MCC Library Fact Sheet
August 23, 2025

AFL 2025 Round 24
Richmond v Geelong

Richmond - The Early Years

There were five football clubs which called themselves Richmond before the current club came into existence in 1885. The first was formed in 1860, the majority of its players being members of the Richmond Cricket Club. Initially cricket whites were worn, with a red sash added, but in 1861 a light blue flannel jersey was adopted. As there was no formal competition, clubs had to arrange games themselves, Richmond playing against Melbourne on occasions and combining with them in other games. A merger with Melbourne was mooted at the end of 1860, but it did not occur. This Richmond club did not survive beyond the 1861 season, most of its players joining Melbourne in 1862. Some well-known names had been linked with the club, including Tom Wills, Dick Wardill and H C A Harrison.

The second Richmond club was formed in 1871, Yarra Park being its home ground. It never played as a senior club, senior in this case not referring to the age of the players, but rather to "elite" teams. In 1872 it won a one-off Junior Challenge Cup, playing in blue jerseys with a blue and white cap (similar to the Richmond Rowing Club's uniform). This club lasted until 1876 and then went out of existence.

One of the local clubs in the area, Richmond Standard, changed its name to Richmond in 1878, much to the annoyance of the other local clubs who saw the change as arrogant and undeserved. This team continued to play against other junior clubs but did not survive beyond 1879.

The fourth club calling itself Richmond won the Quick Challenge Cup in 1882, this competition deciding the best junior team in the Richmond area. The club was based at the Botannical Reserve which was near Gosch's Paddock. In 1883 club members launched a move to become a senior team in the VFA (founded in 1877), but its secretary was not invited to the meeting at which the VFA fixture was arranged. As a result, the club struggled to find matches for the coming season and disbanded.

A fifth Richmond team, which included in its membership a number of players and officials from the aborted fourth version, became one of the foundation members of the Victorian Junior Football Association in 1883. However, because it did not make it to senior level, players drifted away to other teams and this version of the Richmond club also died.

The current Richmond Football Club was founded at a meeting which took place on February 20, 1885 at the Royal Hotel in Punt Road. The team then played its first game against Cremorne on Saturday, April 25, 1885. The *Richmond Guardian,* a local paper part-owned by the club's first assistant secretary, described its colours as "all blue, with a yellow and black sash; cap with yellow and black stripe running from front to back." Yellow and black were the colours of the Richmond Cricket Club, which had used them from the mid-1870s. The black guernsey with yellow sash would not be adopted until 1914. Richmond joined the VFA in 1885, going on to become premiers in 1902 with 15 wins, beating arch-rivals Port Melbourne (14 wins). Finals were not played at that time. While not among the group of teams which formed the breakaway VFL in 1897, Richmond would be admitted to that competition in 1908.

Geelong - The Early Years

By a matter of months, Geelong is the second oldest of the current AFL teams. The Melbourne Football Club was formally established on May 14, 1859, a sub-committee of the club formulating the first rules of the game on May 17 at the Parade Hotel in East Melbourne. The Geelong Football Club dates from July 18 of that year. The following notice appeared in the *Geelong Advertiser* in July, 1859: "Football admirers of the new game are requested to attend a meeting to be held at the Victoria Hotel at half past seven on Monday evening, 18th July – A M Mason, Secretary." After the meeting the paper reported that "twenty or thirty members had been secured, a Secretary was appointed and arrangements were made for the first kick, which will come off on Saturday next near the Corio Oval".

In 1864, Geelong won the Caledonian Society Challenge Cup, football's first inter-club competition. In 1877, the club became one of the foundation members of the Victorian Football Association (VFA). Geelong dominated that competition in the late 1870s and early 1880s by winning seven premierships (1878-1880, 1882-1884 and 1886) and being runners up four times. In October 1896 Geelong became a foundation member of the breakaway Victorian Football League, along with Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Melbourne, St Kilda and South Melbourne.

