine. It was probably more like, "We tiptoed around the back after getting off the train from a night at the State Library carrying the autobiography of Bill Gates."

Howsey could also be described as an enigmatic or elusive type of character. In organising the Annual Ball the two Matties (T & W) had trouble ascertaining if Howsey was coming along. After no word on the Thursday night before, no posse was allocated. Next thing, on the day of the Ball, Mattie T gets \$120 shoved in his shorts running off the ground against Montmorency and Howsey nodding, "I'm there." Ok, but all inclusive beer & wine is not enough for Howsey and his lovely lady, hip flasks of Jim Beam No 9 kept them company. It is always the quiet ones that you have to watch out for.

Howsey's potential is apparent to all and his loyalty may one-day be justifiably rewarded as the Club moves into yet another phase of re-establishing itself. He is already a fantastic player, leader and ambassador for the younger players of the Club to follow. His next fifty games should be a highlight for all to enjoy, especially he.



A man for all seasons

Have you ever found yourself playing a team sport at an elite level, yet not experiencing the desired team spirit or a sense of common achievement? You may be standing back just before the precipice of greatness reflecting on your sporting deeds and visioning the path ahead. You are half satisfied but still yearn the closeness of kinship, you crave team camaraderie, team spirit and team passion.

Well most mere mortals are not blessed with such a talent that will take them to great heights where they have an opportunity to look down, but then we are not talking about any usual suspect. Our guy is multi-skilled in a whole host of sports where he can pick and choose what athletic endeavor turns him on. He is a man for all seasons.

With gifts beyond comprehension, Luke Ferns stepped out for his well deserved 50th open age appearance in the mighty Panther guernsey in Round 16, 4 August 2001 against Greensborough.

Clark Kent reincarnated, Ferns is blessed with great hand-eye & physical co-ordination, which propelled him to Victorian State honours in basketball as a junior. He was standing on the doormat of a very commendable career in basketball when his mind started to follow his heart.

The beginning of footy season 1998 was to be a pivotal moment in Ferns's sporting career. Fascinated by the mateship that exists within footy clubs and the great social gatherings, Ferns stepped out of his 10-year exile to resume his footy playing days. After an initial hiccup, caused by reluctance from Montmorency to clear him to Eltham (the Panthers played the Valley Magpies in round one), Ferns finally debuted for the Panthers in round two, 1998 against Bundoora.

Tragedy struck not long later, playing against Heidelberg in round 12. Sadly that afternoon Luke was left nursing serious facial injuries which required medical to be inserted in a couple of places in order to keep those cute irresistible looks together.

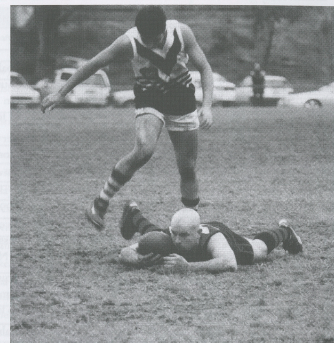
As a schoolteacher, the side effect of the incident may be helped him win cautious respect from his students. His new appearance gives him that unknown edge, someone with a shady brutal past. Possibly, a mercenary soldier injured in Africa's Far West provinces fighting guerrillas. Someone not to be crossed in the school corridors.

Naturally, Ferns was somewhat tentative about returning to the mix. Drawing on a strong will and depths of courage, he took to the playing field once more in 1999. Many doubted his comeback, but it is testament to his character and guts that he has made it a success. Overwhelmingly the Panthers' have been the beneficiary. For the past couple of years, he has dominated roaming across the half-back line and accruing 28 games in the seniors in the process.

In the same period, he has been employed at the local Eltham High School as a physical education teacher. He is still often referred to as "Mr. Ferns" by many of the young Panther's who were former students, whether partying at student/Panther Jason Burleigh's, at training or by the young ladies at a Club social function. Sometime's it is well worth the attendance at the Beach Party to watch Ferns's face cringe when half of his Year 11 & 12 girls roll up in their revealing outfits, dolled up looking ooh-la-la with all their make up. How does he ever look them in the eye of a Monday morning (particularly when he has had the optics focused elsewhere on the Saturday night)?

