



MARCH 2015

CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB

TIGER TALK

WHAT'S INSIDE

HORSINGTON
READY FOR
THE
CHALLENGE

MAISTER
BACK TO
WHERE IT
ALL BEGAN

BUSHER
SEES THE
LIGHT

SWIFT BACK
IN THE FAST
LANE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MAJOR SPONSOR
TITAN TYRES, WHEELS AND TRACKS

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 **TITAN**
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The year of 2015 promises to be exciting both on and off the field.

We have put together a great team under our senior coach Michael Broadbridge and captain Jake Murphy, who will ensure the club is

I am very happy to report that the development of the club's new premises in Davies Road, under the stewardship of Denis Marshall, is in the final stages of negotiations and hopefully the building will start in March this year.

One important area I wish to discuss is the funding of WAFL clubs. I can assure you that funding from the top down (WAFC, AFL and State Government) is shrinking. This has started with the reduction of payments to clubs for AFL drafted players.

This loss of income must be replaced by bottom-up funding from the parents of players within the district, supporters and sponsors of the Claremont Football Club and the broader community within our district.

I believe the CFC board fully understands what is required to ensure that we remain the No. 1 club in the competition. We have started documenting our vision for the future and I will keep members informed as we progress. I can assure you that this will not be an easy or quick task.

The additional costs and lack of income by playing away from (at the Showgrounds) is \$250,000 per year. The Showgrounds will be our headquarters in 2014 and 2015 and, hopefully, only part of 2016. To help offset the cost of playing at the Showgrounds I urge you all to dig deep and support our home matches and all our functions and fund-raising events.

I again highlight the importance of buying a paver and membership for life. Not only are you buying a piece of history, but you are supporting the club in its hour of need. The people I appeal to most are the past players.

Now is the time to take up our special offer of: Large paver \$1195, which entitles you to purchase membership for life. The first membership for life will cost \$500 and the second will cost \$300. A small paver costs \$295, which entitles you to become a member for life for \$500. Past players are entitled to pay \$295 for a small paver, plus a membership for life for \$400.

We need your support now. But I can assure you when we return to Davies Road and our new premises we will be far more financially secure and as a Tigers member you will be able to walk tall knowing that you have contributed to what will be a wonderful development and an asset to the community.

Best wishes,

Kevin Somes

PRESIDENT



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HORSINGTON READY FOR THE CHALLENGE

By Ken Casellas



Claremont's new Chief Executive Officer Dean Horsington can't wait for the 2015 season to get under way. He has moved smoothly into his new role with a positive attitude, declaring "there are big things ahead of us, both on the field and off the field, with the building of new club premises at Claremont Oval."

Horsington also is excited at the signing of the Claremont Football Club's new major sponsor, Titan: Tyres, Wheels, Tracks.

"Titan have come on board for two years and have a fantastic attitude," he said. "They want to make our club part of them; they are going to help us with things outside the cash component; they want to help make the Showgrounds a wonderful facility, a ground where people want to come to.

"There is so much for everyone to look forward to and I think we are on the right track, particularly regarding the quality of players we have been able to attract over the years. You don't get the type of quality players we've had if you haven't got a good reputation. Claremont is renowned for having a good culture and the players love the club and feed off that."

The 41-year-old Victorian-born Horsington took over as CEO in December, taking over from Todd Shimmon, who had served the club diligently for 27 years in a variety of roles for 27 years, the past 14 as general manager and CEO.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say that I've found certain things challenging ... there always are in these roles," he said. "I also must say that I'm excited and rejuvenated and looking forward to the year.

"Obviously there's a lot going on, being away from Claremont Oval. I think the biggest thing is when you are paying a large amount of rent in a home which is not yours and trying also to generate an income makes it really tough. I'm under no illusion that my job will be easy and that it will be a bit of a roller coaster ride, and nothing will come as a surprise.

"That is the attitude I'm taking into this role. One thing I hope to achieve is to make Claremont a profitable club, strong on the field and strong off the field.

"No doubt this will be a tough year, but the bonuses we have is that we have a virtually new facility upstairs, with the whole bar area air-conditioned and renovated. The balcony, with prime seating, is now available after being out of bounds last year.

"That and other things were beyond our control in 2014. A lot of those things have improved, through the help of the Royal Agricultural Society. We have been closely with the RAS and enjoy a close relationship.

"An area in which we can improve financially is with the gate on game days at the Showgrounds. Last year, with so many entry points into a facility with which we haven't got a lot of control over was really tough. We are now working with the RAS to erect a perimeter fence around the oval and have only two entry points."

Horsington reports that K Mart and KC Sports will continue as sponsors of Claremont in 2015 and he paid tribute to Coles and Target for being such outstanding major sponsors over the past three years. Not all sponsors have been signed, but a most welcome new sponsor is All Flags, a company which Horsington says will help Claremont in the club's visual merchandise area.

"KC Sports have upped their support," Horsington said. "They have been fantastic wholesalers for us and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with them. Gone are the days of sponsorship; we like to think of sponsors more in terms of a partnership in which we can work together to get an outcome for each party."

Horsington, who is married to Vanessa and has Amy (ten) and Zoe (seven) to keep him on his toes when he is at home, fell in love with Perth when he travelled west with five mates in 1998 for a two-week holiday. "I loved the place so much that I applied for, and gained, a transfer with my job with an optical company."

