**Moment of truth as leagues square off**

*ADAM SMITH*



PLAYERS from the Old Scholars will get the chance to prove they can match it with the SFL when the two southern leagues square off in a representative clash later this month.

The OSFA has often been left in the dark when it comes to representative contests, with the SFL traditionally taking on an opponent from the north.

But for the first time the two will go head to head for bragging rights on May 18 — a date Old Scholars co-coach Alex Gilmour declared the squad is excited for.

“Personally I am very passionate about representative football, the Old Scholars haven’t had a chance to do that in the past and there is a fair rivalry between the SFL and Old Scholars as far as bragging rights are concerned,” said Gilmour, pictured, who will team with fellow former AFL players Ian Callinan and Ben Beams in the coaching ranks.

“It is a great opportunity for our players in the competition to experience it in their football career.

“We get put on the back burner a bit in people thinking the SFL is a lot better, but if you look at the quality of players that have stepped into the Old Scholars over the last few years, there are some seriously good players.

“One thing I know is we are going to be putting out a really strong side on the park, lets hope the SFL do the same thing.”

Former New Norfolk coach Jon Murray will take the reins of the SFL outfit, and is confident he has buy in from the clubs after last year’s issues which saw a host of first choice players decline to take part.

Murray said he picked on form rather than reputation, having attended as many games as he can in the early part of the 2019 season.