



## Merry Christmas - an exciting New Year ahead!



Lofty Legend members Kevin and Kathy Hampton with Jill Dawes at the Club's Senior Presentation Dinner. Receiving Club Life Membership on the night and after many years of outstanding service were Richard Bennett and Trevor Gould, pictured below.

After a wonderful 2014 which saw the launch of The Lofty Legends in a year when the club won 4 Premierships, we would like to wish all members of The Lofty Legends a Merry Christmas and a very safe and enjoyable 2015.

The club is well into planning its return to Central Division and the organising group for the The Lofty Legends is planning to make our catch ups even more enjoyable. We will be having the usual heritage club re-union at a home match but we are hoping to have a few surprises for the occasion adding to the enjoyment of the day. We are also looking at a second function for members, with the possibility of an Adelaide Oval tour and/or a winery visit. Any other suggestions you may have are welcome and we will provide dates and events in our first Newsletter to be issued in early March 2015.

We are also very pleased to announce that we will be forming a Memorabilia Group to take stock of all memorabilia in the club's possession and to undertake upgraded displays within the club. Please contact Kevin Hampton on 0407616632 if you would like to join the group which will meet early in the new year.



## 4 Premierships and a Central Division Return

The club certainly made an emphatic statement in 2014 with the following list of achievements hard to ever imagine being bettered:

- Premierships in A Grade, B Grade, Senior Colts and Under 13 Grades
- Sam Miles won the HFL Country Division Mail Medal
- A Grade Coach Bruce Dawes was recently awarded Senior Country Coach of the Year at the SANFL Coaches Dinner at AAMI Stadium
- The Country Division Top Goalkicker awards went to Ben Gordon in A Grade and Ben Pohl in B Grade

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These outstanding achievements certainly justify the club's return to Central Division, but the exact arrangements for Central Division are still clouded, with Echunga contesting its relegation in 2015 after winning the A Grade Premiership in Central Division. While Echunga won the A Grade Premiership HFL rules for relegation, relate to overall club performance.

## Lofty Legends - Player Milestone Awards

The Lofty Legends launched awards this year to recognise 100 and 200 milestone games for Senior Players. The awards were very well received and we plan to make this an annual tradition.

Recipients this year were:

200 A Grade Games - Brad Birch. 200 Senior Games - Michael Stapleton. 100 A Grade Games - Mark Nielson, Nathan Petersen-Gray, Alex Weeks, Scott Wood. 100 Senior Games - Sam Broadbridge, Jonathan Downes, Tom Maslin, Tom Morgan, Matt Penny, Matt Pistola.

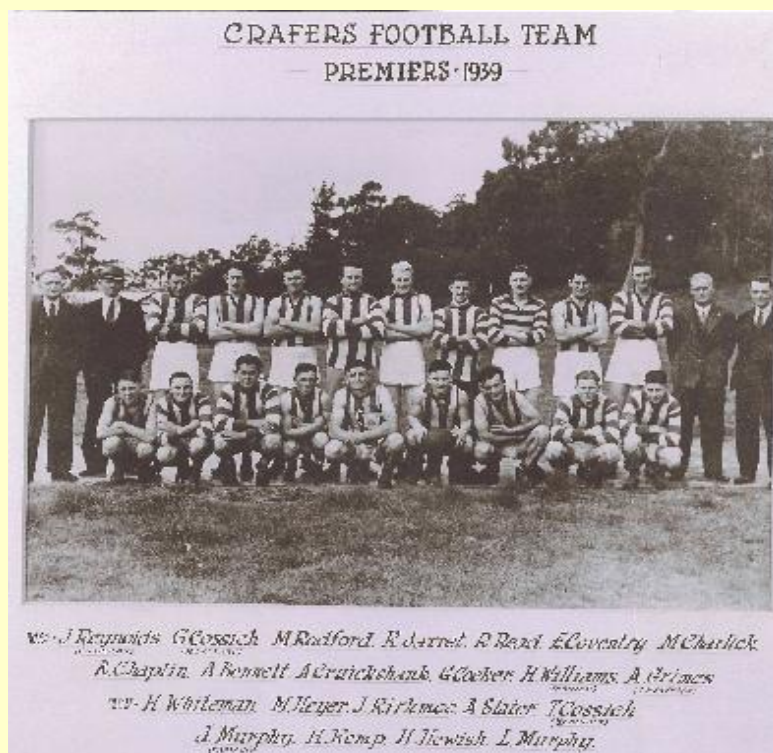
We congratulate all of these players on their outstanding service to the club.



