



*The Asian Champs
14 July, 2007, Bangkok*



Hanoi Swans – A Brief History

The Hanoi Swans Football Club are renowned for their passionate supporter base which splits into two camps - the Bloody Army and the famous Swanettes.

“The Bloods” were formed in 1998 under the confusing name of the Hanoi Hawks. In their inaugural game they came out swinging against the Hong Kong Dragons to such an extent that old timers were quoted as saying, “I haven’t seen a battle like that since 1973!”

Disaster Strikes

The next game was a trip down south to Saigon where disaster struck. Not only did we lose the game but we lost all the jumpers which virtually wiped the club from the pages of history. With a 0 – 2 record, support waning and a membership of 3, the new club was in trouble - all in its first year!

Mothballs

The Hanoi Hawks were put on ice, to one day be proud again.

2001 – Pepperonis Pizza Parlour / ABC Asia Pacific TV

The year was 2001, the footy was back on the TV, the beer was cold, we had a home on the roof top, the Pepperonis Pizza oven was on the ground floor – and the people came.

The footy panel began, footy tipping comps mushroomed and we wanted to play.

Andy Wall brought in some jumpers, which happened to be those of the Sydney Swans (SFC is still hunting



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him). Rick Trewavas, a mad Bloods supporter, seized the day and named the clubrooms after his idol, "Bobby Skilton" (Skilts is still hunting him). The panel was rockin' and the supporter base was growing. We were away.

New name, new team, new desire, and our only goal was to play in the Asian Champs.

For the next 2 years we practised eating pizza, drinking cold beer and watching footy on the tele.

2005 – Big Bucks, Big Difference

In a coup, the Hanoi Swans Board recruited the Bogor "Kainey" Flyer, a Lifetime Member of the Jakarta Bintangs, to share his secrets about loyalty to one's team and "the cause". He instilled in us a discipline for regular training before some of our drinking sessions.

In Q4 2003, we threw caution to the wind and jumped in at the deep end. We launched the Hanoi Swans as a going concern with a double-header against the Thailand Tigers and Hong Kong Dragons.

History recorded the Swans debut as a brave but plucked performance.

Since then, we haven't looked back. We've trained regularly and played occasionally (twice the Warriors, twice the Tigers and once the Jakarta Bintangs)

2006/07 – Saigon, an Equally Big Difference?

But, like other clubs, Hanoi suffered from having a small and unstable player list. Most of our players stay in Hanoi for probably 12 months. This has made traveling to other countries for footy matches difficult. Clearly, to do more than just train, we needed to hook up with Saigon. To generate some interest in Saigon and then field a combined Vietnam team would solve one of the biggest issues facing this country in the 21st Century.

Saigon once upon a time used to play as the Saigon Saints but those days belonged to yesteryear – although the Saigon Saints live on very strongly as hosts of the AFL Grand Final Brunch in Saigon each year.



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So Hanoi began wooing their southern cousins in Saigon. In September 2006 and again in April 2007, the annoyin' Hanoians interrupted Saigon's rugby and money-making activities to play a couple of footy matches. With convincing theatre, on both occasions, the Hanoians allowed Saigon to win.

And now, we have a combined Vietnam team for our first ever appearance in the Asian Champs.

But Seriously...

So to be here at the Champs is the first stage of the dream; it is the culmination of 9 years of hard work.

When we hit the field, worry about the Vietnam Swans. Watch out for the Reunification Express!

Go Bloods!



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Player profiles:

Scott Beasley (184cm, 86kg)

Comes from Collingwood Premiership player stock but grew up playing Rugby Union in Queensland. Always been a back man and enjoys bursting through from the half backline. Having played several games for Malaysia in season 1999/2000, should have some good insider tips if we play them. Direct opponent will find him slippery to contend with. Can sweat.

Pieter Bossink (185 cm, 90kg)

Known for his tackle, smooth hand skills, and the ability to eat a meat pie with sauce in three bites. A big fan of pre-match mind games. Not even his team mates know whether he will tour to Bangkok for the Champs. A dark horse that needs to be watched.