Many adjectives spring to mind when conjuring up images of Ferns; debonair, dashing, fashionable, charismatic and highly convivial are just a few. Unfortunately, every now and then he oversteps the line. It is a humorous sight to see him prance around in his horrendous pinstripe pants or just as comical seeing him allow the dark flowing hair grow wildly out of control.

After a couple of those early setbacks, including missing out in the 1999 reserves grand final for being over qualified, his persistence really paid off September last season. Having performed well all year and taken control at centre half-back, Ferns was part of the Premiership winning reserves team in 2000. Individual accolades also followed that day as he was awarded best on ground in the "granny". Many of his loyal followers, including Scotty Mac and Bicky remember the day vividly. "Ferns was terrific all day, played a smart game, a real Craig Bradley cameo role". When asked to explain. "Yeah, it typified a real Braddles type of game – out wide, no hard ball gets, used the silky skills".



Now a mature wiser man, Ferny can look back on his first 50 games knowing that the reason why he made the comeback to footy has paid dividends. He is one of the more popular characters down the club, who can mix with all crowds and typifies the Eltham footy club mateship and camaraderie that lured him in the first place.

Rusty Nails

Russ Macumber played his 50th game for the Eltham Football Club in Round 18, 18 August 2001 against Northcote Park. At the beginning of the 1999 season, the Panther scouts were sent out to lure an unearthed football talent down to Central Park. The tip was that their man was a dark skinned lad from the Western Suburbs. Described at around the 5'10" mark with a stocky build, rumor had it that he possessed freakish skills and had plenty of footy knowledge.

The scouts got their lead after successfully acquiring the services of Chris 'Minties' Minter, a Panther recruit himself and now a special recruiting agent based in Sunbury. Whilst the Essendon Bombers snared Dean Rioli, the Panthers were chuffed when they signed the man that fitted the bill. Their man was none other than Rusty McCumber, the silky skilled left footer. Ironically, the Panthers have reaped more games from Rusty than the Bombers with Rolls Royce Rioli.

Notching up 50 open age games since the start of the 1999 season is a testament to Russ' endurance and durability. On a first glance at Russ you could be forgiven to think that he was a love child of Leapin' Leroy Miller and a West Somaon Princess. But this quiet, pleasant lad goes about his business with no fuss or messing about. Built like a wild boar, he bullocks through the packs as if he is meandering through traffic on the Northern Ring Road. No fuss Russ.

Russ showed early promise, but spent his first 33 games frustrated in the magoo's. Watching his fellow Sunbury recruit Minter prosper in the seniors in year 2000, Russ' resolve and determination to play seniors had been forged. Realising his potential and gaining confidence in his ability was the tonic Russ required to break into the ones in round five this season against Bundoora.

From the rough and tough Western Suburbs, Russ has established, not only his footy career at Eltham, but also his employment. Not long ago, the Eltham Panthers were as welcome to the Eltham Pub as Monica Lewinski at a Clinton Family reunion. Or, for the record, light beer at the McCreery household. However, Rusty has been able to break through the inner sanctum of the local drinking hole. Word has it; Rusty makes quite a nice profit on Friday nights to keep silent about why certain senior players are bleary-eyed come Saturday morning.

When not fully concentrating, the quite and reserved Russ has been known to lose his way. A trip to Torquay with Doc, Whitmans and Minties one summer saw Russ confuse the upboard for the toilet bowl. Late one night after a heavy binge session trying to keep up with the drinking prowess of Matthew Weisheit, Russ attempting to take a leak into the toilet bowl only to successfully fill his sleeping bag cover. Thank god he handles his beer better behind the bar, than when he drinks it!

Rusty has slotted in very well at Panther land, and hopefully will continue to play many more games for the mighty red & black.



