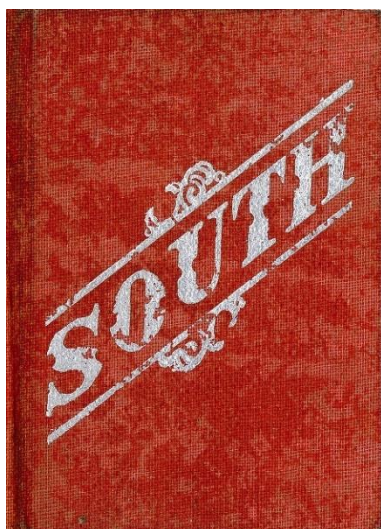




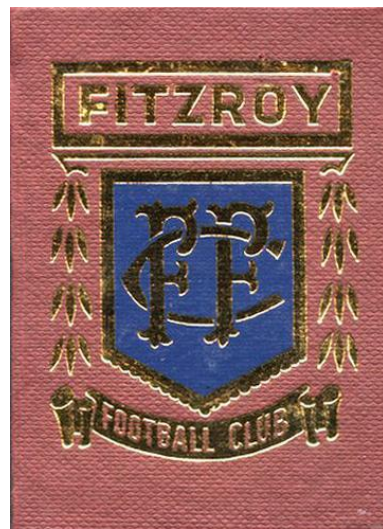
## MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

### 2024 AFL GRAND FINAL SYDNEY SWANS V BRISBANE LIONS



#### THE 1899 GRAND FINAL

In 1899 the VFL consisted of eight clubs – Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Melbourne, St Kilda and South Melbourne. Each club played the other seven twice during the home and away season (14 Rounds). At the end of the home and away rounds, Fitzroy headed the ladder with 11 wins and three losses. South Melbourne were placed sixth with five wins and nine losses. All clubs then played three further matches, in what were known as “sectional rounds”. Section A comprised the teams that had finished first (Fitzroy), third (Collingwood), fifth (Melbourne) and seventh (Carlton) after the home and away rounds. Section B comprised the teams that had finished second (Geelong), fourth (Essendon), sixth (South Melbourne) and eighth (St Kilda). Fitzroy defeated Carlton (by 1 point), Melbourne (by 38 points) and Collingwood (by



14 points) to head Section A. South Melbourne defeated Geelong (by 3 points), St Kilda (by 70 points) and Essendon (by 15 points) to head Section B. The winners of Section A and B then played off for the premiership.

The grand final took place at the Junction Oval in St Kilda on September 16, 1899, before a crowd of just under 5,000. It was a thrilling game played in bad conditions with a considerable amount of rain having fallen before the start (which partly explains the small crowd). South Melbourne kicked with the wind in the first quarter and scored two goals three to Fitzroy’s single behind. Against the wind, South did not score in the second quarter, while Fitzroy added two goals three to lead by one point at the main break (2.4 to 2.3). South did not capitalise on the wind in the third term, scoring one goal and four behinds to two behinds by Fitzroy. This left them seven points ahead at the final change (3.7 to 2.6). Fitzroy hit the front midway through the final quarter, following a goal to Billy McSpeerin. Nevertheless, South still had chances to win the game with one of their shots scoring a behind and another failing to score completely. In the end, one point separated the sides. The final scores were Fitzroy 3.9 (27) to South Melbourne 3.8 (26). In addition to McSpeerin, Fred Fontaine and Mick Grace kicked goals for Fitzroy. For South, Harry Lampe booted two goals and Charlie Colgan one.

#### Sydney Swans versus Brisbane Lions in Finals

Sydney and Brisbane have played in only one final since the Brisbane Lions began playing in the AFL in 1997:

- First Preliminary Final 2003 at Stadium Australia – Attendance: 71,019 – Brisbane 14.16 (100) defeated Sydney 8.8 (56)

#### Sydney Swans versus Fitzroy in Finals

The Swans played one final against Fitzroy while based in Sydney:

- First Semi Final 1986 at the MCG – Attendance: 65,763 – Fitzroy 13.16 (94) defeated Sydney 13.11 (89)

#### South Melbourne versus Fitzroy in Finals

The clubs played three finals matches prior to the Swans’ move to Sydney:

- Grand Final 1899 at the Junction Oval, St Kilda – Attendance: 4,823 – Fitzroy 3.9 (27) defeated South Melbourne 3.8 (26)
- Preliminary Final 1923 at the MCG – Attendance: 55,039 – Fitzroy 7.13 (55) defeated South Melbourne 6.7 (43)
- Round Robin Final 1924\* at the Lake Oval, South Melbourne – Attendance: 17,503 – South Melbourne 13.8 (86) defeated Fitzroy 10.13 (73) (\* For details of the 1924 final series see the *Library Retrospective Record*.)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

One of the members of the South Melbourne side in the 1899 grand final was Warwick Armstrong, later to become famous as one of Australia’s greatest ever cricketers. He played 50 Tests for Australia from 1902 to 1921, making 2,863 runs at an average of 38.68 and scoring six centuries. He also took 87 wickets with his leg-spin deliveries, averaging 33.59. He captained Australia in ten Tests and was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2000.

