



GRAND FINAL DAY 1966

When a match is won with the last kick of the day we can celebrate a significant win.

But when a **Grand Final** is decided with the last kick, well, that's historic.

OFC made history in the 1966 Grand Final against Wandin, played at Lilydale, when Barry McCarthy slotted a goal to get the red and white over the line by one point.

Given the extraordinary details of the finish to this match it is surely the greatest game in the long history of OFC, Olinda FC, Ferny Creek FC, Ferny Creek United FC and One Tree Hill FC which stretches way back to 1902.

To set the scene Life Member Paul Jones , pictured above chairing Barry McCarthy from the ground (on the right), says it was possibly the worst conditions he ever played in.

In those days players wore boots which covered the ankle, Paul says the Lilydale mud was so deep in places it overflowed those high-sided boots.

As the final scoreline indicates (6.19 to 8.6) OFC looked the better team for most of the day .

However as we know footie can be a funny game and as the final quarter entered “time on” Wandin held a five point lead. Not much, but very handy in the mud with a ball which was like a large and heavy cake of soap.

When rover David McCarthy marked just forward of the wing no one could foresee the drama that was about to unfold.

Coach Trevor Billington was on the sidelines close to David and was screaming “ do something”.

Well if someone had to “do something “ creative then the ball was in the right hands. David was a League and Club Best and Fairest winner.

David’s best option was also the most obvious scenario, although Wandin didn’t seem prepared for it.

He passed the ball to his brother.

David said he knew instinctively where Barry McCarthy would lead, and Barry says the brothers had played together for so long he knew just where David was going to kick it!

Geoff Isling , who was playing on the wing, recalls that while Barry did lead for the ball he received plenty of close attention and took a strong grab in horrendous conditions.

Now this is where the story gets a little bit murky with time.

Geoff and the McCarthy boys say Barry went back and slotted a long goal with the siren sounding shortly afterwards.

However Paul Jones, Peter Milic and Keith “Flowers” Rankin believe a 15 yard penalty was paid against Wandin because the player ran over the mark. Flowers says the player ran about two yards over the mark.

Consequently Barry was brought closer to the goal line and, well, the rest is history.

How we view the game through the fog of time isn't important because it doesn't change the way the scoreboard reads.

Olinda Ferny Creek was home by a point. It was a triumph in the most testing of circumstances.

Everyone agrees that the ball just cleared the defenders hands as it crossed the goal line.

Geoff recalls there was time for the umpires to run the ball back to the middle before the siren sounded and OFC celebrated a fairytale win.

For the vanquished Wandin it meant that their 50 year campaign to win their first flag would have to wait a while longer.