Daryl Taber (Smooth) (180cm, 83 kg)

Fearless, lightning quick ex-Carlton onballer and cross-dresser. Credits include teaching Polly Farmer how to handball; running the 2007 Harbour Bridge to Bondi marathon in the buff; and dacking Chopper Reid in the infamous 1984 Hanoi Swans v/s Pentridge Inmates bloodbath.

Surprised many in 2005 when he let his two daughters put soft drink in his beer esky. Went on to win "Father of the Year". Diminutive in height, a stand out in the showers.

Justin Hart (Pumper) (185cm, 91kg)

Now pumpin' at full throttle in Phnom Penh, is an outside chance to represent his beloved Swans – but only if he can tear himself away from "extracurricular duties" in the field. Loves pumpin' it long to full forward...and gives it a shake on the footy field as well...unfortunately, these days plays around with far too many behinds to be a serious threat down forward. Showing a preference in the twilight of his career for action either deep in the backlines or perched amongst the Jim Beam Swanettes.

Phil Johns (185cm, 92kg)

At his previous club Phil spent that much time on the bench he used to have his mail delivered there. Since



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joining the Swans, he has given 'centimeter perfect' a new meaning. He won't step a single centimeter outside the goal square. It's no surprise that both of this Full Forward's goals have come with a degree of difficulty rarely seen outside of platform diving. But in fairness, he has rallied the troops for the Asian Champs and should perform strongly in the first 5 minutes before doing a hammy.

Chris Batchelor (The Enforcer) (184cm, 87kg)

Former Collingwood premiership Captain Coach, triple Brownlow Medalist and Gold Logie winner. Represented the Hanoi Swans in the 2005 World Expatriate Mud Wrestling Jamboree and reigning "Dancing with the Stars" champion. A renowned big tipper and bullshit artist who delivers it long and hard and goes all day.

Micky J (181cm; 81kg)

Never had to worry about losing pace; never had any. Has noticed the game getting faster over the past 50 years. Lives the way he plays - safely - by always wearing his green mouth guard and helmet (why isn't he married yet?). Teammates continually express concern at his inability to pick the difference between the Club's proud Guernsey and the humble hanky.

David Kainey (Hanoi Flyer) (181cm, 93kg)

The former Bogor Flyer, ex Pres of the mighty Swans is back for his beloved Bloods. Obviously couldn't get a game with the Wombats. Expecting some drive through the middle from the former powerbroker of Asian footy. Been known to sleep with his footy.

Michael Francis (Franger) (189cm, 99kg)

In the twilight of his stellar career, the Pied Piper of Hanoi will be capable of short, inspiring passages on the field – before requiring lengthy recovery sessions on the bench. Is also expected to give the bar one hell of a nudge. Team mates love to play with him – it's so easy to hit him on the tit because his belly is so big.

Paul Beasy (Pottsy) (183cm, 89kg)

Fancies himself as a big game player. Only guy to wear footy boots to training on a concrete like surface.



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Usually quick off the mark but will not break stride to take a possession; the ball must be laces up! Summing up, may not get much of the ball with that sort of criteria. Enjoys a beer.

Scott Stacey (The Little Guy) (180cm, 80kg)

Savvy around goals, this player loves to run – even if he's not on the footy oval. Unheard of in Vietnam. Expect short bursts of brilliance and regular trips to the bench to don his conical coaching hat. Fair to say that the Little Guy enjoys his comeback games as much as his farewell games.

Travis Fennel (Funnel) (186cm, 94kg)

More Culi pies than he has fingers, loves to stick them anywhere. Silky smooth skills, up front or down back, can play. Ex Leongatha super star. Will have an impact.

Marty Sharples (185cm, 88kg)

A key position player, leader to the stars. Brought the AFL players to Vietnam in 2006 and played a cracker in the exhibition match. Loves to play from the front. Has a huge grab. The only engine in the Swans line up but must be carefully managed in the lead up – must wear a hockey mask whenever near the ladies (masks available in team colours - red and white). Bring him out and bring it on!

Andy Wall (183cm, 83kg)

Mr Jim Beam and the provider of the Swanettes. We salute you. The original supplier of the jumpers and a founding father. Great to have him back and looking great for the Hanoi Swans. Will be showing his dash somewhere in the middle.

Will Martin (188cm, 88kg)

The Hanoi Casanova, back to let it all hang out again. Was dispatched to Australia at the start of the season to focus on his fitness with the only club in Sydney that had a bye on the weekend of the Champs. Will be kicking goals on and off the field.