Honour Board 1st XVIII

Year	1 st Best & Fairest	2 nd Best & Fairest	3 rd Best & Fairest	Coaches Award	DVFL B&F	Goal Kicker
2001	Mark Minney	Lach Richardson	Marcus Dean	Andrew McHugh	Brett Grant David Brown	Jimmy Stirtion
2000	Lach Richardson	Steven Kilby	Mark Minney	Chris Minter	Mark Minney	Lucas Paul
1999	Mark Minney	Lucas Paul	Tom Richardson	Simon Nixon	Mark Minney	Mark Minney John Garrard
1998	Lucas Paul	Steven Kilby	Ashley Dickson	Steven Kilby	Minney/Moyle/ Dickson/Grant	Mark Minney
1997	Garry Ramsay	David Brown	Darren Jansen	Matthew Weisheit	David Brown	Greg Wilson
1996	David Brown	Mark Minney	Daniel Howse	Dean Philpots	Daniel Howse	Ashley Dickson
1995	Darren Jansen	David Brown	Garry Ramsay	Eddie Almatrah	David Brown	Scott Gathercole
1994	Shane Gardam	David Brown	Robert Owen	David Bode	David Streat	Brett Shea
1993	Steve Russell	Darren Sinclair	David Brown	Robert Owen	Darren Sinclair	Ashley Dickson
1992	Daryl Megna	Sandy Hyslop	Jamie Stickland		Daryl Megna	Craig Johnson
1991	Sandy Hyslop	Garry Ramsay	Travis Walker		Travis Walker	Michael Doherty
1990	Andrew Dale	Sandy Hyslop	Robert Solar Cameron Walker		Andrew Dale	Sammy Oldfield
1989	Cameron Walker	Andrew Russell	Sammy Oldfield	Paul Bradford	Cameron Walker	Jamie Stickland
1988	Cameron Walker	Jamie Stickland	Daryl Megna		Daryl Megna	Darren MacLaine
1987	Andrew Dale	Warren Deards	Robert Solar		Robert Solar	Ron Wilson

Honour Board 2nd XVIII

Year	1 st Best & Fairest	2 nd Best & Fairest	3 rd Best & Fairest	Coaches Award	DVFL B&F	Goal Kicker
2001	Paul Smith	Luke Ferns	Matthew Weisheit	Matthew Weisheit	Matthew Weisheit Reid Gardam	John Garrard
2000	Dean Philpots	Matthew Rogers	David Streat	Mick Iddon	David Streat	Greg Wilson
1999	Andrew Clark	Greg Wilson	Grant Pittard	Scott Jackson	David Streat	Greg Wilson
1998	Andrew Turner	Mick Iddon	Chris Daw	Andrew Turner	Joe Fisher Darren Jansen	David Ward
1997	Justin Green	Jamie Cameron	Marcus Gardam Grant Pittard	Justin Green	Bret Shea	Darren Hartney
1996	Gary Griffin	Grant Pittard	Rod Whitcher	Lynton Evans	Brett Grant	G Baker
1995	Michael Iddon	Matthew Rogers	Greg Wilson	Andrew Turner	Greg Wilson Steven Kilby	Peter Candy
1994	Darren Arnel	Rohan Burch	Rod Whitcher	Grant Pittard	Blair Pennell	Adam Gardam
1993	Darren Arnel	Kevin Lynch	Greg Wilson		Blair Pennell Grant Pittard	Adam Gardam
1992	John Goulding	David Streat	Robert Owen		Paul Hington	Darren Campbell
1991	Daryl Megna	Ray Buhagiar	David Streat		Ray Buhagiar	Ray Buhagiar Adrian Mezzalana
1990	Brett Johnstone	David Huxtable Corey Jewell			Colin Smyth	Colin Smyth
1989	Colin Smyth	Peter Shaw	Andy Ryan	D Flannigan	Peter Shaw	Colin Smyth
1988	Peter Shaw	Billy Beruldsen	Shane Leech		Peter Shaw	Jason Schembri
1987	Gary French	Kevin Lynch	David Wilson		Alan Rock	Mark Deany

