



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET

## AUGUST 2, 2025

### AFL 2025 ROUND 21

### COLLINGWOOD V BRISBANE

#### THE BEARS AND THE LIONS

The Brisbane Lions came into being in 1997 as a result of the merger between Fitzroy (founded in 1883) and the Brisbane Bears. While Melbourne survived a proposed merger with Hawthorn in 1996, Fitzroy, after a defiant struggle, was forced to move north. Privately owned clubs were established in Perth and Brisbane in 1987, the West Coast Eagles having a huge advantage over the Brisbane Bears because of the homegrown talent at their disposal. While actor Paul Cronin was the front man at the Bears, the money was provided by businessman Christopher Skase. To the amazement of most, because of the club's lacklustre original list, the Bears, coached by Peter Knights, won their first two games. But this was a false dawn, and they eventually finished second last. After a number of years in the wilderness, the Bears made the finals in 1995, and again in 1996 under John Northey, however the club's financial position remained weak, and when Fitzroy could no longer continue as a separate entity, the merger took place at the end of 1996. Overall, the Bears played 222 games for 72 wins, 148 losses and 2 draws.

Among the former Fitzroy players who moved to Queensland in 1997 to play with the new Brisbane club were Scott Bamford, John Barker, Brad Boyd, Nick Carter, Shane Clayton, Chris Johnson and Jarrod Molloy. The Brisbane Lions made the finals in their first year, but slumped to last in 1998, which resulted in the sacking of John Northey and the appointment of Leigh Matthews, who would go on to coach the club to three flags in succession. In the third of its premiership wins in 2003, Brisbane became the first grand final team to field three Brownlow Medallists: Michael Voss, Jason Akermanis and Simon Black.

#### BERVIN WOODS: THE STORY OF COLLINGWOOD'S FOUR-DAY COACH

"Jock McHale coached Collingwood for almost 14,000 days; his successor lasted only four days. What happened at the Collingwood Football Club during the months of April and May 1950 stands as one of the most remarkable and divisive transfers of power in the history of Australian sport."

– Glenn McFarlane, *Jock* (Slattery Media Group, 2011)

In the weeks following Essendon's 82-point thrashing of Collingwood in the 1949 first semi final, it was rumoured that Jock McHale would be retiring as coach. McHale had been at the helm since 1912 and had coached the team in 714 games, including 58 finals. Premierships had been won in 1917, 1919, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1935 and 1936. Despite the strength of the rumours, no announcement was forthcoming. Behind the scenes long-term club administrators Harry Curtis, Bob Rush and Frank Wraith had asked McHale to bide his time "in the interests of the club". The reality was that they were aware that the team captain at the time, Phonse Kyne, was interested in becoming coach. Worried that Kyne was very much his own man, the trio wanted the job to go to reserves coach and former player Bervin Woods who they thought would follow their direction.

Best and fairest for the previous three seasons, and enormously popular among Collingwood supporters, Kyne initially indicated that he favoured becoming captain-coach. McHale's departure was held back until April 1950, at which time, in an obvious attempt to frustrate Kyne, Wraith announced that they would be appointing a non-playing coach. Nevertheless, Kyne continued to declare his interest in the position, receiving support from a significant number of committee members.

The crucial committee meeting at which the coach was to be chosen was held on April 13. Following a secret ballot, president Harry Curtis announced that Woods had won the post. Committeeman Jack Galbally then demanded to know the margin. Under pressure Curtis revealed that the vote had been six all and that he had used his presidential casting vote in favour of Woods. This announcement would prove to be the beginning of the end for the old guard.

The news of Curtis using his casting vote soon reached the social club where a petition was launched demanding that a special general meeting be held to review the committee's decision. Kyne added fuel to the fire by announcing his resignation from the captaincy and retirement as a player after 245 games. The final practice match was due to be played two days later. Matters came to a head at this game, a large crowd of angry spectators surrounding the committee reserve and shouting abuse. Kyne, who had decided to attend the game, was carried shoulder high around the ground by supporters. The next day Bervin Woods announced his resignation as coach "for the sake of club unity".