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**

This Round in History – Round 24 on the MCG

There have only been eleven AFL matches played on Round 24 at the MCG. These were played in 1991 (1 game), 1992 (1 game), 1994 (2 games), 2011 (2 games), 2023 (2 games) and 2024 (3 games). The highest score is 22.17 (149) by Hawthorn against Melbourne 20.11 (130) in 1992 and 22.17 (149) by Geelong against Collingwood 8.5 (53) in 2011. The biggest margin for this round at the MCG is 96 points by Geelong against Collingwood in 2011. The overall Round 24 highest score is 28.12 (180) by Adelaide against North Melbourne 16.11 (107) at Football Park in 1991. The largest winning margin on this round is Geelong's 96 points against Collingwood. The biggest bag of goals at the MCG in Round 24 is eight by David Cloke for Richmond against Carlton in 1991. This was the first Round 24 match at the ground and Cloke's last game of his 333-game career. The overall Round 24 goalkicking record is 11 by St Kilda's Tony Lockett against Sydney at Moorabbin in 1991. The biggest Round 24 attendance at the MCG is 85,705 for the 2011 Geelong v Collingwood clash. This is also the League record for this round.

Statistics for Richmond v Geelong

Richmond v Geelong by venue

	Won by Richmond	Won by Geelong	Drawn
Carrara	1	0	0
Corio Oval	10	19	1
Docklands Stad.	1	5	0
Gabba	1	0	0
Kardinia Park	15	38	0
MCG	23	27	0
Princes Park	0	1	0
Punt Road Oval	33	15	2
Waverley Park	8	4	0
	92	109	3

Last Match – Round 17, 2025, Kardinia Park

	Geelong	Richmond
Quarter time	3.3	1.2
Half time	11.9	2.4
Three-quarter time	15.13	4.6
Full time	18.16 (124)	7.10 (52)

Highest Score

Richmond	25.23 (173)	Rd 7	1944	Punt Road
Geelong	35.12 (222)	Rd 6	2007	Docklands

Lowest Score

Richmond	4.5 (29)	Rd 5	1910	Corio
Geelong	4.10 (34)	Rd 4	1915	Corio

Greatest Winning Margin

Richmond	118 points	1SF	1969	MCG
Geelong	157 points	Rd 6	2007	Docklands

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

14	G. Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 9	1989	MCG
12	G. Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 20	1990	MCG
12	G. Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 8	1993	KP
11	G. Goninon	Geel	Rd 5	1953	PR
11	D. Wade	Geel	Rd 13	1972	MCG
10	G. Ablett Snr	Geel	Rd 4	1988	MCG

A Phantom Game

On September 3, 1945, an article appeared in the *Geelong Advertiser* headed, "Second Eighteens - Geelong and St Kilda draw". The journalist then went on to give a detailed account of the match. The only problem was that it had not been played. The Geelong Seconds had been drawn to play St Kilda at the Junction Oval, but the game was moved to the Burnley Oval as the former had been saturated by heavy rain. Neither side could make the finals, the weather was dreadful and there was only one journalist present, so the captains came to an unofficial agreement to declare the match a draw without playing it. The umpire was happy with that arrangement as long as he received his fee, and the journalist was also willing to play along. Both teams then spent an enjoyable afternoon in a nearby pub or at other forms of entertainment.

Early Days

The Round 4 edition of the 1925 *Football Record* told us:

> "That our Australian Rules game has little to fear from the soccer code was apparent on seeing the Englishmen play against a Victorian team on Wednesday. As Danny Minogue, the Richmond captain, remarked afterwards, 'There is not one point in their game that could not be quickly adapted by Australian Rules players if necessary, but there are many finer things in our game which makes it far more spectacular and faster'. Wels Eicke, Horry Clover, Dave McNamara and others who were present agreed with Dan. As a thrilling game, with wonderfully fine spectacular incidents throughout, OUR game stands alone. Neither soccer nor Rugby can come within cooee of it."