Horsington then started his association with Claremont in March 2006, as a district manager before moving into the football manager's role in 2009.

"I feel I know the culture of the club and there are a lot of great people around the club," he said. "It's a great club and I certainly don't make out that I own the club. I see myself as a custodian of the club and hope to leave it in a good place whenever I move on, or whatever happens in the future."



TIGERS AIMING FOR A BETTER START



The ultimate target this year is a finals campaign. We were only one game out last year and if we can win another game or two that will get us into the finals.

Last year it just wasn't the early losses (eight from our first 11 matches) it was the magnitude of those defeats which resulted in our percentage taking a hammering. That meant that even if we staged a remarkable comeback it would have been tough to get the percentage up.

You can't start a season in that way and hold any realistic hopes that you are going to get back in contention. It wasn't ideal and there were a whole heap of factors that contributed to that.

We are certainly confident that we are in a better position at this time in February than we were last

year. Hopefully, this will result in a better start. It won't be easy, with our first three games (against Subiaco, South Fremantle and East Fremantle) away from home. They are all tough opponents and it's definitely a challenging start to the season.

Looking at what you are aiming at getting from the pre-season, it's about the development and fitness of the players and refining the way you play. We are definitely ahead in developing the skills of the players and the game plans. I am confident in saying that we are 15 to 20 per cent improved across all facets of conditioning and fitness. And that's a real bonus.

The guys have really embraced playing at the Showgrounds and the club has done a great job in making the move from Claremont Oval as seamless as possible. This year it will be even better with the development around the club facilities and the improved viewing areas. I also expect that the surface of the Showgrounds oval will be better than last year, given the amount of work we have been doing.

There are a lot of positives from last season, including the way we played at the Showgrounds last year, winning seven of our nine matches there. Winning gives you confidence that doing what you are doing works, and winning at our final five matches at the Showgrounds gives a bit of mystique about it. We've got a few things that we do that we think that helps us.

Losing Luke Blackwell, Trinity Handley, Andrew Foster and Matt Orzel leaves quite a hole and you can't replace those types of players with like replacements. So what you need to do is to find either young developing players to give us exciting spark or you recruit strategically to try to cover the losses.

"We've done a combination and have been fortunate to get Beau Maister, Ian Richardson and Tom Swift back to the club. That's as good an experienced set you could get to replace those retired players. And I expect to see some of our graduating colts to play well and give us a bit of spark. We've also brought in a couple of Victorians, and one in particular who should have an immediate impact.

We've got a bit of a change with our coaching panel, with Des Headland and Mike Fountain moving on. Andrew Browne has joined the panel and he's a great acquisition who has taken to coaching like a duck to water. He's been terrific and will be looking after the midfield group. Clay McLernon has also returned and will be looking after the forwards, while Chris Bolton will continue with the defenders.

Damian McMahon is our high performance coach. He will be looking at the list in totality and devising programs for the players to maximise their development. He will have a match-day role and will be an asset in the box. Brad Trpchev (pictured below) is an up-and-coming coach who will be in charge of the development (reserves) side.



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MAISTER BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

By Ken Casellas

Ten years ago, on March 19, 2005, a tall, skinny kid lined up for his league debut with Claremont in a forward pocket in the first official WAFL match at the Claremont Showgrounds for 79 years. He booted two goals in a low-scoring affair to help the Tigers beat West Perth by one point.

Now a beefier Beau Maister is back to all where it started as he plans to return to action with Claremont at the club's temporary home ground at the Showgrounds --- after a three-year absence in Melbourne with St Kilda.

He is one of three prodigal sons returning to Tigerland in 2015, joining Ian Richardson and Tom Swift. They are wonderful players who will help to fill the gap left by the retirement of great Claremont men Trinity Handley, Luke Blackwell, Matt Orzel and Andrew Foster.

Such is the evolution of football that Maister is the only survivor among the 41 men who represented Claremont in league ranks in 2005. He, Richardson, Swift, Jake Murphy, Brandon Franz and Mitch Andrews are the survivors of Claremont's stirring premiership triumph over Subiaco in 2011 when Maister kicked five goals and won the Simpson Medal.

This year the only members of Claremont's 2012 premiership team remaining at the club are Richardson, Swift, Murphy, Andrews and Aaron Holt. Nothing in sport stands still. Absent this year from those who represented the club in league ranks in 2014 are 14 players, including the abovementioned quartet, AFL draftees Mitch McGovern and Brendan Abbott, Ben Daniher, Tom Taylor and Sam Fong.

Maister, who turns 29 on March 20, is excited at the prospect of returning to play for Claremont, even though he has had a most unfortunate setback which has seriously affected his pre-season preparation. He will not be available for the opening match, against Subiaco at Leederville Oval on March 21, and it is not known when he will be able to resume. He is still recovering from the effects of Golden Staph.

Wrist and hamstring injuries hampered his career at St Kilda in 2013 and after he received serious damage to his left shoulder after being tackled and dumped (under the full weight of the opponent) in a VFL match for Sandringham against Port Melbourne early last year he decided to retire from AFL football and return to WA to end his playing days with Claremont.