Honour Board 3rd XVIII

Year	1 st Best & Fairest	2 nd Best & Fairest	3 rd Best & Fairest	Coaches Award	DVFL B&F	Goal Kicker
2001	Keith Davidson	Adam Burton	Brett Aldred	Paul Haydock	Paul Haydock	Ben Waterman
2000	Ty O'Meara	Lloyd Mash	Chris Brincat	Jason Burleigh	Brett Aldred	Luke Kennell
1999	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	Johnathon Caddy	Tom Richardson	Chris Moyle	James Lambeth	Johnathon Caddy	Johnathon Caddy
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996	-	-	-	-	Daniel Palumbo	Adam Locklier
1995	Travis Roberts	Ben Struve	Paul Martin	Mark Burns	Travis Roberts	Ben Struve
1994	Craig Haydock	Steven Kilby	Matthew Rogers	Adrian Palumbo	Steven Kilby	Steven Kilby
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-
1992	Shane Gloury	Paul Brown	Ashley Dickson	Chris Fisher	Paul Brown	Ashley Dickson
1991	-	-	-	-	-	-
1990	-	-	-	-	-	-
1989	Ken Sparks	Phillip Harris	Craig Johnston	Phillip Harris	Brett Shea M Ray	Brett Shea
1988	Leigh Miller	Glen Leslie	Steven Pitt	-	Marcus Gardam	Brett Shea
1987	Steve Jablonski	Mark Owens	Paul Smith	-	Rohan Burch	Cameron Simpson

Club Captains & Coaches

Year	Captains			Coaches		
	1 st XVIII	2 nd XVIII	3 rd XVIII	1 st XVIII	2 nd XVIII	3 rd XVIII
2001	Craig McKay	Dean Philpots	Adam Burton	Grant Turnbull	Wayne Freeman	Joe Donato
2000	Lucas Paul Mark Minney	Greg Wilson Dean Philpots	Joel Hewish	Garry Jessop	Wayne Freeman	Joe Donato
1999	David Brown	Greg Wilson	-	Garry Jessop	Wayne Freeman	Joe Donato
1998	David Brown	Darren Hartney	Andrew McHugh Johnathon Caddy Tom Richardson	Ray Spratt Michael Jones	Michael Jones	Greg Wilson
1997	Paul Smith	Greg Wilson	-	Ray Spratt	Gary Collinson	-
1996	Paul Smith	Greg Wilson	Daniel Palumbo	Peter Hall	Gary Collinson	Serg Gigliotto
1995	Paul Smith	Byron Smith	Adam Every	Grant Wilmot	Gary Collinson	Brett McCormack
1994	Darren Sinclair	Darren Arnel	Adrian Palumbo	Grant Wilmot	Max Paisley	Bob Burton
1993	Daryl Megna	Darren Arnel	-	Peter Slack	Michael Barclay	-
1992	Mick McDonald	Gary Griffin	Paul Brown	Peter Slack	Michael Barclay	Paul Smith
1991	Sandy Hyslop	Paul Hingston	-	Brian Preece	Michael Barclay	-
1990	Andrew Dale	Jeff Blaney	-	Brian Preece	Ian Kyte	-
1989	Andrew Russell	Peter Shaw	Phillip Harris	Peter Moore	Ian Kyte	David Ramsay
1988	Andrew Russell	Peter Bradford	Glen Leslie	Andrew Dale	Bob Burton	David Ramsay
1987	Andrew Russell	Wayne Tesch	Andrew Hingston	Ron Wilson	Wayne Tesch	Bob Burton

