

## **OFC or Monbulk's Flag ?**

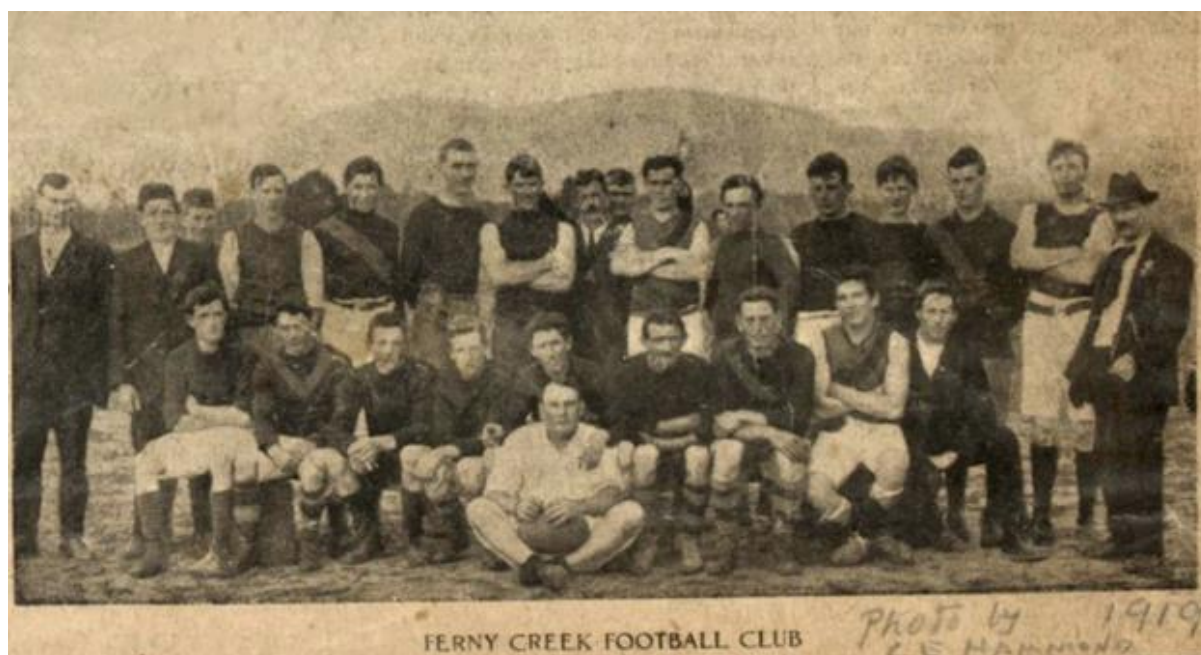
It's widely accepted that Olinda won the MDFA flag in 1910 and, after being a powerhouse club for many years, Ferny Creek won it's first premiership in 1924.

BUT should the 1919 flag have also been awarded to Ferny Creek ?

Helen Coulson's landmark book on the history of the Dandenong Ranges references the Ferny Creek premiership in 1919 .

However it was widely accepted in newspaper articles after 1919, and in League records, that Monbulk was the rightful winner.

So what happened- and why did the subsequent row almost destroy the League ?



***Ferny Creek's 1919 team- it's believed the pic was taken at Bayswater with The Dandenongs in the background- pic from Armin Richter***

In 1919 the premiership was awarded to the team which finished on top of the ladder and Ferny Creek and Monbulk were the standout clubs.

They had their noses in front of Ferny Creek and were undefeated when the teams clashed on August 16. In what was possibly the match of the season the Red and Blues (FCFC) lowered Monbulk's colours by one point and firmed as flag favourites.

However the following week Ferny Creek, playing at home in front of a noisy crowd , was upset by Belgrave 4-7 to 3-9.

Monbulk then went on to enjoy a strong win over Belgrave, despite a newspaper correspondent noting that Belgrave recent 39 free kicks.

That victory meant it looked like the flag was heading to Monbulk until Ferny Creek lodged a protest against a leading Hawk, the ruckman McDonald.