"The AC joint was completely ruptured and I needed surgery when a hook plate was inserted," Maister said. "That was my year over." Maister also underwent groin release surgery in Sydney last August and a few weeks later he was in hospital again to have plates removed from his shoulder and right thumb.

Being laid low by Golden Staph in November came as a bewildering shock. "It suddenly hit me," he explained. "No-one is willing to point the finger or exactly where I got it from. It could quite easily

have come from a lesion in my body. I had slight low back pain on the Monday of one week and it deteriorated to ten out of ten pain, so much so that the following Sunday I was taken to emergency. It was a really intense experience and I've never felt pain like that before. I thought I had slipped a disc.

"I was in hospital for ten days and then was bedridden for another four weeks, not being able to move around. It was quite scary. Golden Staph can be fatal and I consider myself lucky that I had treatment when I did. I had a couple of nights in high intensity care with a morphine pump."

It was of great comfort for Maister that he had his mother Margaret and his fiancée Rebecca de Beer by his side throughout his time in hospital. Both are qualified nurses.

"I can't remember half of it," he said. "I was so drugged out and in so much pain. This has been a big setback to my comeback to football. I am working closely with Anthony McEvoy (club physiotherapist) and the fitness and strength and conditioning guys. It's just step by step. And it is frustrating because I've always been able to train at full pace. At the moment my body is not allowing me.

"It is a matter of getting conditioning into that muscle where the Golden Staph was located. I consider myself lucky to be able to be walking about, smiling and able to work."

There has been one wonderful moment in the recent miserable months --- and that was his wedding day in January when he tied the knot

with Rebecca, his partner of almost six years.

Maister, born and raised in Albany, is a qualified carpenter and he is now enjoying working for Celebration Homes as a site manager, supervising up to 30 houses at one time.

Recruited by the Tigers from the Railways club in Albany, Maister had two seasons with the Claremont colts under coaches Ash Prescott and Matt Angus. He was captain in the second year when he also was named captain of the WAFL colts side of the year and represented WA in the national under-18 carnival. In the second match of the carnival he lined up at centre-half-back against Travis Cloke and his opponent in the third match was Jarryd Roughhead.

Maister has been an AFL-listed player for nine years, playing 23 matches with the West Coast Eagles and 21 for St Kilda. He has made 92 league appearances for Claremont and has played in four Foxtel Cup matches and once for Western Australia.

"I want to finish my professional or semi-professional career with Claremont," he says. "There has been nothing better than the premiership we won in 2011. It would be amazing to be part of something like that again. Hopefully we can emulate our 2011 performance in the next couple of years; that's the plan.

"I'm still going through a few issues with my body at the moment, but I still think that I have got a bit to offer over the next couple of years."



Beau Maister

MURPHY REMAINS AT THE HELM

By Ken Casellas

Dynamic midfielder Jake Murphy will continue as captain of the Claremont league side in 2015, with speedy midfielder Ryan Neates and mercurial forward Ian Richardson being appointed co vice-captains.

Neates and Richardson take over from last year's vice-captains Luke Blackwell and Trinity Handley, who have retired after outstanding careers with the Tigers.

The 23-year-old Neates enjoyed a wonderful season in 2014 when he, ruckman Mark Seaby and defender/wingman Tom Taylor were the only players to appear in all of the side's 20 matches. Neates was runner-up to Blackwell as the club's fairest-and-best player.

Richardson (27), winner of the E. B. Cook Medal as Claremont's fairest-and-best player in 2008, returns to action this year after spending 2014 travelling the world.

Brandon Franz has been rewarded for his superb season at full-back last year by being chosen in the senior side's leadership group. The lithe Franz (29) finished fourth in the fairest-and-best count last year.

Joining Franz in the leadership group are the returning Beau Maister, young gun Hugo Breakey and North Ballarat recruit Oliver Tate. Injuries restricted Breakey, now 22, to 12 league appearances last year when he excelled as a resolute, hard-running tagger. Tate (23) was a member of North Ballarat's leadership group last year.



Leadership Group Left to Right: Ryan Neates (VC), Oliver Tate, Beau Maister, Jake Murphy (C), Ian Richardson (VC), Hugo Breakey, Brandon Franz



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ANOTHER TWIST TO BRADLEY'S CAREER

By Ken Casellas

Kepler Bradley's roller-coaster, undulating ride in football will take another turn in 2015 when he lines up at centre-half-back for Claremont after a deal was sealed recently to facilitate his transfer from West Perth.

Much loved at the Falcons and in his 117-match AFL career with Essendon and the Fremantle Dockers, the angular 29-year-old will bolster Claremont's stocks as the club plans to re-emerge as a power in the WAFL competition after finishing fifth in 2014.

Bradley, who started work early this year as a player development officer with the Tigers, is looking forward with his customary enthusiasm to re-igniting his career.

His move to Claremont followed his retirement as an AFL player with the Dockers last year as he struggled to overcome a series of injuries. Straining a hamstring three times during the year restricted his football in 2014 to 13 league matches with Peel Thunder, Fremantle's affiliate WAFL club.

BUSHER SEES THE LIGHT

By Ken Casellas

Haydn Busher, recruited from Perth, promises to add considerable energy and physical strength to the Claremont attacking division this season.

A robust, straight-ahead type of player, the 23-year-old Busher is an elite runner with strong endurance. He is looking forward keenly to cementing a spot in the Tigers league line-up and hopefully experiencing finals football in September after many years in the football wilderness with the Perth Demons.