Lofty Legend member Kevin Stevens with award winners Brad Birch (200 A Grade games) and Michael Stapleton (200 Senior games)



## Another Legend from the Archives



### LAST HURRAH FOR CRAFERS

A past link to the successful 2014 campaign of the Mt Lofty Football Club was the fact that it also marked the anniversary of a historic achievement of the now defunct Crafers club – part of the heritage foundation clubs for the current Mountain Devils.

This season marked the 75th anniversary of the 1939 Hills Football Association premiership victory by Crafers – and ironically also one of the final matches the club participated in.

Crafers Football Club was formed in 1910 and played in the Mt Lofty Football Association during the 1930s before joining the Hills association. Matches were staged on the sloping Crafers Oval which was situated adjacent on the Adelaide side of the now Freeway interchange bridge, with players changing in the local Institute building situated close by.

Sporting blue and white striped jumpers, Crafers met Mt Barker in the 1939 grand final at Hahndorf Oval for a premiership decider which had actually been delayed a week due to extremely poor weather and ground conditions. Conditions were still heavy as the teams battled out for the title, with both gaining practically the same number of scoring shots, but the greater accuracy of Crafers prevailed in a 15-7 to 10-11 final scoreline.

In a great display of goal kicking in the elements, Crafers at one stage scored 10 consecutive goals without a miss.

During the first quarter Crafers were able to raise goals through captain Murphy and Wakefield, but Mt Barker assumed a 4-3 to 3-2 advantage at the first bell.

Play continued in a fluctuating attacking manner into the second quarter, with Slater and Wakefield securing further goals, following some good work by Cossich. With Hewish and Slater adding additional six-pointers in the period, Crafers headed into half time holding the lead.

In what was becoming a tight and tough struggle, Crafers continued to hold a slight 11-4 to 10-8 advantage at 'lemons' as the teams braced for a torrid final quarter. Both sides were keen and centre lines claimed the ball for an appreciable period, until Murphy and Cruikshank eased Crafers further ahead with goals.

As rain began to fall steadily, Crafers enjoyed an ability to defend well and create a couple of further scoring chances, which ultimately enabled it to jubilantly greet the final bell and claim the premiership.

Crafers defender Merv Heyer was selected for the Roly Phillips Medal as best player on the day, while others to serve the premier team well included Coker, Murphy, Hewish, vice-captain Cossich, Murphy and Coventry.

During the half-time interval, the association patron Mr. H. H. Shannon MP presented the K. D. Bell Medal for the leading player for the season to K. Gallasch of Hahndorf, while the president Mr. W.D. Watson handed over the runner up spoils to Geoff Radbone from Aldgate.

Having also tasted premiership success in 1938, the Crafers players, supporters and officials launched into Saturday night celebrations, but in a more sinister touch of history, German forces stormed into Poland the following day, sparking the outbreak of World War 2.

While Hills association football matches commenced in 1940, the escalation of the conflict led to the season being abandoned after a few rounds, with Crafers placed on top of the premiership table.

When competition resumed after World War 2, the lack of playing numbers spelt the end for the Crafers club, with many opting to transfer and play for the stronger neighboring club.

Thus 1939 marks a time of success, but ultimately the beginning of the end for the Crafers Football Club – but its strong heritage continues through the 'Lofty Legends'

By Jeff Pistola



**Lofty Legends - "Supporting a confident future built from a rich heritage"**

Club news [www.mtloftydevils.com.au](http://www.mtloftydevils.com.au)

Special Christmas Issue No. 3 - 19 December 2014

## Geoff Radbone - A True Hero



*Sargeant Geoff Radbone - 2/48<sup>th</sup> Battalion*

*Inset - Geoff's 1938 leading player award now known as the "Mail Medal".*



*Fran and Doug Radbone displaying his father, Geoff Radbone's 1938 Mail Medal and Second World War Medals.*

Jeff Pistola's article on page 2 mentions the fact that the runner up award to the leading player, now the "Mail Medal", was presented, during half time of the 1939 Grand Final, to Geoff Radbone of Aldgate. Geoff's football achievements were outstanding and befitting of the term "Legend", but it is his service to his country throughout the entire Second World War which set him apart as a brave member of the famous "Rats of Tobruk".