Head-to-Head History

Team	Played	Wins	Losses	Draws	%	Last win	Last loss	Sequence
Epping	85	38	46	1	44.7%	1998	2001	2 losses
Macleod	84	60	23	1	71.4%	2000	2000	1 win
Heidelberg	80	30	50	0	37.5%	1982	2001	13 losses
Greensborough	77	25	52	0	32.4%	1977	2001	17 losses
Montmorency	75	25	48	2	33.3%	1977	2001	17 losses
Diamond Creek	74	42	31	1	56.8%	2000	2000	1 win
Heidelberg West	73	38	31	4	52.1%	2000	1994	6 wins
South Morang	67	49	18	0	73.1%	2000	1997	2 wins
North Heidelberg	50	20	29	1	40%	1990	2001	11 losses
Watsonia	37	26	11	0	70.2%	2000	1993	8 wins
Reservoir	30	12	18	0	40.0%	2000	1997	3 wins
Lalor	30	15	15	0	50.0%	1983	1998	11 losses
Northcote Park	27	7	20	0	25.9%	1988	2001	12 losses
West Preston	26	12	14	0	46.1%	1995	2001	4 losses
Mernida	23	17	5	1	73.9%	2000	2000	1 win
Whittlesea	16	10	6	0	62.5%	2000	2000	2 wins
Bundoora	16	2	14	0	12.5%	1981	2001	14 losses
Hurstbridge	14	8	6	0	57.1%	1999	2000	1 loss
Lower Plenty	8	3	5	0	37.5%	1997	2001	5 losses
Kinglake	4	4	0	0	100.0%	2000	-	4 wins
Panton Hill	4	4	0	0	100.0%	2000	-	4 wins
Fawkner Park	1	1	0	0	100.0%	2000	-	1 win
Reservoir/Lakeside	77	47	28	2	62.7%	Last played in 1998		
Templestowe	50	22	28	0	44.0%	Last played in 1988		
Thornbury	10	9	1	0	90.0%	Last played in 1989		
Research	8	7	1	0	87.5%	Last played in 1989		
Coburg/StAndrews	2	2	0	0	100.0%	Last played in 1995		
Totals	1048	535	500	13	51.0%			

Winning Records XVIII

Team	Highest winning score	Lowest winning score	Lowest score against	Greatest winning margin
Epping	26-19-175 (1971)	7-9-51 (1978)	4-1-25 (1972)	115 points (1972)
Macleod	30-24-204 (1987)	7-19-61 (1985)	0-0-0 (1995)	175 points (1994)
Heidelberg	19-17-131 (1975)	8-13-61 (1957)	4-7-31 (1969)	71 points (1972)
Greensborough	23-19-157 (1970)	8-8-56 (1949)	3-10-28 (1950)	119 points (1969)
Montmorency	20-12-132 (1957)	7-12-54 (1971)	4-17-41 (1967)	71 points (1957)
Heidelberg West	28-26-194 (1970)	3-11-29 (1953)	4-0-24 (1977)	169 points (1970)
Diamond Creek	23-13-151 (1949)	6-3-39 (1990)	3-5-23 (1950)	112 points (1949)
South Morang	38-18-246 (1956)	7-8-50 (1981)	0-6-6 (1957)	238 points (1956)
North Heidelberg	27-20-182 (1969)	5-6-36 (1972)	2-2-14 (1971)	160 points (1969)
Watsonia	26-22-178 (1995)	6-9-45 (1988)	1-8-14 (1959)	158 points (1995)
Reservoir	25-23-173 (1986)	8-9-57 (1995)	2-5-17 (1995)	118 points (1986)
Lalor	26-21-177 (1970)	9-10-64 (1977)	6-6-42 (1970)	121 points (1970)
Northcote Park	25-7-157 (1982)	11-8-74 (1987)	10-7-67 (1987)	61 points (1982)
West Preston	23-10-148 (1985)	7-13-55 (1988)	1-8-14 (1988)	74 points (1987)
Mernda	23-15-153 (2000)	4-9-33 (1992)	1-3-9 (1988)	83 points (2000)
Whittlesea	17-12-114 (1994-2000)	7-9-51 (1995)	1-4-10 (1995)	71 points (1997)
Bundoora	17-16-118 (1981)	11-11-77 (1981)	7-8-50 (1981)	27 points (1981)
Hurstbridge	31-19-205 (1989)	9-9-63 (1995)	2-9-21 (1988)	168 points (1989)
Lower Plenty	23-18-156 (1995)	8-21-69 (1995)	4-4-28 (1995)	103 points (1995)
Kinglake	33-22-2000 (1999)	22-22-154 (1999)	4-4-28 (1999)	192 points (1999)
Panton Hill	35-12-222 (1999)	12-11-83 (2000)	7-9-51 (2000)	165 points (1999)
Fawkner Park	28-10-178 (2000)	28-10-178 (2000)	8-10-58 (2000)	120 points (2000)