"At Perth, I love all the boys and the institution and I was always driven to stay with the club," he said. "I had a few offers to switch clubs, but I had the motivation to stay at Perth and be part of the team that broke the premiership drought. The club has not won the flag since 1977 and to be part of a side to break that drought would be a massive achievement.

"But I guess I got to the point at the end of last year when I just thought I couldn't see that happening. I gave up hope and didn't really have any faith in the club administration. I didn't really see any direction or any real plan for success.

"It was like a year-to-year thing. I'd been there for ten years and every two years we would have a cycle. One year we looked like we were building and the next year we would fall away.

"I thought I had a great opportunity to break away and work with a great coach like Broady, someone I'd had a bit of involvement with at Perth. I was really excited to take that opportunity and to get to know a new bunch of guys has been really exciting. I'm a work in progress, still a bit rough in my skills, fitness etc.

Bradley's final AFL appearance was in the round-five match against Richmond at Subiaco Oval on April 26, 2013, when he ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee after an opposition player fell on his leg after he had kicked the ball. This required a knee reconstruction which kept him out of action for the rest of the year. His hamstring problems last year were the direct result of the knee surgery.

Bradley's ungainly hunched posture and his galumphing gait belies his skill and agility. He is a fierce competitor and a splendid team man.

Few players have proved to be as versatile as the towering 198cm and 100kg Bradley, who has played as a ruckman, key forward, key defender, a ruck-rover and a wingman. He was a star as a teenager when he won the Larke Medal as best player in the national under-18 championship in 2003 as well as winning the Jack Clarke Medal as the best player in the WAFL colts competition.

He was able to poll sufficient votes to win the Clarke Medal despite playing five matches for the West Perth league side in 2003. He celebrated his fifth league appearance as a member of the West Perth premiership side.

He then was taken with pick No. 6 in the 2003 national draft by Essendon. After playing in five

"I'll play in any position. I like to be in control, be a focal point and play to my strengths --- my work rate and physical strength. There's a lot to look forward to."

A series of injuries have restricted Busher to just 39 league matches in the past five seasons and so far his football life has been one of unfulfilled dreams. He graduated from junior ranks with Victoria Park to Perth as a 13-year-old in a development squad and then moved seamlessly into colts football.

Busher played at centre-half-back for Western Australia in the 2009 national under-18 carnival when the side, coached by Andrew Lockyer, triumphed after runaway victories in all five matches. "I think that 18 of our players were drafted in the years that followed and I was one of the few who wasn't," Busher said.

Among those drafted by AFL clubs were Claremont's Ryan Neates, Travis Colyer, Nick Winmar, Gerrick Weedon and Nat Fyfe, along with Mitch Duncan, Jack Darling, David Swallow, Kane Lucas, Anthony Morabito, Brad Sheppard, Blayne Wilson, Brandon Matera, Jamie Cripps, Mark Hutchings and Joel Houghton.

Busher made his league debut for Perth in 2010 and made eight appearances that year before a breakout season in 2011 when he played in 19 of Perth's 20 matches and was touted as an AFL prospect.

But he was laid low by injury and did not play a game in 2012. "I had been troubled by a hip problem for a couple of years, but had been able to manage it," Busher said. "There was extra bone growth that was grinding into the cartilage in the hip joint and this required major surgery in March and July.

"I was pretty much out for the entire next pre-

AFL matches in 2004 he became a regular with the Bombers, playing 19 matches in 2005 and 21 the following year. He received an AFL Rising Star nomination in 2005, but fell out of favour with the club when he made only four appearances in 2007 before being released after playing 49 AFL matches.

Bradley played in 15 matches for the Bendigo Bombers in the VFL competition in 2007, playing at centre-half-forward, kicking 31 goals and winning the club's fairest-and-best award.

He then was recruited by the Dockers where he remained for seven years, adding another 68 matches to his AFL tally, playing a variety of positions. In 2011 he scored 25 goals and was Fremantle's equal leading goalkicker with Chris Mayne.



Kepler Bradley

season with complications from the surgery and then I had a slow build-up," He managed seven reserves matches and five consecutive matches with the league team before breaking down again with hip trouble, which brought to an end his 2013 season.

"Towards the end of 2013 I was somewhat disillusioned with football and I received a scholarship to attend Salford University in Manchester, studying social work. I was away from September until late January, and when I returned to Perth I was very keen and my body felt great.

"I played the round-one match against Claremont before getting back into the league team. I played seven games and was getting back to my best." But in the round-ten match against Swan Districts on May 31 he pinged his hamstring after a fast lead to take a mark in the third quarter. He went back and kicked a goal before limping off the ground. He has not played since.



Heydn Busher

NOMADIC RICHO RETURNS

By Ken Casellas

Only six men have kicked more goals for Claremont than Ian Richardson --- and now the exciting left-footer is back and hungry for more, fully refreshed and rejuvenated after taking 2014 off, travelling the world, enjoying snowboarding in the French Alps and playing social soccer.

"Hopefully the rest will enable me to play for a bit longer," he said. "I'm still only 27 and have got many years left. I'd love to play for another four or five years."

