

We have records of Olinda-Ferny Creek playing a women's match against Monbulk in the early 1950s . The game attracted a "very large crowd".

It was used as a fundraiser for the construction of the new pavilion.

We also have this pic, which we believe is from also the 1950s and shows the new pavilion in the background. We believe our opponents are South Belgrave.



However we have been unable to find any record of a women's football competition and it appears these early games were played on a "one off or novelty basis".

All that changed in 2021 when a small group of people lobbied OFC, and worked hard behind the scenes, for our Club to enter a team in the local women's competition.

With only a month and a half to organise and prepare a team the women began training in early March. This (below) pic was taken at the new "golf course" ground, which the team used as a training base.



Our first coach was Simon Gilson, who provided us with this report.

Match report OFCFNC Senior Women's Round 1 April 17 2021

Olinda Ferny Creek v Belgrave @ Belgrave

Well, today was a pretty momentous occasion for the girls, many of whom were pulling on a footy jumper for the very first time: all of them, pulling on an Olinda jumper for the first time. It had been a pretty short pre-season with the team only being formed about 6 weeks ago and many of the girls had no idea what was in store for them. There was plenty of nervous energy as they ran out on the field to commence their footy careers with Olinda.

The first quarter was tight and tough as both teams found their game play. Maddie Collins, Claire Hyatt and Charlotte Yuki found the ball and used it well. Scoring was tough for both sides and we went to the break a goal or so down, thinking about our running and pressure, which was a key message for the day.

Belgrave really got on top in the second quarter and found scoring much easier. We were still held goalless and we went to the break with the girls enthusiastic but missing momentum. The message to the girls was to keep working as hard as possible and, with a deeper bench, we should be able to

outrun them. Solid ruck work by Laura Clark kept us in the ruck contests and she worked hard around the ground. Beth Hopper's work in defence helped us prevent even more goals being scores against us. Grammercy Russell's intercepting work in defence was also noteworthy.

In the third quarter, the girls lifted their work rate and started to wrestle back some momentum. Some costly turnovers prevented us from scoring, but we had stopped the damaging forward attacks by Belgrave. Ruby Gilson made sure her opponent, who had scored several goals in the second quarter, had a tough contest every time she went near the ball. Isla Bradbury's run in the middle also provided pace. There was still plenty of work to do, but the game was coming back to us. The girls went into 3/4 time with tails up and enthusiasm sky high. Defensive pressure became forward line pressure as we kicked a couple of behinds.

Our fresh legs, hard running and pressure at every contest saw us break free from the Belgrave efforts as Leah Cody scored Olinda's first ever Senior Women's footy goal. And what a moment! Every girl ran the length of the ground to congratulate her and the rest of the team for finding a way to score! After that, the forward pressure was relentless as we kicked two more goals, including a great running goal from Emma McLauchlan, and several behinds.

The clock beat us in the end but it was a great finish. The girls saw the reward for effort and how they could change the momentum of a game with hard work and running. They also got to understand the power of working as a team and how much fun footy can be when you work together as they did. We saw great leadership from Maddie and Casey Seymour as they rallied the girls from our first half position.

We had tremendous support from parents and friends, but also from the senior men and reserves that came to watch, members of the club committees and SMG and junior club committee, coaches and players. It was greatly appreciated by the girls and, by the smiles and celebrations on the ground after the game, you'd have thought we just won the Grand Final. A great first up effort! We go away with the girls understanding much more about the game and about how we need to improve in the coming weeks. The girls are pumped for training to work on playing next week against Seville/Woori Yallock at home.



A large crowd of supporters surround the women's team at Belgrave



Coach Simon Gilson pre match



First quarter action.



Quarter time message



Three quarter time- about to come home with a head of steam



AFL OUTER EAST
FOOTBALL GOAL UMPIRE'S CARD

BelGRAVE vs Olinda Ferry Creek
Div 2 Date 17. 6. 2021

Home: BelGRAVE Away: Olinda Ferry Creek

QTR	1st Half		2nd Half		QTR	Goals	Behinds	Progressive Totals		Final Score		
	Goals	Behinds	Goals	Behinds				Goals	Behinds	Goals	Behinds	
1	0	3	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	3	0	
2	5	3	0	0	2	0	0	8	3	3	3	
3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	9	3	3	3	
4	0	0	0	0	4	3	5	9	8	6	8	
Final Score	42		23									

Goal Umpire 1: PETHIA Gody
Goal Umpire 2: Nick Somerville

Umpire: [Signature]

Round 1 scorecard