# THE MONSTER 2024 AFL GRAND FINAL “OVER TO YOU”

1. In which year did the record crowd of 121,696 attend the grand final?
2. Name the VFL/AFL clubs who have never won a premiership.
3. Who are the Collingwood brothers who both won the Brownlow Medal and played in a Magpie record of six premiership teams?
4. Which three clubs have the highest number of AFL/VFL premierships?
5. Name the seven venues used for grand finals besides the MCG.
6. Which player has the most grand final appearances and the most premierships?
7. The Norm Smith Medal is awarded to the best player afield in the VFL/AFL grand final. It was first awarded in 1979 and presented by whom?
8. In which season was a premiership cup first presented to the victorious captain on the day of the grand final?
9. Who was the first player to play 300 games, kick 100 goals in a season and win the Brownlow Medal?
10. Who was the last premiership captain-coach?
11. Which club won seven flags before 1923?
12. When was the grand final televised live in its entirety for the first time in Melbourne?
13. Name the three clubs that have lost three consecutive grand finals.
14. Who is the premiership player with the fewest career matches?
15. Who is the youngest player to appear in a premiership side?
16. Who was the oldest player to appear in a premiership side?
17. In the 2011 grand final the first four goals were kicked by players named Travis. Can you name them?
18. Name the clubs that have won three or more premierships in a row.
19. Who am I? I came to AFL football from Glenelg. I played 195 games with Brisbane and kicked 232 goals. I played in the Lions premiership teams 2001-03. I now coach an AFL side.
20. When was the first VFL grand final played?
21. The 2023 All Australian side contained only five players who had been selected in the 2022 side. They come from five different teams. Can you name them?
22. When was the first grand final played at the MCG?
23. Which team won the first VFL premiership in 1897?
24. Who is the only man to captain grand finals teams for two clubs?
25. What was Sydney's winning margin in the 2005 grand final?
26. Who was the last umpire to control a VFL grand final alone?
27. In which year were premiership medallions presented to players immediately after the grand final for the first time?
28. Which club finished last in 1916 yet won the flag?
29. Who am I? I was a champion player with two clubs. I played with Fitzroy from 1982 to 1994 in 269 games, kicking 270 goals. I then joined Sydney from 1995 to 1998, playing 87 games (19 goals).
30. When was the first VFL grand final in which player numbers were used?
31. In which year did Joe Daniher's father play in a grand final and for which club did he play?
32. Who am I? I played in 31 finals and kicked 111 goals. In ten grand finals I kicked 35 goals.
33. Which teams did Brisbane defeat to win their premierships in 2001, 2002 and 2003?
34. Can you name the year? Richmond won the premiership, Hawthorn played their last game at Glenferrie Oval and Gala Supreme won the Melbourne Cup.
35. Who am I? My nickname was 'Tilt'. I played with Fitzroy from 1974 to 1979 in 76 games (0 goals). I then played with South Melbourne/Sydney from 1980 to 1990 in 217 games (1 goal)?
36. There are two cases of brothers playing on opposing sides in a grand final. Who were they and in which years did this happen?
37. What has been the greatest winning margin in a grand final?
38. How many premierships did Norm Smith win as a player and coach with Melbourne?
39. Which club scored 2.13 (25) to win a grand final during the 1920s?
40. Can you name the Carlton 1995 premiership player who also played Sheffield Shield Cricket for Western Australia?