Richardson, a dual premiership player with the Tigers, the 2008 E. B. Cook medallist as the league side's fairest-and-best player and the Simpson medallist for his brilliance for Western Australia against Queensland in 2008 in his first season in senior ranks, has been training with great gusto during the pre-season program. His return as a skilful high half-forward will add considerable firepower to the side's attack.

Richardson has always delighted Tigers fans with his fierce attack on the ball and his considerable flair. His tally of 306 goals from 126 league appearances is an outstanding result for a half-forward flanker. In Claremont's 89 years in the WAFL competition his tally has been exceeded only by Warren Ralph (564), George Moloney (555), Wayne Harvey (389), Chad Jones (364), Jack Stewart (319) and Steve Malaxos (308).

"I missed football when I was away, but I kept a close watch on the boys," he said. "It's a bit of

a different group now. Obviously a few pretty important players have retired and there are a lot of new young blokes coming in. There's a good feeling around the club and everyone is very positive."

At the end of the 2013 season Richardson joined his Claremont teammates for a trip to Los Angeles and Las Vegas before travelling in California where he bumped into former teammates Ryan Brabazon and Kane Mitchell. Montreal was one of his favourite cities during ten weeks in America and Canada.



Ian Richardson

After that it was off to France where he settled in the ski resort town of Chamonix, remaining there for five months and snowboarding almost every

day. Importantly, it was in Chamonix that he met Claire Lennon, a girl from Cairns who was in Europe on a working holiday. Ian and Claire are now happily together in Swanbourne.

"I tried to get into the Chamonix soccer team, but I missed the cut-off for registration and had to be content playing social soccer," Richardson said. Former Claremont teammates James Thomson and Clancy Rudeforth were welcome visitors.

Richardson also travelled to South America in June for a couple of months where he watched Australia play Chile and Spain and the Croatia-Cameroon match in the World Cup tournament. He was unable to get tickets to the final in Rio de Janeiro, but enjoyed being among the 200,000 revellers who crowded on to Copacabana beach to celebrate the occasion.

He visited Columbia and Peru and really enjoyed a trip on the Amazon River and a five-day trek through the jungle to the ruins of Machu Picchu, a 15th century Inca site. Richardson also travelled around Europe and loved Italy and Spain. Before returning to Perth in October he spent a month in Ireland, catching up with his grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins.

Richardson has started a new job as a project manager with Badge Constructions and he has also been able to fit in plenty of training for the annual Cottesloe to Rottnest swim. Competing in a team of four, he raised more than \$3500 for mental health issues. The swim took more than eight hours in rough conditions, but Richardson said it was well worth the effort.

PHELPS IS THE NEW HEAD TRAINER

The engine room of the Claremont Football Club is one of the most important cogs in the Tigers machine and the dedicated Chloe Phelps assumes the role of head trainer this year in a department headed by Anthony McEvoy, in his 11th season as the club's physiotherapist.

Phelps, who celebrated her 21st birthday on February 28, has worked as a trainer at Claremont for the past two years. She will be overseeing the training staff over all three grades, as well as the under-16 development squad. She will liaise with McEvoy and the strength and

conditioning staff. Lionel Lim is looking forward to his 12th season as the club doctor.

And in February Phelps started a full-time job as sports medicine coverage co-ordinator for Sports Medicine Australia.

Phelps, who has a degree in exercise and sports science from Notre Dame University, intends to do a physiotherapy course. "But I have decided to have a break before I do that," she said.

A Scarborough girl, Phelps has been a dancer (jazz, contemporary and ballet) and a competitive acrobat for 13 years. "I retired a couple of years ago because it clashed too much with my studies," she said.

Phelps takes over as head trainer from Steph Madigan, head trainer in 2013 and 2014 and co-head trainer with Brit Macdonald in 2012. Previous head trainers this century have been Gemma Meaney (2000-01), Naomi Forrest (2002-03), Jade Hassell (2004), Shae Seymour (2005-06-07), Kate Murdoch (2008-09-10) and Emily Wiener (2011).



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SWIFT BACK IN THE FAST LANE

By Ken Casellas

Tom Swift lives life to the full and after ticking a few boxes, like ocean swims, running half-marathons and beach sprinting in the past two years, he's ready to resume his football career.

He will be a tremendous acquisition to Claremont this year and the dual Tigers premierships player is bubbling with enthusiasm.

"After the 2012 grand final I always planned to have a year off," he said. "I had that sort of flash in the pan, one Foxtel Cup game in mid-2013, and then time got away from me and before I knew it, it was already into the 2014 season before I even thought about footy again.

"From that point on it was pretty clear to me that I wanted to commit to this year. I have missed playing. Footy has always been a great passion of mine. While I have great ambitions in other aspects of life, it is something I've carried all my life. It's all about having mates and being in a team environment.

"I've had a lot of purpose in my study, but I've found that in my sporting life that I've not had too much purpose. I'm extremely proud of what I have achieved, I've had really good people with me along the way which has helped me immensely. I've put a lot of effort in and have certainly reaped good rewards.

"I guess more than anything this comeback of sorts is for selfish reasons in a way. I just want to get back on the field and get that feeling back

again, being with my mates. I'm more about the club this year, but at the same time I just want to go out there and have fun."

The 24-year-old Swift has played 51 league matches with the Tigers and has appeared in 34 AFL matches with the West Coast Eagles. He has been an active member of the North Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club in the past two years.