The special general meeting was held at the Collingwood Town Hall on May 17. More than 500 members were in attendance, with hundreds more outside. Curtis, Wraith and Rush were subjected to a stream of invective and could barely make themselves heard above the din. Finally, a motion of no confidence in the committee was moved, which was supported overwhelmingly by the members. The old guard was ousted and replaced by Syd Coventry as president, Alec Fyfe as temporary treasurer and Gordon Carlyon as secretary. The old committee resigned, and the new committee ratified the appointment of Phonse Kyne as coach. Jock McHale's successor had been chosen by the supporters.

## THIS ROUND IN HISTORY - ROUND 21 AT THE MCG

The highest Round 21 score at the MCG is 28.19 (187) by Richmond against Fitzroy 5.6 (36) in 1996. The overall Round 21 highest score is 35.15 (225) by Hawthorn against Geelong 13.12 (90) at Princes Park in 1986. The most goals by an individual at the MCG for this round is 11 by Bernie Quinlan for Fitzroy against North Melbourne in 1984. Fitzroy kicked 26.9 (165) and won by 54 points. The overall Round 21 goalkicking record is 13 by Tony Lockett for St Kilda against Carlton at Waverley Park in 1991. St Kilda kicked 23.17 (155) to win by 54 points. The highest score in a quarter is 11.7 (73) by Richmond in the last quarter against Fitzroy in 1996. The overall Round 21 record is 13.4 (82) by Hawthorn against Geelong in the last quarter at Princes Park in 1986. The highest Round 21 attendance at the MCG was recorded on Saturday August 21, 1993 when 85,054 saw Carlton defeat Collingwood by 54 points.

## STATISTICS FOR COLLINGWOOD V BRISBANE BEARS/LIONS

### Collingwood v Brisbane Bears/Lions by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Brisbane	Drawn
Docklands Stad.	2	2	0
Carrara	5	0	0
Gabba	12	15	0
MCG	8	7	0
Victoria Park	5	1	0
	32	25	0

### Last Match – Round 6, 2025, Gabba

	Brisbane	Collingwood
Quarter time	2.4	4.2
Half time	4.8	8.3
Three-quarter time	5.8	12.8
Full time	7.11 (53)	16.9 (105)

### Collingwood v Brisbane Bears/Lions Highest Score

Collingwood	26.16 (172)	Rd 20	1991	Carrara
Bris. Lions	22.17 (149)	Rd 17	2007	MCG

### Collingwood v Brisbane Bears/Lions Lowest Score

Collingwood	5.4 (34)	Rd 15	2020	Gabba
Bris. Lions	6.6 (42)	Rd 15	2020	Gabba

### Collingwood v Brisbane Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	101 points	Rd 20	1991	Carrara
Bris. Lions	93 points	Rd 17	2007	MCG

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

13	P. Daicos	Coll	Rd 20	1991	Carrara
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## STATISTICS FOR COLLINGWOOD V FITZROY (1897-1996)

### Collingwood v Fitzroy by venue

	Won by Collingwood	Won by Fitzroy	Drawn
Brunswick Street	37	27	2
Junction Oval	8	3	1
MCG	8	9	0
Princes Park	3	5	0
SCG	0	1	0
Victoria Park	70	27	0
Waverley Park	4	3	0
Western Oval	1	0	0
	131	75	3

### Collingwood v Fitzroy Highest Score

Collingwood	25.17 (167)	Rd 12	1930	Vic. Park
Fitzroy	25.10 (160)	Rd 17	1985	Vic. Park

### Collingwood v Fitzroy Lowest Score

Collingwood	1.5 (11)	SF	1898	Bruns. St.
Fitzroy	3.1 (19)	Rd 15	1905	Vic. Park

### Collingwood v Fitzroy Greatest Winning Margin

Collingwood	101 points	Rd 9	1967	Vic. Park
Fitzroy	95 points	Rd 8	1945	Bruns. St.

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

17	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 12	1930	Vic. Park
11	G. Coventry	Coll	Rd 5	1927	Vic. Park
10	J. Moriarty	Fitz	Rd 2	1933	Bruns. St.
10	P. McKenna	Coll	Rd 4	1971	Vic. Park

### FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

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

<http://tinyurl.com/mcccatalogue>

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 and the assistance of Col Hutchinson of the AFL.