Ferny Creek claimed McDonald was an ineligible player which meant The Hawks forfeited points in six games. Consequently Ferny Creek returned to the top of the table and closed in on the Club's first flag.

**Mountain District Football Association Premiership.**

Position of teams to date, four more Saturdays for play:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.
Ferny Creek..	13	10	3	0
Belgrave ..	13	8	4	1
Bayswater ..	12	7	5	0
Monbulk ..	13	4	9	0
Emerald ..	13	1	11	1
Monbulk	forfeited several matches.			

***A late season ladder clearly shows Monbulk losing points.***

What happened next is unclear. One report says Monbulk's points were restored the following week, however we have other newspaper reports, including one in The Herald, which say that the whole issue ended up in the County Court.

Monbulk sued the League for the 1919 Premierships flag and for 25 Pounds to pay for the premiership medallions.

But the MDFA lawyer told the Court that Monbulk had rightly been stripped of points from six games.

The Judge found in favour of the defendants, MDFA, with the plaintiff Monbulk being "non suited", which means either the plaintiff failed to show "good cause of action or evidence".

That ruling doesn't preclude the plaintiff, Monbulk, from taking action at a later date, although we can't find any reports of further court appearances.

So- in a nutshell- on the basis of these reports the flag should have gone to Ferny Creek.

Equally it's clear that since 1920 it's been widely accepted by the football community that Monbulk was the rightful premier.

Now, lets got back to Helen Coulson and her book. Why did she name Ferny Creek as the 1919 premiers ?

Monbulk historian Armin Richter says it's known that Coulson spoke at length with FCFC legend Charlie Hackett and other Ferny Creek people for her book.

Hackett and his mates were so angry with the 1919 season outcome that the Club, a founding member of the MDFA, withdrew from the League in 1920 leaving only three clubs in that competition.

Richter suggests that it was Hackett who told Coulson that the 1919 flag belonged to Ferny Creek.

Of course all this makes us ask if Monbulk **was** stripped of the pennant why was it that Ferny Creek pull out of the competition?

Subsequently the MDFA struggled in 1920 and in 1921 became the Mountaineer Football Association.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Wednesday 17 March 1920, page 11

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## CLAIM FOR PENNANT.

### Football Premiership Disputed.

A dispute regarding a football premiership came before Judge Moule for settlement in the County Court yesterday. The plaintiffs were James O'Donohue, of Monbulk, president of the Monbulk Football Club; Leslie Bally, secretary of the club; and William Williams, treasurer of the club. The defendants were George Allen Gilmour, Philip Simpson and Leslie Smith, the president, vice-president, and secretary respectively of the Mountain District Football Association. It was claimed by plaintiffs, on behalf of the Monbulk club, that they were entitled to the premiership pennant for the season 1919, and also 22 medals valued at 22/6 each. The defence was that the Monbulk club had been rightly deprived of the points gained in six of their matches because they had played an ineligible man. Plaintiffs were non-suited, without costs. Mr W. H. Magennis (instructed by Mr. B. Nolan) appeared for

plain-tiffs, and Mr. E. Gorman (instructed by Messrs. Strongman and Crouch) for the defendant

ealesville and Yarra Glen Guardian (Vic. : 1900 - 1942), Saturday 6 September 1919, page 2

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DANDENONG RANGES COMPETITION. This most interesting series of contests has received little press notice. Bayswater, Belgrave, Emerald, Ferny Creek and Monbulk are the five clubs engaged. Monbulk has won the premiership three times in succession and nearing the close of the present season with only one point defeat, bids to carry off the flag four times in succession. On August 16th Ferny Ck. beat Monbulk by one point, and by a protest of another match gained temporary lead, but on the 23rd they were defeated by Belgrave and the protest being finally decided against them fell back to second place. Last Saturday Belgrave played Monbulk at Monbulk in lovely spring weather and before a large attendance from both centres. The Belgrave people came full of confidence after the victory over Ferny Ck., but when it was found that only 14 of the regular team had turned out, and that emergencies had to be included, hopes fell. McDonald re-appeared for Monbulk, but showed signs of recent illness. The game itself was interesting although Monbulk was always in a safe position. Belgrave's ruck put up an even strenuous fight; everywhere else they were beaten. N. Camm was Monbulk's star player, McDonald, Mc-Carthy, Simpson, Lejuge and Ramshawe did excellent work, but all the team did well. The same can be said of the losing team, excepting, perhaps, the emergencies, who scarcely rose in all cases to the occasion. Salvado was the shining star of Belgrave. The final scores were Monbulk 11 goals 15 behinds, Belgrave 3 goals