Highest winning score	52-41-353 verses Thornbury (1989)
Lowest winning score	3-11-29 verses Heidelberg West (1953)
Lowest score against	0-0-0 verses Thornbury (1989) & Macleod (1995)
Greatest winning margin	353 points verses Thornbury (1989)
Longest winning streak	22 wins during 1989-90

Losing Records

Team	Highest losing score	Lowest losing score	Highest score against	Greatest losing margin
Epping	16-10-106 (1975)	1-4-10 (1991)	33-13-211 (1965)	160 points (1960)
Macleod	17-14-116 (2000)	3-12-30 (1948)	21-23-149 (1980)	81 points (1980)
Heidelberg	17-8-110 (1990)	3-8-26 (1962)	23-23-161 (1966)	118 points (1971)
Greensborough	18-12-130 (2001)	0-4-4 (1991)	33-30-228 (1965)	199 points (1966)
Montmorency	17-7-109 (1983)	1-3-9 (1991)	33-17-215 (1964)	181 points (1964)
Heidelberg West	22-7-139 (1983)	1-10-16 (1980)	23-9-147 (1983)	119 points (1980)
Diamond Creek	16-4-100 (1980)	1-4-10 (1966)	28-25-193 (1966)	183 points (1966)
South Morang	16-20-116 (1984)	2-5-17 (1965)	18-14-122 (1994)	78 points (1962)
North Heidelberg	12-14-86 (1976)	1-3-9 (1996)	34-20-224 (1996)	215 points (1996)
Watsonia	18-6-114 (1979)	6-16-52 (1993)	22-11-143 (1984)	48 points (1984)
Reservoir	14-13-97 (1986)	2-8-20 (1947)	28-14-182 (1947)	162 points (1947)
Lalor	14-16-100 (1983)	2-5-17 (1971)	27-17-179 (1992)	160 points (1992)
Northcote Park	15-9-99 (2001)	2-5-17 (1996)	34-25-229 (1998)	200 points (1998)
West Preston	11-9-75 (1984)	3-9-27 (1993)	30-19-199 (1993)	157 points (1993)
Mernda	14-9-93 (1987)	4-5-29 (2000)	23-5-143 (1997)	64 points (1997)
Whittlesea	11-9-75 (1997)	3-8-26 (1999)	24-24-168 (1993)	114 points (1993)
Bundoora	13-15-93 (2001)	3-2-20 (1996)	30-21-201 (1998)	177 points (1998)
Hurstbridge	13-6-84 (1995)	6-11-47 (1994)	22-17-149 (1994)	93 points (1994)
Lower Plenty	9-11-65 (1999)	4-4-28 (2001)	17-12-114 (1999)	78 points (1999)
Kinglake	-	-	-	-
Panton Hill	-	-	-	-
Fawkner Park	-	-	-	-

Highest losing score	22-7-139 verses Heidelberg West (1983)
Lowest losing score	0-4-4 verses Greensborough (1991)
Highest score against	34-25-229 verses Northcote Park (1998)
Greatest losing margin	222 points verses Reservoir/Lakeside (1966)
Longest losing streak	29 games during 1962-64 and 1965-66



EPPSA Members

The EPPSA executive would like to recognize the support of the following EPPSA members:

Debbie Aldred	Steven Jablonski	Wayne Philpots	Derek Smith
John Barnes	Michael Jones	David Ramsey	Paul Smith
Bill Bray	Mark Jones	Dave Robinson	Matthew Tallack
Rodney Bray	Eddie Mapperson	Steve Russell	Andy Turner
Brett Grant	Keith Minney	Andrew Russell	Alex Walker
Craig Haydock	Matthew O'Brein	Brian Sharp	Hans Willemsse
Rod Haydock	Sam Oldfield	Byron Smith	Matthew Weisheit
Paul Hingston	Dean Philpots	Denise Smith	Greg Wilson



