



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

AFL 2023 ROUND 3 ST KILDA V ESSENDON

LIBRARY FACT SHEET APRIL 1, 2023

APRIL FOOLS DAY FOOTY AT THE MCG

It is fitting that tonight's match at the MCG takes place between two non-tenant clubs on April 1 – aka April Fools Day – as the Docklands Stadium, the Saints' and the Bombers' "home" ground, sits vacant. There have been numerous April Fools encounters at the MCG, although they were few and far between prior to the 1990s. These games are outlined below.

- 1888 Carlton hosted Port Melbourne at the MCG, but were defeated by Port five goals to two. Played out of season, some 10,000 to 12,000 people attended the match which was arranged as a benefit for the English cricketer Billy Bates, who was injured when practising on the MCG.
- 1961 The Melbourne Football Club opened its 1961 campaign with three practice games on April Fools Day at the MCG. Two were intra-club and the third was against Old Scotch Collegians.
- 1967 The Melbourne Football Club hosted three practice games on April Fools Day at the MCG. Their Fourths played McKinnon, their Thirds met Old Scotch Collegians, while the Seniors played an intra-club match.
- 1978 April Fools Day 1978 saw the first League match at the MCG in which an interchange bench replaced the substitution of the 19th and 20th man. Richmond defeated Carlton by 77 points, 25.24 (174) to 14.13 (97) before an attendance of 49,511. Earlier in the day the Tigers defeated Carlton by 65 points in the Reserve Grade match.
- 1989 Melbourne 18.8 (116) defeated Fitzroy 16.15 (111) by just five points before a crowd of 25,792. In the earlier game Melbourne's Reserves 9.14 (68) were belted by Fitzroy's Reserves 20.18 (138).
- 1991 Richmond 17.7 (109) lost by four points to Essendon 16.17 (113) in this AFL Round 2 match before 31,793. The capacity of the MCG was reduced throughout 1991, as the 43,000 capacity Southern Stand (35,000 seated) had been demolished to build a new stand. The boundary and Punt Road end goals were moved in three metres for building works. In the earlier Reserve Grade game Richmond lost by 37 points, 17.12 (114) to 22.19 (151). In this game Essendon's John Barnes' jaw was broken. The Dons' accused a Richmond player of doing it behind the play but Richmond exonerated their player.
- 1995 The Fremantle Dockers' debut AFL match was on April Fools Day 1995 at the MCG. Richmond spoiled the Dockers' party by five points, 12.18 (90) to 12.13 (85) before a crowd of 26,219. The Tigers also won the earlier Reserve Grade game 21.12 (138) to Hawthorn's Reserves' 7.10 (52).
- 1999 The recently rebranded Kangaroos (formerly North Melbourne) 15.16 (106) lost to Essendon 22.9 (141) in their AFL Round 2 match at the MCG before a crowd of 48,383.
- 2000 Hawthorn 14.6 (90) were defeated by Essendon 20.17 (137) before 46,889 in this AFL Round 4 encounter. The League season was brought forward to facilitate the staging of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.
- 2001 Melbourne 15.13 (103) lost to Richmond by 31 points 20.14 (134) in front of 44,466 on April Fools Day.
- 2002 April Fools Day fell on Easter Monday. Hawthorn 15.13 (103) were defeated by Melbourne 20.9 (129). The Demons kicked 10 unanswered goals from midway through the first quarter to the eight minute mark of the third quarter. Hawthorn then booted the next nine in 27 minutes, including eight in just 14 minutes.
- 2005 Essendon 17.4 (106) were defeated by Carlton 16.14 (110) in front of a crowd of 56,446.
- 2007 Carlton was the first home team to win on April Fools Day at the MCG since 1995. The Blues 15.25 (115) defeated Richmond 15.8 (98) before a crowd of 59,847.
- 2011 A crowd of 41,465 saw Richmond 13.17 (95) tie with St Kilda 14.11 (95). It was the first drawn match at the MCG on April Fools Day. The Tigers' Trent Cotchin was awarded the Ian Stewart Medal as the best on ground.
- 2013 April Fools Day fell on Easter Monday. Hawthorn 12.14 (86) were defeated by Geelong 13.15 (93) before an April Fools Day record crowd of 76,300.
- 2016 A crowd of 72,761 saw Collingwood defeat Richmond by one point, 13.9 (87) to 12.14 (86). Twenty minutes into the last quarter Richmond had led by 17 points. Collingwood's Brodie Grundy kicked the winning goal with four seconds on the clock. A "Go Pies! Stop the Mosques" banner that had been smuggled into MCG was unfurled briefly beneath eastern scoreboard in the second quarter by a United Patriots Front member. He was ejected. The VFL team Werribee defeated an AIS AFL Academy team in the curtain raiser.
- 2017 Hawthorn 13.11 (89) were defeated by Adelaide 16.17 (113) on April Fools Day before a crowd of 37,420.
- 2022 On last year's April Fools Day Melbourne 14.15 (99) defeated Essendon 10.10 (70) in front of 44,503 people.