11 behinds. There is also another score, and this time Belgrave wins, for they secured 39 free kicks, to 17 given to Monbulk This method of distribution has the great merit of making a brisk contest of what might in the ordinary way degenerate into a debacle. During the interval photos were taken of the teams.

Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946), Saturday 20 March 1920, page 18

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## CLAIM FOR PENNANT.

### FOOTBALL PREMIERSHIP DISPUTED:

A dispute regarding a football premiership came before Judge Houle for settlement in the County Court on March 16. Hie plaintiffs were James O'Donohue, of Monbulk, president of the Monbulk Football Club; Leslie Bally, secretary of the club; and William Williams, treasurer of the club. The defendants were George Allen Gilmour, Philip Simpson, and Leslie Smith, the president, vice-president, and secretary respectively of the Mountain District Football Association. It was claimed by plaintiffs, on behalf of the Monbulk club, that they were entitled to the premiership pennant for the season 1919, and also 22 medals valued at 22/6 each. The defence was that the Monbulk club had been rightly deprived of the points gained in six of their matches because they had played an ineligible man. Plaintiffs were non-suited, without costs. Mr. W. H. Magennis (instructed by Mr. B. Nolan) appeared for plain-tiffs, and Mr. E. Gorman (instructed. by Messrs. Strongman and Crouch) for the defendants.

## FOOTBALLERS AT LAW

### PREMIERSHIP CLAIMED

Litigation between the Monbulk Football Club and the Mountain Dis-trict Football Association, with which it was affiliated, came before Judge

Moule in the County Court today when James O'Donohue, president, Leslie Bally, secretary, and William Williams, treasurer, of the Monbulk Club claimed the sum of £25 for medals, and the delivery of the premiership pennant for 1919 from the defendant association, which was represented by George Allen Gilmour, president, Philip Simpson, vice-president, and Leslie Smith, secretary. The plaintiffs were non-suited with-out costs. One of the main features in the dispute was the eligibility of one of the players of the plaintiff club, named N. McDonald, and the right of the defendant association to deprive the plaintiff club of six matches in which McDonald played, all of which the plaintiff club won. Mr W. H. Magennis (Instructed by Mr B. Nolan) appeared for the plaintiff club, and Mr E. Gorman (Instructed by Messrs. Strongman and Crouch) for the defendant association.

**SEE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE BELOW- ON NEXT PAGE**





EMERALD FOOTBALL TEAM

## FOOTBALL.

## Bayswater v. Emerald.

Bayswater experienced difficulty in getting a full team away by the 10 a.m. train to play Emerald, but in spite of not playing full strength, succeeded in beating Emerald's strongest combination for the season.

A strong wind was blowing and is accountable for the peculiarities of the game, the scoring being by alternate sections, the side playing with the wind scoring in that particular quarter.

The totals were:—1st quarter, Emerald, 1 goal 7 behinds; 2nd quarter, Bayswater, 3 goals 6 behinds; 3rd quarter, Emerald, 2 goals 8 behinds; 4th quarter, Bayswater, 1 goal 4 behinds. Final—Bayswater, 4 goals 10 behinds (34 points); Emerald, 3 goals 15 behinds (33 points).

Monk gave satisfaction as umpire.