**Answers Back Page**

## PAST GRAND FINALS AT THE MCG

With the exception of the Fitzroy v South Melbourne grand final in 1899 which was played at the Junction Oval, all of the following records were set in grand finals played at the MCG. The highest score is 28.9 (177) by Carlton against Richmond 22.18 (150) in 1972. The highest score in a quarter is 11.8 (74) by Essendon in the third quarter against Melbourne in 1946. The greatest winning margin in a grand final is 119 points in 2007 when Geelong 24.19 (163) defeated Port Adelaide 6.8 (44). Three grand finals have been drawn. They were in 1948 when Essendon 7.27 (69) drew with Melbourne 10.9 (69) and Melbourne won the replay. In 1977 Collingwood 10.16 (76) drew with North Melbourne 9.22 (76) and North Melbourne won the replay. In 2010 Collingwood 9.14 (68) drew with St Kilda 10.8 (68) and the Woods won the replay. Four grand finals have been won by one point. They were in 1899 when Fitzroy 3.9 (27) defeated South Melbourne 3.8 (26), 1947 when Carlton 13.8 (86) defeated Essendon 11.19 (85), 1966 when St Kilda 10.14 (74) defeated Collingwood 10.13 (73) and 2006 when West Coast 12.13 (85) downed Sydney 12.12 (84). The biggest bag of goals is nine kicked by two players – Gordon Coventry for Collingwood against Richmond in 1928 and Gary Ablett Snr for Geelong against Hawthorn in 1989. The record grand final attendance occurred on September 26, 1970 when 121,696 saw Carlton defeat Collingwood by 10 points. From 1956 to 1986 only five grand final attendances failed to exceed 100,000 spectators. However, since then only eight grand final crowds have reached six figures. These are the 2008 grand final with 100,012, the 2010 drawn grand final when 100,016 attended, the 2013 grand final with 100,007, 2017 when 100,021 attended, 2018 when 100,022 attended, 2019 when 100,014 attended, and 2022 and 2023 when the crowd was a capacity 100,024 for both.

## THE ROAD TO VFL/AFL GRAND FINALS – AN OVERVIEW

**1897 and 1924:** The top four teams after the home and away series played each other in a round-robin series, the winner being declared premiers.

**1898 to 1900:** After 14 home and away rounds, the top team was declared to be “minor premiers”. Three rounds of “sectional matches” were then played, the winners of each section playing off in the final. If necessary, the “minor premiers” could challenge the final winners.

**1901:** Although the three sectional rounds were still played, they were included with the home and away games to determine the final four that played off, the winners of each semi final playing in the grand final. There was no right of challenge.

**1902 to 1923 and 1925 to 1930:** This system was known as the “Argus” system. Again, the team that finished on top after the home and away series was declared minor premiers (subject to certain restrictions). The four top teams played off, the winners of the semi finals playing off in the final. The minor premiers, if defeated in their semi final or final, could (subject to the rules) challenge the final winners for the premiership.

**1931 to 1971:** The original Page-McIntyre system. The top four clubs after the home and away games played under the following system: first semi final – third v fourth – loser omitted; second semi final – first v second; preliminary final – loser of second semi final v winner of first semi final – loser omitted; grand final – winner of second semi final v winner of preliminary final.

**1972 to 1990:** The final five system was introduced. The top five clubs played under the following system: elimination final – fourth v fifth – loser omitted; qualifying final – second v third; first semi final – loser of qualifying final v winner of elimination final – loser omitted; second semi final – first v winner of qualifying final; preliminary final – loser of second semi final v

winner of first semi final – loser omitted; grand final – winner of second semi final v winner of preliminary final.

**1991:** A final six system was introduced. The top six clubs after the home and away series played under the following system: first elimination final – fifth v sixth – loser omitted; second elimination final – third v fourth – loser omitted; qualifying final – first v second. The four remaining clubs, in order of qualifying final winner, second elimination final winner, qualifying final loser and first elimination final winner, then played out the finals as per the Page-McIntyre final four system, with the first and second semi finals in week two.

**1992 to 1993:** The final six system was revised and operated as follows: first elimination final – fourth v fifth – loser eliminated; second elimination final – third v sixth – loser eliminated; qualifying final – first v second. The winner of the qualifying final played the higher-placed elimination final winner in the second semi final. The loser of the qualifying final played the lower-placed elimination final winner as the finals system reverted to the Page-McIntyre final four system.

**1994 to 1999:** A final eight system was used. All eight teams played in the first round, first v eighth, second v seventh and so on. The two lowest-placed losers were eliminated, the two highest-placed winners proceeded to the preliminary finals with the remaining four clubs playing in semi finals. The semi final winners played in the preliminary finals with the winners of these two matches fighting out the grand final.

**2000 to today:** A revision was made to the final eight system. It is a complicated but fair system. The qualifying and elimination finals (week 1), the semi finals (week 2) and the preliminary finals (week 3) have been explained in previous MCC Library Fact Sheets. Today’s grand final is played between the winner of the first preliminary final (Sydney Swans) and the winner of the second preliminary final (Brisbane Lions).