"Competing in beach running and swimming and running in three or four half-marathons as well as a 32km run have kept my competitive juices flowing," he said. "Those were things that I really enjoyed. They were something that my body didn't allow while I was playing professional sport. I have competed in the Rottneet swim twice, as a member of a team, and I plan to do it as a duo and one day as a solo swimmer."

Swift caused a surprise at the end of 2012 when he informed the Eagles that he was quitting AFL football. "I was at a meeting supposedly to re-negotiate my contract, but I had decided to retire and take a new direction in life," he said. "I had got so much out of football and my time with the Eagles. I felt from a personal development perspective I'd got just about all I could have out of the club and the game.

"I considered that I had the rest of my life ahead of me and I would have hated to pull out of the game as a 30-year-old and not having thought about the next phase of my life. Footy has always been a huge part of my life, but I'm one of those guys who are realistic and football is only part of life, not the be all and end all."

Swift missed the pre-Christmas training at Claremont while he was in Melbourne for 12

weeks working for Citibank in the investment banking division. But he worked diligently on maintaining his fitness.

"I've got no doubt that I've got the volume of work in my body," he said. "It's just a matter whether the feel of the footy can come back reasonably quickly. Physically, I'm feeling pretty good, it will be more a matter of getting a feeling of the game and reading the game."

Swift finished his Bachelor of Commerce degree last year and will do a year of honours at UWA this year.



Tom Swift

STUDY LEADS TATE TO THE TIGERS

By Ken Casellas

A search for knowledge has led to Oliver Tate joining Claremont for the 2015 season. The strongly-built 23-year-old Victorian completed a degree in podiatry last year and decided to move to Perth to study physiotherapy at Curtin University.

Claremont were negotiating with star Ballarat midfielder Myles Sewell, but when he decided to remain in Victoria the Tigers were informed that Sewell's good friend Tate was on his way west.

Tate then jumped at the chance to join Claremont and has been most impressive in pre-season training sessions. He has been an outstanding half-back flanker for North Ballarat over the past five seasons in the VFL competition. However, he has been used as inside midfielder in pre-season training match simulations at Claremont Oval and is a leading contender as the player to fill the vacancy left by retired champion Luke Blackwell.

Tate represented Victoria Country in under-15 and under-18 national carnivals and he has played in 55 VFL matches, a tally which would have been much higher had it not been for hip and knee injuries.

A damaged hip (which required surgery) kept Tate out of action for many matches in 2011 and then missed the entire 2012 season as he recovered from torn medial ligaments in a knee.

Tate was a promising teenager when he broke into the North Ballarat side in 2010 and he had the misfortune to miss playing in the club's premierships side that year. He played in two final-round matches before being named as an emergency for the grand final, making way for North Melbourne AFL player Leigh Harding.

Harding had just recovered from a hamstring injury and he re-tore the hamstring at the start of the second quarter of the grand final.

"I played in a back pocket or a half-back flank for North Ballarat," Tate said. "Generally I got the third tall. I tend to play above my height and I'm not all that quick."

Tate said that it would take him about two and a half years to graduate from Curtin University with a degree in physiotherapy. "I enjoyed my podiatry and I'm hoping to find a part-time job in the next few months.

Another Victorian recruited by Claremont is Toby Plant, a 21-year-old utility player from VFL club Port Melbourne. Plant appeared in a Foxtel Cup semi-final against Claremont at Subiaco Oval in 2012.



Oliver Tate

LATE STARTER MAXWELL SHOWS PROMISE

By Ken Casellas

A star basketballer who featured prominently in the Foxtel television reality program *The Recruit* last year is training enthusiastically with Claremont in a determined bid to make a name for himself in football.

The 24-year-old Reece Maxwell is an athletic, skilful and high-leaping athlete who has not played competitive football for almost ten years. But he has the ability and drive to become a good player for the Tigers this year.

He took part in the Auskick program as a small boy and played junior football for the Kingsley before being chosen in a West Perth development squad when he was 14.

"When I was 15 I had to choose between football and basketball and I chose basketball," he said. Then, playing as a guard for the Wanneroo Wolves in the State Basketball League, he quickly developed into a top-flight player and at 18 was chosen to represent Western Australia in the under-20 national championships in Townsville in 2009.

He was then chosen in the Australian under-20 side to compete in the Oceania tournament in Saipan, a small tropical island in the middle of the Pacific, where he won a gold medal. He played in all qualifying matches as well as in the semi-final and final. Australia beat New Zealand 78-49 in the semi-final before defeating New Caledonia 62-44 in the final, in which Maxwell scored nine goals.

Maxwell broadened his horizons and gained a sporting scholarship to Gillette College (in the middle of nowhere in the mid-west of America). He was a member of the college's basketball side from mid-year 2010 to mid-year 2011.

After that he continued his basketball career in the State Basketball League before he took a change in direction last year, applying to be chosen to appear in *The Recruit*, a program on Foxtel in which the winner was rewarded with a rookie-list contract with an AFL club.

"I love my footy and always wanted to play," he explained. "So I applied for the show, thinking it would provide a great opportunity to kick the footy around. I saw the show advertised on television and thought how cool it would be.

"About five or six months later I received an email inviting me to take part in the State trials for the show. Then there were the national trials in Melbourne and I was chosen in fifty to take part in the series.

