

Glenn Wilson (1982-1983)



My first encounter with BCAE FC was when I was playing for my home team, Echuca FC. We were in a lower league and played the college team in a cup match. It was memorable because the players had all been out the night before at the Goal Keepers 21st. Needless to say it appears you do not feel any pain after a hard nights partying. We were expecting to be thrashed but played the game of our lives, losing 1-0 to a late goal. The magic of cup football.

I commenced my Business Studies course in 1981 at BCAE and the first person I met convinced me to play with Golden City. I enjoyed my time there setting a new record for Bendigo Football scoring the fastest goal ever in the Associations history. Six seconds from kick off so the paper said. Ok, I admit, I received the ball on the wing and proceeded to cross the ball. The wind caught it and the ball curled into the tip corner of the net. You make your own luck.

Golden City played College in the final of the Cup. College outplayed us and deserved their 1-0 win.

I came to my senses and joined the college team in 1982. A serious ankle injury early in the season meant I missed most of the season, coming back in time for the finals.

Season 1983 will live long in our memories. I played in the College reserve team and we went through the season undefeated (I believe). It just shows that a bunch of students can have fun and gel as a team. With the leadership and guile of

our more senior players in Ray Gill and Marty Hurst (Siggy did make one appearance) and the enthusiasm of youth in our forwards, Nathan Preyser ably assisted by Tim Jesson; plus Andrew Bastin; Roger Moore; Dean Rogers; Wayne Sharpe; Steve Graham David Rose; Russell Radcliffe; Mick Peckham; Eric Psarianos; Howie Tippett and Metin Sahan, and team coach Stuart Gibson; this was a year to remember.

The photos of celebrations at Stuart's home and at the Football Association awards night are testament to how we all loved playing as a team and celebrating our success.

After graduating, I played some football for Hawthorn in Melbourne until they were suspended for the season for supporter fights.

Suffice to say, I stopped playing until I moved to Albury in 1989. I played for a few more seasons before taking up refereeing which has been my passion for the past 30 years; becoming a life member recently (a sign of old age and a signal to hang up the whistle). I have also managed to coach my son's junior teams and am still on the committee of local club Melrose FC.

I was over the moon when I made contact again with Stuart, Voldi and Nathan - which started our daily banter group. It has become a form of 'Men's Shed' where we talk BS every day - great for your mental health as I have been working from home the past 2 years due to the pandemic.

This group is growing and hence the thoughts of a reunion sprung. It is looming to be the highlight event of the year (yeah - I do not get out much). Look forward to catching up with everyone where we can reminisce over the great times at BCAE.