## THE 2024 BROWNLOW MEDAL

Congratulations to Carlton’s Patrick Cripps on winning this year’s Brownlow Medal. Cripps polled a record 45 votes, while Collingwood’s Nick Daicos was runner up with 38 votes. Daicos also broke the previous record vote tally which was 36. This is Cripps second Brownlow Medal, having become just the sixth Blue to claim the AFL’s highest award in 2022. He is the 17th player to have received the honour on more than one occasion. In the 2024 Brownlow voting, Cripps received three votes in twelve games during the season, two votes in four games and one vote once. Born and raised in Western Australia, Cripps played his junior footy for the Northampton Rams in that state’s mid-west, before moving to Perth and playing in East Fremantle’s junior sides. He was drafted at pick 13 by Carlton in the 2013 AFL National Draft, and he made his debut for the Blues in 2014. Cripps was appointed Carlton’s co-captain in 2019, and from 2022 he has been the club’s sole captain. Cripps has been named in the 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2024 All Australian sides, he won the John Nicholls Medal for Carlton’s best and fairest player in 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2022, and he was the AFL Players’ Association’s Leigh Matthews Trophy winner in 2019. This year Cripps also received Channel 9’s Sunday Footy Show’s 2024 Lou Richards Medal as voted by the panellists each week.

## 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, Gaye Fitzpatrick and Edward Cohen with MCC Deputy Librarian Trevor Ruddell, the Librarian David Studham, and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.**

***The MCC Library thanks the above people for their work on numerous MCC Library Fact Sheets during the 2024 AFL season.***

# STATISTICS FOR SOUTH MELBOURNE/SYDNEY V FITZROY/BRISBANE

## South Melbourne/Sydney in Statistics

**Joined VFL/AFL** 1897  
**Premierships** 5: 1909, 1918, 1933, 2005, 2012  
**Runners-up** 13: 1899, 1907, 1912, 1914, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1945, 1996, 2006, 2014, 2016, 2022.

### Brownlow Medallists:

H. Matthews (1940), R. Clegg (1949), F. Goldsmith (1955)  
 B. Skilton (1959, 1963, 1968), P. Bedford (1970),  
 G. Teasdale (1977), B. Round (1981), G. Williams (1986),  
 G. Healey (1988), P. Kelly (1995), A. Goodes (2003, 2006).

## Fitzroy/Brisbane in Statistics

**Joined VFL/AFL** Fitzroy: 1897 Brisbane Bears: 1987  
 Amalgamated as Brisbane Lions: 1997  
**Premierships** 11: 1898, 1899, 1904, 1905, 1913, 1916, 1922, 1944, 2001, 2002, 2003.

**Runners-up** 7: 1900, 1903, 1906, 1917, 1923, 2004, 2023.

### Brownlow Medallists:

H. Bunton Sr. (1931, 1932, 1935), W. Smallhorn (1933),  
 D. Ryan (1936) A. Ruthven (1950) K. Murray (1969),  
 B. Quinlan (1981), M. Voss (1996), J. Ackermanis (2001),  
 S. Black (2002), L. Neale (2020, 2023).

## Sydney v Brisbane Bears/Lions by venue

	Won by Sydney	Won by Brisbane	Drawn
Carrara	2	3	0
Cazalys Stadium	0	1	0
Gabba	12	11	1
SCG	14	10	0
Stadium Australia	2	1	0
	30	26	1

## Sydney v Brisbane Bears/Lions Highest Score

Sydney	22.17 (149)	Rd 17	1998	Gabba
Brisbane	33.21 (219)	Rd 8	1993	Gabba

## Sydney v Brisbane Bears/Lions Lowest Score

Sydney	6.5 (41)	Rd 17	2020	Cazalys Stadium
Brisbane	6.4 (40)	Rd 20	2005	Stadium Aust.
Brisbane	6.4 (40)	Rd 21	2006	Stadium Aust.

## Sydney v Brisbane Greatest Winning Margin

Sydney	84 points	Rd 20	2005	Stadium Aust.
Brisbane	162 points	Rd 8	1993	Gabba

## Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

11	T. Lockett	Syd	Rd 9	1996	SCG
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## Last Match – Round 19, 2024, Gabba

	Brisbane	Sydney
Quarter time	5.1	1.3
Half time	6.3	7.4
Three-quarter time	7.7	9.10
Full time	11.13 (79)	11.11 (77)

## South Melb./Sydney v Fitzroy by venue

	Won by South/Sydney	Won by Fitzroy	Drawn
Brunswick Street	21	41	2
Junction Oval	6	13	0
Lake Oval	37	34	2
MCG	1	2	0
Princes Park	3	4	0
SCG	7	6	0
Toorak Park	0	1	0
Victoria Park	0	2	0
Western Oval	2	1	0
	77	104	4

## South Melb./Sydney v Fitzroy Highest Score

Sydney	27.8 (170)	Rd 19	1995	Western Oval
Fitzroy	25.29 (179)	Rd 18	1961	Brunswick St.