"Everything was pretty tough, particularly as I hadn't played for nine years. It was a matter of getting used to football running. Basketball is very explosive and stop-start."

Maxwell performed wonderfully well and got down to the final five in the quest to earn an AFL rookie contract. The eventual winner was Port Lincoln product Johann Wagner, who gained a rookie contract with Port Adelaide. Another top-five contestant Pdraig Lucey was signed by Geelong.

Part of the television series took place in the northern territory where *The Recruit* team played

a match against an Aboriginal All Stars team, coached by Des Headland. "I met Des and after the television series I called him to ask him about my chances in the WAFL," Maxwell said. "He was an assistant coach at Claremont at the time and he introduced me to the club."

Maxwell, who is half way through a four-year physical education course at Edith Cowan University in Joondalup, has relished his pre-season training with the Tigers and is determined to maintain his progress in football.

"I've got work to do," he said. "I've got to get used to the structures in football and how the game flows. Things are much more predictable in basketball. Football is more chaotic and not everything goes to plan. I need to get the instinct to predict where the ball is going to be."



Reece Maxwell

TIGERS DISTRICT UPDATE

You may have recently become aware that the WAFC has undertaken some important structural reform. These tough business decisions have been made with the intent to guide our code into a sustainable position for the future.

The process of this restructure has been applied across the entire WAFC organisation and the outcome will see the removal of duplication

and a more effective structure of our human resource investments within the District model. These modifications will have limited effect on your efforts to continue delivering positive game environments within the Claremont District.

In brief, the restructure only affects the management processes in place across the 9 Districts. There is no effect to the constituted structures of the 9 District or Junior Committees which oversee Junior Football.

The new model will see Andrew Ridley (Community Development Manager) and Matt McNally (District Development Manager) manage the Claremont, Subiaco and West Perth Football Districts (Metropolitan North Region) whilst Sam Cousens (District Development Officer) will continue his great work in developing football within the Claremont District.

CLAREMONT DISTRICT ORGANISATIONAL CHART

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - ANDREW RIDLEY

DISTRICT OPERATION MANAGER- MATT MCNALLY

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – SAM COUSENS



HOUGH IS 2015 CLUB LEGEND

By Ken Casellas

Keith Hough holds a special place in the history of the Claremont Football Club. He has the distinction of being the club's first Sandover medallist and is one of only four players to have won Claremont's fairest-and-best award in his first season in senior ranks.

The late Keith Hough had an immediate impact, winning Claremont-Cottesloe's fairest-and-best award in his first season with the Tigers in 1928 as a 21-year-old. Two years later he finished second to West Perth half-back Ted Flemming in the Sandover Medal, despite missing three matches through injury.

After Hough was selected as Australia's best wingman in the 1930 national carnival, he was signed by South Melbourne for the 1931 season. But Claremont-Cottesloe and the WANFL bluntly refused his several applications for a clearance and, finally, he gave up and returned to Perth to play in three of Claremont-Cottesloe's final five matches of the season.

Hough then took the football world by storm in 1932 and won his club's fairest-and-best award for the second time as well as winning the Sandover Medal with a record total of 32 votes, 16 more than the tally recorded by the runner-up, East Fremantle's John Munro. Hough polled in 14 of the 18 qualifying-round matches, scoring six first, six second and two third votes.

In his first few seasons Hough played almost exclusively on a half-back flank, but in 1932 he

played in that position in eight of the club's 18 matches as well as playing in the centre in seven matches, on a wing in two matches and on a half-forward flank once.

Hough, small of stature and slightly built, was skilful and energetic. He was recruited from the Pastimes Football Club in Bunbury and went on to make 120 league appearances for the Tigers, as well as representing Western Australia eight times in interstate matches. He was club vice-captain in 1933 and captain in 1934.

He was a shining light in his first eight years at the club when the league side finished last five times and second last three times. Renowned for his uncanny anticipation and sparkling speed, Hough retired at the end of the 1936 season after appearing on a wing in Claremont's first two final-round matches (a five-point victory over East Fremantle in the second semi-final and the 11-point loss to East Perth in the grand final, after the Tigers had led 11 minutes before the final siren).

Hough was described in 1932 in The West Australian newspaper as "a player who never gives up. His dogged persistence and fleetness of foot, sure hands and mastery disposal have made him one of the State's foremost players."

Another newspaper article that year described him thus: "His greatest asset as a half-back is his dash. He handles the ball beautifully and, unlike the majority of half-backs, invariably disposes of the ball to advantage."

Hough ranks with Sammy Clarke and George Moloney as one of Claremont's champions in the early days of the club and he has been honoured as Claremont's 2015 match-day legend.

