

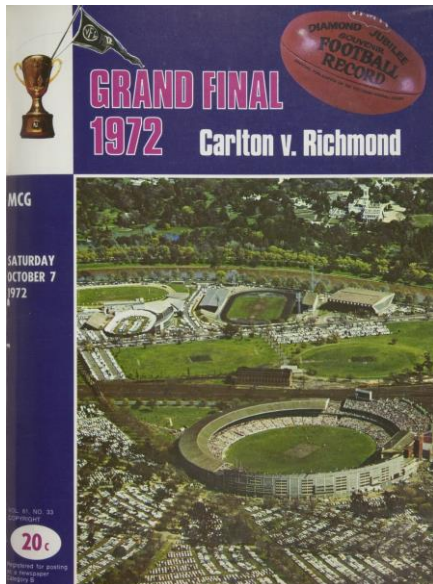


MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

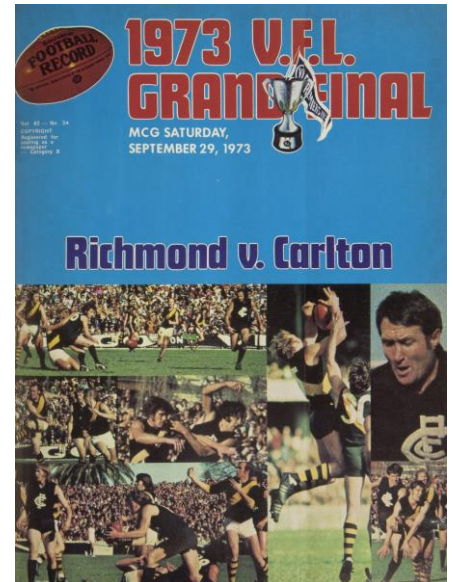
AFL 2023 ROUND 1 RICHMOND V CARLTON

LIBRARY FACT SHEET MARCH 16, 2023

THE 1972 AND 1973 PREMIERSHIPS



The Tigers and the Blues played their fourth and fifth grand finals against each other in 1972 and 1973. They had met previously in the 1921, 1932 and 1969 grand finals, Richmond winning all of those, the first by four points, the second by nine points and the third by 25 points. Following their 1969 premiership, the Tigers surprisingly missed the finals in 1970, while Carlton famously overcame a 44-point half time deficit to beat Collingwood in that year's grand final. The Blues then missed the finals in 1971 and Richmond lost that year's preliminary final to St Kilda.



Carlton finished on top of the ladder in **1972**, having won 18 games and drawn one, with Richmond in second place on 18 wins. Both were well clear of third placed Collingwood with 14 wins. Two of Carlton's three losses had been at the hands of Richmond, by five points in Round 4, and by 31 points in Round 14. In the first year of the final five, the teams then drew their semi final, both kicking 8.13 (61), but Richmond returned to top form in the replay, taking that match by 41 points. As a result, the Tigers entered the grand final as hot favourites, the Blues having beaten St Kilda in the preliminary final to qualify for the premiership decider.

Carlton captain-coach John Nicholls decided that daring tactics would have to be employed if his team was to outscore the rampant Tigers, so he packed the forward line with star players and gave instructions to throw caution to the wind and attack at all costs. Crucially Nicholls himself lined up in the forward pocket, instead of starting in the ruck, and kicked three goals in the first quarter. By half time Carlton had scored an astonishing 18.6 (114) to Richmond's 10.9 (69). The scoring spree continued in the second half, the Blues finishing on 28.9 (177) to Richmond's 22.18 (150). Alex Jesaulenko kicked seven goals for the winners and Robert Walls and Nicholls both bagged six. Neil Balme kicked five for the Tigers.

Collingwood appeared to be the team to beat in **1973**, having won 19 home and away games and lost just three. Richmond were second with 17 wins and Carlton third on 15. The Tigers had beaten the Blues by 26 points in Round 6, but Carlton had won the return match in Round 17, also by 26 points. The Blues upset the Tigers by 20 points in the qualifying final and then beat the Magpies by 20 points in a semi final. After the loss to Carlton, Richmond found their best form to beat St Kilda easily, and then came back from a 45-point deficit to defeat the disappointing Magpies by seven points in the preliminary final.