## South Melb./Sydney v Fitzroy Lowest Score

South Melbourne	1.4 (10)	Rd 14	1898	Brunswick St.
Fitzroy	2.6 (18)	Rd 10	1908	Lake Oval

## Sth Melb./Sydney v Fitzroy Greatest Winning Margin

Sydney	126 points	Rd 19	1995	Western Oval
Fitzroy	103 points	Rd 18	1961	Brunswick St.

## Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

16	T. Lockett	Syd	Rd 19	1995	Western Oval
10	B. Beecroft	Fitz	Rd 4	1978	Junction Oval

**OVER TO YOU ANSWERS: Q1** 1970. **Q2** University, Fremantle, Greater Western Sydney and Gold Coast. **Q3** Harry and Albert (“Leeter”) Collier won the 1930 and 1929 Brownlow Medal and were members of the 1927-30 and 1935-36 premiership sides. **Q4** Carlton, Essendon and Collingwood (16 premierships). **Q5** 1898-99 and 1944 Junction Oval; 1900 East Melbourne Cricket Ground; 1901 Lake Oval; 1942-43, 1945 Princes Park; 1991 Waverley Park; 2020 Gabba; and 2021 Perth Stadium. **Q6** Michael Tuck (Hawthorn) with 11 grand final appearances (1975-76, 1978, 1983-89, 1991) and seven premierships (1976, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1989 and 1991). **Q7** Mrs Marj. Smith (Widow of Norm Smith); the winner, Wayne Harmes (Carlton), is the nephew of Norm Smith. **Q8** 1959 – Cup presented to John Beckwith (Melbourne). **Q9** Bernie Quinlan. **Q10** Alex “Jezza” Jesaulenko (Carlton, 1979). **Q11** Fitzroy (1898-99, 1904-05, 1913, 1916 and 1922). **Q12** 1977. **Q13** Richmond (1927-29), Collingwood (1937-39 and 1979-81) and South Melbourne (1934-36). **Q14** Bill James (Richmond) in 1920 played only one game, the grand final victory against Collingwood. He scored a goal on debut. He returned to Kyabram where he severely injured a foot in a rabbit shooting accident. **Q15** Murray Weideman (Collingwood, 1953. He was 17 years 222 days). **Q16** Michael Tuck, Hawthorn 1991. He was 38 years 98 days. **Q17** Travis Varcoe (Geelong) and Travis Cloke (Collingwood). **Q18** Carlton (1906-08), Collingwood (1927-30), Melbourne (1939-41 & 1955-57), Brisbane (2001-03) and Hawthorn (2013-15). **Q19** Craig McRae. **Q20** 1898 at the Junction Oval, St Kilda (no grand final was played in 1897, the first VFL final series being a round-robin play-off). **Q21** Tom Stewart (Geelong); Jack Sinclair (St Kilda); Connor Rozee (Port Adelaide); Christian Petracca (Melbourne) and Charlie Curnow (Carlton). **Q22** 1902, Collingwood 9.6 (60) defeated Essendon 3.9 (27). **Q23** Essendon. **Q24** Dan Minogue, Collingwood 1915 and Richmond 1920-21. **Q25** Four points. **Q26** Kevin Smith (1975). **Q27** 1977. **Q28** Fitzroy. With only four teams competing because of WWI, Fitzroy finished fourth on the ladder, but with improving finals’ form went on to become premiers. **Q29** Paul Roos. **Q30** 1911 (Cards with player numbers were provided for spectators; the *Football Record*, including player numbers, was first published in 1912.) **Q31** Anthony Daniher (1990) for Essendon. **Q32** Gordon (“Nuts”) Coventry (Collingwood 1920-37). **Q33** Essendon (2001) and Collingwood (2002 & 2003). **Q34** 1973. **Q35** Rod Carter. **Q36** 1912 – Allan Belcher (Essendon captain) and Vic Belcher (South Melbourne half-forward); 2013 – Bradley Hill (Hawthorn) and Stephen Hill (Fremantle). **Q37** 119 points by Geelong 24.19 (163) to Port Adelaide 6.8 (44) in the 2007 grand final at the MCG. **Q38** Ten (1939, 1940, 1941 and 1948 as a player; 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1964 as a coach). **Q39** Collingwood 2.13 (25) defeated Richmond 1.7 (13) in 1927. The grand final took place in torrential rain and freezing winds. **Q40** Earl Spalding.