This Round in History – Round 3 on the MCG

The biggest Round 3 winner on the MCG is North Melbourne by 127 points in 1994 when the Kangaroos 25.23 (173) defeated Hawthorn 6.10 (46). The highest score in all Round 3 matches on the MCG was registered by Richmond 31.25 (211) in 1985 against St Kilda. The best score in a quarter was also recorded in this game when Richmond kicked 9.7 (61) during the third quarter. In Round 3 there have been seven drawn games, two of which have been at the MCG. The last draw at the MCG in Round 3 was in 1980 when Richmond 18.20 (128) drew with St Kilda 19.14 (128). The most goals kicked by an individual in Round 3 on the MCG is 13 by Essendon's Matthew Lloyd in 1999 against Sydney. The top attendance for a Round 3 game is 90,564 for a Richmond-Essendon game at the MCG in 1982.

Statistics for St Kilda v Essendon

St Kilda v Essendon by venue

	Won by St Kilda	Won by Essendon	Drawn
Docklands	11	16	0
East Melbourne	7	16	1
Gabba	1	0	0
Junction Oval	22	38	2
MCG	5	3	0
Moorabbin	9	15	0
Princes Park	0	1	0
Toorak Park	1	1	0
Waverley	7	9	0
Windy Hill	7	45	1
	70	144	4

Most Goals in a Match (10 goals or more)

10	Greg Stockdale	Ess	Rd 1	1923	WH
10	Vince Irwin	Ess	Rd 8	1924	WH
10	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 18	1950	JO
10	John Coleman	Ess	Rd 3	1953	WH

Highest Score

St Kilda	25.12 (162)	Rd 14	2015	Dock
Essendon	28.21 (189)	Rd 17	1944	WH

Lowest Score

St Kilda	0.3 (3)	Rd 12	1897	EM
Essendon	1.7 (13)	Rd 4	1906	JO

Greatest Winning Margin

St Kilda	110 points	Rd 14	2015	Dock
Essendon	125 points	Rd 16	1911	JO

Last Time They Met – Round 14, 2022, Docklands

	St Kilda	Essendon
Quarter time	2.1	4.5
Half time	3.3	7.7
Three-quarter time	8.4	13.11
Full time	11.6 (72)	15.17 (107)

THEIR ONLY GRAND FINAL

These two clubs were both inaugural members of the Victorian Football League in 1897, but have only met once in a grand final. The 1965 finals series saw Essendon defeat Geelong and Collingwood, and St Kilda also defeat Collingwood for them to meet on the last Saturday in September.

Both sides were at full strength except that Essendon half forward John Somerville was missing with concussion brought about by an unpleasant incident against Collingwood in the previous week's preliminary final. Scores were reasonably close in the first half, with Essendon leading by seven points at quarter time and eight at half time. They took over in the third quarter, however, kicking five goals to the Saints' one and led by 37 points at the last change, maintaining the lead in the last quarter to run out comfortable winners by 35 points. **Essendon 14.21 (105) defeated St Kilda 9.16 (70).**

Verdun Howell, who had been moved to full forward in a desperate move by St Kilda's coach Allan Jeans, was the Saints' leading goalkicker with three. Starring at full forward for the Bombers, Ted Fordham kicked seven goals.



FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mcclcatalogue>

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