Speaking with Geoff's eldest son Doug Radbone and his wife Fran, revealed a man who's achievements throughout his relatively short life time were exceptional. Born in 1918 in the Adelaide Hills as one of 7 children and spending much of his childhood on his family's cherry farm at Bridgewater, he first played football, barefoot, for the local Primary School. Tragically, Geoff lost his father in his teenage years after a dreadful accident where his father's horse and dray, fully laden with produce, careered down the then very steep Carey Gully Road, colliding with a train at the Bridgewater Railway crossing.

Such a traumatic event would have made life for Geoff and his family extremely difficult, but Geoff's love of sport saw him go on to play senior football for the Aldgate Football Club (Bridgewater FC was not formed until the early 1950's). Geoff became Captain of the side at a very young age and actually won the Mail Medal equivalent as a 20 year old in 1938, polling in 9 out of 10 matches. The following year, where he was runner up to that award, saw the fit young man head off to war at the end of the year and become a member of the 2/48<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was formed in Adelaide, and which went on to become the most decorated unit of the Second World War.

Geoff served in the Middle East where the heroic deeds of the 2/48<sup>th</sup> saw its members, including Geoff, became known as the "Rats of Tobruk", and then go on to defend Australia in New Guinea and Borneo. It was in New Guinea, in an attack on 'Coconut Ridge' that Corporal Geoff Radbone's brave actions led to him being recommended with the 'immediate' award of the DCM or "Distinguished Conduct Medal" for outstanding gallantry, initiative and courageous leadership. The DCM was the second highest award for gallantry in action, after the Victoria Cross, for all ranks below commissioned officers.

Just prior to the end of war, Geoff was injured in service, for a fourth time, very seriously, with injuries which resulted in him having to manage health issues for the remainder of his life. He returned from war service to play tennis for many more years and football for Aldgate for another 7 years, and not even the loss of all fingers and part of his thumb on his right hand in a milling accident, prevented him from playing on in both sports. On retirement from football at age 35, Geoff umpired in the hills and also formed and coached the first colts team for the Aldgate FC which recognised his outstanding contributions with the awarding of Life Membership.

Sadly, in 1960 and aged only 41, Geoff passed away leaving his beloved wife Molly and four young children, Doug (also known as Kym) aged 11, Mark 9, Ian 6 and Cindy 18 months. Tragically, like Geoff's Mother and siblings, a large young family had to face life without the guidance and love of their husband and father. At that time a memorial award was struck in Geoff's honour by the Aldgate Football Club.

The 2 generations who have followed Geoff must have been greatly influenced by his approach to life where there have been many outstanding sporting achievements, service again to Australia through the Army and community contributions to service organisations like Legacy.

Geoff earned the respect of the entire Hills Community and the Lofty Legends Group will be forever grateful to the mark he left through the Aldgate Football Club and which lead to his son Doug and Doug's late brother, Mark, playing in Premierships and working for the Heathfield, Heathfield-Aldgate United and Mt. Lofty Football Club's over many years.



**Lofty Legends - "Supporting a confident future built from a rich heritage"**



## 4 Premierships - What an amazing year!

(And back in training for 2015 since 1 December)



**A Grade  
Senior Colts**

**Awesome Foursome 2014**

**B Grade  
Under 13**



## Leadership - Thank You!

I am sure that all members of The Lofty Legends would like to congratulate and thank the 2014 Club Committee led by President Mark O'Malley who is taking a very well deserved break. Also retiring from the Committee after years of dedicated service are Richard Bennett, Rob Zampa, Dave Stewart and Sue Johnson, who was awarded the 2014 Club Person of the Year.

Our new President is past champion and Sturt player Kym Welsby, ably supported by Vice President Josh Biggs, Secretary Andrew Carthew and Treasurer Jill Dawes. Full detail of the new Committee and their roles will be advised in a report from the club. The outstanding work in 2014 is continuing.

*Golf Day – Friday 6 February 2015 – Stirling Golf Club  
Details of the first major event will be advised soon by the club.*

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