## Belgrave v. Ferny Creek.

This match which was played on the Ferny Creek Club's ground, was looked forward to by many, as it was the first meeting of these two clubs on the local ground. Speculation (but not in cash) was rife as to which would prove the winner, as although the Belgrave team had succeeded in both games on their own ground, yet the Red and Blue had defeated Monbulk, who have lowered Belgrave's colours on three occasions. A late start was made owing to the distance and state of the roads to be traversed. Belgrave, kicking against a heavy wind, played two men short for the first fifteen minutes, reserving places for the two Salvados, holding prominent positions in the two blues team. With a strong back line and no attempt to score, Belgrave were satisfied to hold the coming premiers down to 1 goal 3 behinds in the first quarter. Ferny failed in making the best use of the heavy wind blowing. After change of ends, Belgrave hardly improved matters as Hackett and Nelson seemed to relieve the pressure in front of goal at the critical time. Leo Fahey, however, scored a fine goal, and several times during the afternoon this player and others

were looking for Belgrave's forward to pass the sphere on to. The local boys having also scored, through a little bit of bad judgment by some Belgrave players, the half-time scores read:

Ferny Creek, 2 goals 5 behinds  
Belgrave, 1 goal 3 behinds.

When the game was resumed after the interval, it was noticed that the wind had abated considerably, and some fine play was observable all over the ground.

Cheered on by the barrackers and reinforced by lady supporters, the players put forth better and more strenuous efforts. Ferny Creek secured another goal and 2 behinds, whilst Belgrave added several minor points, one coming from a screw kick by A. Salvado, who marked from a try by Alderson right on the behind line.

Ends changed for the final twenty minutes. Belgrave prevailed—a good run by Stainsby added six points. Bounced in the centre, the ball was passed out by V. Salvado. Stainsby again collaring, passed to Alderson, who secured another goal. Off again, Alderson (2), Nelson, Hackett, and other Red and Blue players worked hard. A. Salvado played to Stainsby who kicked his second goal. For the final ten minutes the pressure was intense. Ferny tried hard to break through and at least equalize matters, but the players mentioned, aided by Murray (2), Davies, Niell, Munterley, Bishop and others managed to hold them until, at the last moment, the ball which had been gradually worked down the lower wing, was placed in the hands of Nelson, as penalty for a Belgrave player's push and excitement. The distance, however, proved too far, Belgrave won by four points, the scores being—

Belgrave, 4 goals 7 behinds (31 points).

Ferny Creek, 3 goals 9 behinds (27 points).

The goal-kickers were found in Belgrave: Fahey, Alderson, and Stainsby (2). Ferny Creek: T. Erny, O'Neil, and Taylor.

Wright, as umpire, expressed the opinion that, owing to the crowding at times, 'twas a hard game to umpire. Some of his decisions appeared somewhat erratic to the onlookers.

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## League Semi-Final.

Collingwood put up a fine achievement last Saturday, on the Melbourne ground, by beating Carlton by 18 points, the final scores being—

Collingwood, 9 goals 10 behinds.  
Carlton, 6 goals 10 behinds.

## Association Grand Final.

North Melbourne were deposed from their proud position, Footscray securing the coveted position of premiers, with a margin of 22 points.

A most strenuous game was witnessed, the final result being: Footscray, 8 goals 17 behinds (65 points).

North Melbourne, 6 goals 7 behinds (43 points).

## NOTICE IS GIVEN

That all repairs not called for within one month will be SOLD TO COVER EXPENSES.

**J. R. CRUSHELL,**  
Practical Bootmaker,  
MAIN-ROD, BELGRAVE.

BELGRAVE Progress Association meet at the Hall, on Tuesday, October 7, at 8 p.m. Business Important. F. L. Byrne, Hon. Sec.

## BELGRAVE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL OBELISK.

The names of Returned Nurses, Sailors and Soldiers of the district, who have served in the Great War, are required, so that they may be engraved on the Obelisk, which is to be erected on the Main-road, at Belgrave. Early advice will be appreciated.

F. L. BYRNE, Hon. Sec.,  
Belgrave.

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## W. JAMES

Patentee,

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