BLAST FROM THE PAST. GSFL interviewed 4/8/17 by Jan Bache.

MOUNT COMPASS FOOTBALL CLUB.

History of football in this area goes back to the early 1900’s. It was in this period that interest was first shown, firstly by the local school boys, as they were encouraged by local men who came to the school during the lunch hour to teach the boys how to kick, and play the game.

In fact, Arch Peters was responsible for canvassing every home in the district for donations towards a football. His efforts raised 12 shillings and 8 pence, which then covered the cost of a new top grade ball. In the 1920’s Laurie Ekers, Sid & Len Wienert, George Hicks and Jack Snoyd rounded up as many players as possible to play scratch matches. During those early years there was a lot of doubt as to whether they would eventually have sufficient players to form a team. It was, however, after some 20 years of spasmodic playing under very primitive and humble circumstances that eventually such a dream came true.

The gentleman who was held with the greatest respect was Arch Peters, A man of great character and a Pillar of Society. Arch played his first game in 1924 and unfortunately no record of games played not available but as an Administrator Arch held the Position of President for the Mt.Compass F.C. 1924-37, 1945-1954. Coach 1924-1937. Arch was made Life member of the club in 1958.

In 1930 Mt.Compass had grown considerably and was able to field an ‘A’ grade side for the first time. They joined an association made up of teams from Myponga, Second Valley & Yankalilla. For years Compass had played on a number of second rate ovals (donated paddocks) but mainly Roadmans reserve and on the corner of Lanacoona & Willunga Roads. With new enthusiasm and ‘A’ grade teams these ovals were no longer suitable. A permanent home ground was needed and desired, so construction of the current oval was begun in 1937. There were no changerooms at the new oval, so the supper room in the town hall was used. Although there was little room and no showers the room was very comfortable compared to other clubs. During the 40’s the arrival of the five Curnow and four Tonkin lads, all being quality players, bolstered the ranks. Between 1944 and 48 the oval was re-levelled and grassed, using horses and scoops. Locals volunteered their labour and a few tractors. This prompted Mt Compass to join the Great Southern Football League in 1952. With the move came new colours (maroon and gold) and new enthusiasm within the club. Two years later in 1954 Mt Compass had bagged it’s first premiership. Captain-coach was Alan Tonkin who played alongside his President Arch Peters and Secretary Colin Ekers, whom both had put in years of hard work establishing football in Mt. Compass.

The two gentlemen I interviewed to get some more history were Colin Ekers and Bill Nash.

Colin joined Mt.Compass as a young 16 year lad in 1946 and played through until 1958. Whereby persistent injuries brought an end to his playing career.. It is hard to determine how many games Colin played because they were not comprehensive. Colin was secretary of the club 1954/56, assistant secretary 1959, Vice President 1960, President 1961/63/67/68/70 Treasurer 1965. Was an ‘A’ grade selector for many years and was awarded Life Membership of the Mt.Compass F.C. IN 1964. He Served as a Delegate in the GSFL for Mt.Compass, 1956-1970. GSFL Vice President 1966/69, League President 1970-1976. Colin was an instigator of junior colts football in GSFL which commenced in 1967. In 1973 he was President of the Sth Districts Football Championships Association and a League selector in 1962,64,1976,1977. Colin was awarded Life Membership of the League in 1973. After retiring as President of the GSFL he returned to Mt.Compass and in 1976 became Vice President and ‘A’ grade team manager. He once more became a club delegate to the GSFL. He was appointed President of the Mt.Compass F.C. for 1977/78 season. In 1978 he was presented a SANFL Merit Award and 1979 was again on the committee of the Mt.Compass Football Club. He once more became President of the GSFL in 1980/81/82, President SDFC 1980 and on a committee 1981/82. President of the Combined Southern League Football Umpires Panel in 1981 and on the committee 1980/81/82. Colin has also been delegate to the Affiliated League Council 1970-1984**.** This resume of Colin comes from a letter sent from the GSFL in 1982nominating him for a Merit Award for ‘Outstanding service from the National Football League presented in 1983.

He also received in 2000 Her Majesty’sAward forthe Australian Sports Medal.. Colin is Patron of the GSFL. The list can go on of Colin’s significant contribution to the Mt.Compass F.C. GSLFL and the Game.

Bill Nash – Bill’s first year of colts was at 12 years of age and he played from 1964/1980. Over 200 games Bill was a versatile player in positions of centre, half forward and centre half back. He was recognised being made Captain & Vice Captain over a period of years, and played in ‘A’ grade grand finals 1977,1979 and 1980, only winning the 1980 Premiership against Strathalbyn. He was also awarded Best & Fairest ‘A’ grade, (can’t remember year) and played 200 odd games.

Bill was the first Player Life Member of the League in 1980 and Mt.Compass Life Member also in 1980.

During his younger days he was asked to play for North Adelaide F.C. Bill played a few games, but came back home to Mt.Compass, his biggest regret that he did not commit to the higher league.

Most respected players for Mt.Compass that come to mind was Chris Lang, a freak for the club, kicking 240 goals during 1971/72 also Robin Greenwood, Bernie Veide & Bronte Fisher.

Arch Rivals were Strathalbyn.

Respected players were Kym.Smith and Ken.Follett.and Mel (Chook) Squires. The games were fair dinkum but afterwards a drink was always shared.

(subject to amendments.)