The grand final is probably best remembered for Richmond back pocket Laurie Fowler's "David and Goliath" shirt front of John Nicholls three minutes into the first quarter. Although Nicholls managed to kick a goal from the resulting free kick, he was severely limited from then on and finished the match with just three kicks and one handball. As Carlton star David McKay commented later: "To see someone who was a colossus knocked out like that really stung". The Tigers led at every change and ran out easy winners by 30 points. Kevin Bartlett, Royce Hart and Kevin Sheedy were Richmond's best, and winger Gary Crane gathered 27 possessions for the Blues.

OVER TO YOU

1. Name the Carlton centre line in the 1972 grand final. Their numbers were 34, 12 and 27.
2. Name the Richmond centre line in the 1973 grand final. Their numbers were 16, 2 and 7.

This Round in History – Round 1 on the MCG

The MCG has witnessed some big wins in Round 1. The biggest was Geelong's 127-point victory over Melbourne in 1996. This bettered Melbourne's 105-point win over South Melbourne in 1971. The Cats' score of 27.21 (183) in 1996 is also the best Round 1 score on the MCG. The best score in one quarter was by Essendon which kicked 11.3 (69) during the second quarter against Melbourne in 1935. Drawn games have figured prominently in Round 1 over the years. However, only one has taken place on the MCG, when Melbourne drew with Sydney 11.18 (84) apiece on March 27, 2011. The highest tally of goals kicked in Round 1 on the MCG was 12 by Essendon's Ted Freyer against Melbourne in 1935. The top attendance for a Round 1 game at the MCG is 90,151 for the Carlton-Richmond game in 2018.

Statistics for Richmond v Carlton

Richmond v Carlton by venue

	Won by Richmond	Won by Carlton	Drawn
MCG	49	36	0
Docklands	1	2	0
Princes Park	23	54	1
Punt Road	21	30	0
Waverley	3	4	1
	97	126	2

Last Time They Met – Round 14, 2022, MCG

	Richmond	Carlton
Quarter time	3.2	0.4
Half time	7.6	3.5
Three-quarter time	8.10	6.8
Full time	11.15 (81)	9.12 (66)

Highest Score

Richmond	25.24 (174)	Rd 1	1978	MCG
Carlton	28.16 (184)	Rd 15	2011	MCG

Lowest Score

Richmond	2.9 (21)	Rd 10	1958	PP
Carlton	3.10 (28)	Rd 9	1924	PP

Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	85 points	Rd 7	2005	MCG
Carlton	115 points	Rd 14	1984	PP

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

10	Jim Baird	Carl	Rd 1	1943	PP
10	Sel Murray	Rich	Rd 7	1945	PP
10	Robert Walls	Carl	Rd 7	1976	PP

DID YOU KNOW?

- Carlton Football Club was formed in 1864 and was a foundation member of the VFA in 1877 and then the VFL in 1897. The Blues performed poorly in the early years of the VFL, finishing second last in the first five seasons, but following the appointment of Jack Worrall as secretary/coach, the club made the finals for the first time in 1903. They would go on to win successive premierships in 1906, 1907 and 1908.
- The current Richmond Football Club was founded in 1885 and applied successfully for immediate membership of the VFA. The club joined the VFL in 1908 and reached the finals for the first time in 1916. Following the appointment of former Collingwood star Dan Minogue as captain-coach, the Tigers won their first VFL flag in 1920.
- These clubs have met in 225 matches, the Blues winning 126 of those, the Tigers 97 and two matches have been drawn. Carlton has averaged 89 points in those games and the Tigers 82. They have played in 23 finals, Richmond winning 16 of those, Carlton six and one was drawn. They have met in six grand finals, Richmond winning four of those.
- Five Richmond players have so far been named as AFL Legends: Jack Dyer, Kevin Bartlett, Royce Hart, Ian Stewart and Kevin Sheedy. Three Carlton players have been named as Legends: John Nicholls, Ron Barassi and Alex Jesaulenko.
- Six Carlton players were named in the AFL/VFL Team of the Century: John Nicholls, Ron Barassi, Alex Jesaulenko, Bruce Doull, Greg Williams and Stephen Silvagni. Four Richmond players were named: Jack Dyer, Royce Hart, Francis Bourke and Ian Stewart.

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Q1 Ian Robertson, Barry Armstrong and David Dickson. **Q2** Bryan Wood, Ian Stewart and Wayne Walsh

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

Fact sheets are prepared by MCC Library volunteers David Allen, Eric Panther, Quentin Miller, Dennis Carroll, Ian Wilkinson, and Gaye Fitzpatrick, with MCC deputy librarian Trevor Ruddell and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.