VICTOR HARBOR F.C. Interviewed 21/8/17 by Jan Bache

Today I chatted to Jeff Kairl. Along with the players who represent their club there has to be

administrators to execute the structure and procedures put in place for the club to be stable and

strong. Jeff commenced playing for Encounter Bay in 1971 and then for a couple of years

played with Pt.Elliott playing Res & ‘A’ grade. In 1983 Jeff got into administration at the Victor club

and in 1985 Jeff’s sons commenced playing for Victor Harbor Over the ongoing years Jeff’s commitment

to the Club was:

1986 – Commitee Seniors, President Jnr Commitee

1987 “ “ President Snr Com 3/8/17 also Pres Jnr Com

1988 President both Seniors & Junior Comm -**Team Manager all grades**

1989 Senior Committee, President Junior Com

1990 Seniors President

1991 Snr President, Jnr Committee

1992 Seniors Committee

1993 Senior & Junior Committees. Awarded Club Life Membership

1994 Senior Comm, Jnr V/President

1995/9697/98 Senior Committee

1998 Junior Committee

1999/2000/2001 Seniors Committee

2001 Selector ‘Team of the Century’

2002 Vice/President Snr Comm

2003 No commitment – supporter (Rest & Relaxation)

2004/05/06 Senior Committe

As mentioned in 1988 Jeff was Team Manager for all grades. An enormous commitment each Saturday.

People do not realise, in those days, the Paperwork that had to be prepared was very involved. Team sheets, (4 copies/Carbon Paper) 1 for opposition, 1 for Umpires, 1 for GSFL and 1 for club. Along with time sheets, score cards,and voting slips had to be ready at the commencement of each game. Guernseys had to be given to players,and of course for those who forget their boots ,shorts etc, Jeff had to find them for the player. After each match there was more paperwork once again that had to be collected and checked, one set bundled up and handed to GSFL Secretary, with scores recorded and best players and goal kickers. How lucky was Jeff at least he didn’t have to wash the Guernseys. How Jeff did this over a full football season is mind bogling.. Today most of this paperwork is done on computer which has eased the load for Team Managers. Although it is not a role Jeff has he still checks scores etc. and keeps stats on his computer.

Jeff mentioned, that 1988 was a bad year, but the club rallied in 1989 by appointing Jim Lihou as Coach, which commenced their run of 6 straight premierships.

Reflecting back to 1940/50’s the club played in 14 consecutive grand finals, and won 7 out of the 14.

Randall Wright was appointed coach 1990/91/92 and was a wonderful asset to the club. During Jeff’s time at the club players he held in high respect for V/Harbor were: Ross Gibbs,Chris Duthy, “Max” Maynard, Tony Symonds,Clayton Lamb. A respected player for Victor was Brenton George, 1965/66/68 Mail Medalist, and selected in the ‘Team of the Century’ along with Grant Levy, Ron Reid, Tugwell Bros, Jamie Brown. Opposition players mentioned was Brenton Smith and Kym Smith but Kym ended up playing for Victor Harbor.

They were strong hard footballers. Once a year the V/Harbor & Strathalbyn F.C. play for the ‘Smith Cup’.

The side who wins keeps the club until they lose.

In 1952 the Premiers of the GSFL & SFL played each other, i.e. Victor Harbor and Willunga. ‘Southern Premiers Cup’ and money raised on that day went to the erection of the Entry Gates and the Willunga Oval. Oh yes Victor won.

Over the years the club has had some outstanding people on their committees and in particular Mal Lawrey in the late 80’s and 90’s was the Treasurer of the Club. Jeff’s wife Jenny was also a Ladies committee person for many, many years, being awarded Club Life Membership in 1998. Jeff had 3 sons who played for Victor, Adam, Nathan & eldest,Todd, coached ‘B’ grade 2008/2009 and other two lads played junior and senior grades football. Nathan played 200 games, while Adam is a Life Member and currently Football Director.

General discussion had re culture and society of today. The Victor Harbor Football Club has a very strong culture, and excellent committees to protect it. The introduction of Face Book has put another resource into the scope

of things and the youth of today rely so heavily on this as being their means of communication.

Jeff is concentrating now on the History of the Victor Harbor Football Club, he has published the 125 years of football and is working to having a museum in the new club rooms. He has a room in his house filled to the top with old photos, boots from Lloyd Tugwell’s last Grand Final , a 1918 Laced Up Guernsey and much more which will display a wonderful history of the club.

Congratulations to Jeff, a most significant contribution to Victor Harbor Football Club.