WEST
AUSTRALIAN
FOOTBALL
LEGEND

KEITH HOUGH

League Debut 1928
(Claremont-Cottesloe)

120 Games

8 State Games

Sandover Medal
1932

Sandover Medal
Runner-up 1930

2 x CFC Club
Fairest & Best

Half Back Flank



AFL WATCH



Jared Hardisty: Jared has fitted in well with the Hawks and is well liked by his teammates. He has a great personality and the boys really enjoy his energy and positiveness. He has impressed everyone with his attack on the ball and has picked up plenty of possessions in our practice games at training. He is working hard to understand the way the Hawks play (Structures, Ball movement patterns, defensive systems etc). He is also working on his disposal skills as we'd like him to be a bit more effective with his ball use. He played in NAB 1 with many of our other young players and put in an honest performance. He learnt a lot from the experience. Gary Buckenara Hawthorn East Coast Recruiting Manager



Brendan Abbot: Brendan has assimilated into our program surprisingly well the positive being that an operation on his ankle was not required pre Xmas which has allowed Brendan a steady build up to full training. . . . he certainly doesn't look out of place amongst the group it is now about being consistent with his training habits which will hopefully translate to him playing some consistent football throughout the season. . . . there is no doubt that it is a marathon and not a sprint for Brendan but we are very pleased as to where he is at in the lead up to the season. Derek Hine General Manager List Management Collingwood Football Club



Mitch McGovern: Mitch has had a frustrating first pre-season, developing soreness in both Achilles and spending more time than he would like in rehab. He has maintained a positive attitude and worked hard with his rehab training. Starting to do more running and football sessions in the past 2 weeks. Phil Bunn – WA Recruiting Manager – Adelaide Crows



Alec Waterman: Alec has been very enthusiastic and has been working closely with Adam Selwood and Gavin Bell. Alec has strong links with the club over a long period through his father Chris, and has adjusted well to the AFL lifestyle. Alec represented the West Coast Eagles football club well when he came on late in the indigenous game at Leederville and was effective with his ball use. Being at this early stage in his development, Alec is looking forward to making a solid contribution to WAFL league football in 2015. Brad Smith. West Coast Eagles Recruiting Operations Manager



DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

**AMCAP Distribution Centre is
delighted to sponsor the mighty
Claremont Football Club again in 2015.
GO TIGERS!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

DATE	TIME	EVENT	WHERE
MARCH			
Thursday 12th	6.30pm – 9.00pm	Corporate Classic Cocktail Party, League Jumper Presentation & Player Auction	Showgrounds
Saturday 21st	All Day	AWAY GAME Subiaco vs CLAREMONT	Medibank
Saturday 28th		BYE	
APRIL			
Friday 4th	Easter Weekend	AWAY GAME South Fremantle vs CLAREMONT	Fremantle Oval
Saturday 11th	All Day	AWAY GAME East Fremantle vs CLAREMONT	ATOM Stadium
	PP to Yr 3 9am to 4pm	CFC School Holiday Clinic	Showgrounds
	Yr 4 to Yr 7 9am to 4pm	CFC School Holiday Clinic	Showgrounds
Saturday 18th	All Day	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs Perth	Showgrounds
Saturday 25th	All Day	AWAY GAME Peel Thunder vs CLAREMONT	Bendigo Bank Stadium
MAY			
Saturday 2nd	All Day	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs West Perth	Showgrounds
Saturday 9th	Mother's Day Weekend	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs Swan Districts	Showgrounds
		CFC Corporate Golf Day	Steel Blue Oval
Saturday 23rd	State Game	WA vs SA	Lathlain Park
Saturday 30th	All Day	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs Subiaco	Showgrounds
JUNE			
Sunday 6th		BYE	
Saturday 13th	All Day	AWAY GAME Perth vs CLAREMONT	Lathlain Park
Saturday 20th	Junior Parade Day	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs Subiaco	Showgrounds
Saturday 27th	All Day	AWAY GAME East Fremantle vs CLAREMONT	ATOM Stadium
JULY			
Saturday 4th		BYE	
TBA		CFC July School Holiday Clinic	Showgrounds
Saturday 11th	NAIDOC WEEK	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs South Fremantle	Showgrounds
Saturday 18th	Colts play in Broome	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs Peel Thunder	Showgrounds
Saturday 25th	All Day	AWAY GAME East Fremantle vs CLAREMONT	HBF Arena
AUGUST			
Saturday 1st	All Day	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs Swan Districts	Showgrounds
Saturday 8th	PM	Banquet Auction	Showgrounds
Saturday 8th	All day	AWAY GAME East Perth vs CLAREMONT	Medibank
Saturday 16th	All Day	HOME GAME CLAREMONT vs East Fremantle	Showgrounds
Sunday 17th	8.30am – 2.00pm	AUSKICK GALA DAY	City Beach Oval
Saturday 22nd	All Day	AWAY GAME Swan Districts vs CLAREMONT	Steel Blue Oval
Saturday 30th	All Day	AWAY GAME West Perth vs CLAREMONT	HBF Arena
SEPTEMBER			
Weekend of 5th & 6th	All Day	WAFL SEMI FINAL	TBA
Weekend 12th & 13th	All Day	WAFL 1 ST & 2 ND SEMI FINAL	TBA
Weekend 20th	All Day	PRELIMINARY FINAL	TBA
Saturday 26th	All Day	Perth Royal Show Parking Day 1	Claremont Oval
Sunday 27th	All Day	WAFL GRAND FINAL	Patersons Stadium
OCTOBER			
TBA	7.00pm	CFC Club Champion Awards	CFC Members Lounge
NOVEMBER			
27th		CFC Annual Report & 2014 Membership Renewals	
DECEMBER			
Thursday 10th	6.00pm	CFC AGM	CFC Members Lounge
Friday 10th		Club Closes for the festive season.	

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