GRAND FINAL

WARRAGUL PREMIERS FOR 1922

A great deal of excitement was occasioned over the grand final encounter in the Central Gippsland Association for the 1922 premiership between Warragul and Trafalgar, which took place on the ground of the latter last Saturday afternoon. Special trains were chartered, and these were packed. When the "down" train arrived at Warragul it was found necessary to put on additional carriages. Motor cars and other vehicles also brought their quota. There was a very large attendance present, and the gate takings amounted to £121 13s. Ideal weather prevailed, and the ground was in good order. During the afternoon the Trafalgar Brass Band enlivened proceedings with musical selections.

When the teams lined up it was easy to see that they were both well represented. A free kick to Trafalgar opened proceedings; but fine work by Murray and Bourke frustrated their efforts; and Butt securing, forwarded, and Birt registered first goal for Warragul. Shortly afterwards the same dashing player (the outcome of Weidner's "heady" work) booted the second goal. Trafalgar then took a turn at attacking, Miner's shot proving fruitless, and the next caused one flag to be raised, followed by a goal from Turner. This goal resulted from a bounce in front, owing to Warragul's back man overstepping the line when kicking in. For a brief period the ball was driven from one end, and then to the other with almost lightning-like rapidity, the back men on both sides showing out well. The "spell" was broken by Les. James snapping a point for the red and black. Later on Birt added a single, which was followed with a "sixer" by Skewes, making the scores at quarter-time—

Warragul, 3.2 (20 pts.).
Trafalgar, 1.1 (7 pts.).

Immediately the second term opened, P. Watson snapped a goal for the red and white. From the resultant bounce Warragul forwarded, Plant passing to Keating, but the latter missed an easy chance. A second attempt was also wide of the mark, and the third only recorded a minor. Give and take play was then the order, followed by a point to Traf. from a scrimmage in front. A fine run was put in by Butt, who booted to Plant, and Birt securing from the latter scored a point. Butt once again distinguished himself with a run. Trafalgar's defenders, especially Perrier, ably rose to the occasion, and Callopy (who just previous to this received a nasty "buster") added a point to their tally, and P. Watson registered another. Decker, Devereaux and Weidner shone out for Warragul, their work being taken up by Skewes, and ended by Stewart punting a single. Half-time scores—

Warragul, 3.5 (23 pts.).
Trafalgar, 2.4 (16 pts.).

On resuming, the local team had a slight advantage from the bounce; but solid defence work by Decker, Keppell, Murray and Bourke turned aside their attacks. Then Warragul assumed the aggressive, Birt scoring a behind, Skewes kicking another, Les. James snapping an additional one, and Butt booted the next. H. Watson and Perrier eventually drove off the invaders, and placed the visitors on the defensive, Turner snapping the "red legs" third goal, which brought them to within five points of their opponents—3.4 to 3.9. Just as the applause was subsiding from this achievement, Skewes passed to Plant, who succeeded in raising Warragul's score another six points. A moment later, however, the same player failed in another attempt. Keating and Birt (the result of good work by C. and E. James) quickly put on a point apiece, and then Weidner punted fifth goal. Traf. then had a "say," Miner adding a behind followed by another. Callander, Black and Gangell put in telling work for Warragul. Plant then received a "rough passage" from his opponents, and from the resultant "free" only notched a minor. Mitchell replied with a similar score for his side, and P. Watson did likewise. Three-quarter scores—

Warragul, 5.12 (42 pts.).
Trafalgar, 3.8 (26 pts.).

With 16 points to the good as the last stage was entered on, the Warragulites were naturally very pleased with themselves. But what a change came over the scene! for in a very short space of time Trafalgar had registered two goals, through the agency of P. Watson and Skidmore. A brilliant effort by P. Watson added a point, which made a difference of only three points in the scores—5.9 to 5.12—and this set the "barrackers" of both sides going "hammer and tongs." Warragul then "woke up," and a mighty cheer rent the air as Plant marked within distance, but his shot struck the post! Centre play was the order for a time, and then Skidmore recorded Traf.'s sixth goal, which put them in front for the first time during the game—6.9 to 5.13. However, they did not enjoy this privilege for long, for Plant well and truly drove the ball through the big sticks, and the "pair of calicoes" floated gaily in the breeze—6.13 to 6.9. Curtis, the red and white "coach," with a magnificent piece of work, drove the ball forward, and Miner capped his efforts with a goal. This placed Traf. in front once again by two points—7.9 to 6.13. Time was creeping on, and the excitement was intense. Plant reduced the scores a point, and Skewes made things "level pegging" with another point — 6.15 to 7.9. Warragul were now playing for all they were worth, and repeatedly bombarded the heights. Skewes put on another point, and Plant (through rippy play by Devereaux) added another, the bell ringing with the scores—

Warragul, 6.17 (53 pts.).
Trafalgar, 7.9 (51 pts.).

Blackburn, who officiated as umpire, carried out his duties in a capable manner. Every man in the Warragul team did his share in securing the coveted honors of premiers. The 18 was as follows:—A. Birt, D. Black, V. Bourke, E. Butt, S. Callander, W. Decker, J. Devereaux, B. Gangell, C., E. and L. James, V. Keating, J. Keppell, F. Murray (capt.), F. Plant, T. Skewes, Stewart and A. Weidner. Trafalgar were ably served by the Watson Bros., Curtis, Perrier, Callopy, Larsen, Mitchell, Skidmore, Turner; in fact, the whole side strove hard to avert defeat.

PREMIERS

1922