Jeff Bloom (Flower) (186cm, 84kg)



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The full forward slayer. Watch him start attacks from defense, this graceful full back does it from the book. Has been off doing a sabbatical in Taiwan and has come back a master of evasion. Ying & Yang definitely in balance.

Brett Farmer (Farmer) (184cm, 86kg)

Understands that footy is about two halves – on field and off field. Under no illusions that the young guys can struggle off the field so his support is expected to be invaluable.

Gus McEwin (Captain) (190cm, 80kg)

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the G-Train! Or so he likes to think. This highly decorated Captain holds the Swans record for most number of games played (a number which would stun other teams in Asia). Apparently perseverance can make up for a dearth of talent and a complete lack of basic skills – a lesson for the kids out there.

Matt Greenwood (185cm, 150kg)

A recent recruit, Matt struggles to get his priorities right due to a debilitating dating regime. The Swans Coaching Squad see talent and have persevered with the big fella and hope to have him right for the Championship. Greenie has a good set of hands but is unfortunately 90% blind. This explains not only some of his girlfriends but also is behind an ugly incident in Saigon where he callously ran into a parked car when attempting to lead into “space on the wing”, evoking “oos” from the crowd and not a few muffled laughs. The Swans will be wearing bells to help his accuracy.

Joe Hrustinsky (183cm, 104kg)

Likes to play full-back but only when the ball is down the forward line. If the forward line collapses, heads immediately to the interchange bench. More of a spectator than a player. Has been known to drink a beer, or two.

Lester Cavestany (Boots) (190cm/92kg):

Hanoi Swan's first pick in the 2007 Draft. As a result of winning April's inaugural goat, lamb and bull testicle



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eating competition at the Culi Cafe in Hanoi, Lester scored a lucrative sponsorship deal with Nike and, like all good Philipinos, has 300 pairs of boots including a gold studded pair of Ron Barassi Signatures donated by number one fan, Imelda Marcos. A no-nonsense, rock hard onballer, guaranteed to be more than a handful.

Mick Hassett (Aker) (180cm, 82kgs)

Silky smooth skills, excellent link man, dangerous up forward, dour down back, strong hands in the air and around the packs, experienced rookie.

Dan Woodley (182cm, 87 kgs)

This former VAFA star turned Aussie expat is becoming the Dale Kickett of Asian football, having now donned the boots for various teams in Hong Kong, Japan and Bali. Drafted late into the side, he's determined to repay the Swans selectors' faith in him with a bag of sausage rolls from full forward.

Alex Barker (Porndog) (191cm, 84kgs)

After three seasons in Northern Japan, putting in hard on the workbench, the long time Ponsford-stand stalwart for Collingwood has been traded to Laos. Highly mobile and courageous on or off the paddock, this versatile player combines finesse with a bit of argy-bargy and can prove a handy wingman. Former Monash Blues rep and Green Week Jester; isn't afraid of netballers, nor donning their skirts.

David Kemp (Kempy) (187cm, 90kgs)

Spending his first year away from the Mount Waverley Mountain Lions, word will quickly spread about David's football playing ability. He is often told that for a 23 year old he moves like a 45 year old (plenty of grunts and groans) with the turning circle of a Lao bus, luckily his exceptional foot and marking skills make up for his disappointing body condition and allow him to slot well into the CHF position.

Max Sharples - 190cms / 85kg

The heart and soul of Monday night Albert Park Indoor soccer team "Your Mutha's Athletic" for the past 7 years, Max brings a combination of courage and Rhys-Jonesesque biff to the Swans. As a footballer he's half Richo / half Fevola - all Chin. His impressive ability to fight bouncers at nightclubs from Kuta to Ibiza has



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him included in the halcyon book - "greatest ever footy trips" - without ever having actually played a game of footy. A notable achievement indeed.

John Sharples - 210cm / 68kg (approx)

Johnny's failure in the under 16 girls backstroke at the interschool games in 2001 was the catalyst for his entry into the big time - Steiner School Football. As a ruckman for the Melbourne Rudolph Steiner school he was compared with Rudolph Steiner himself as one of the greatest back pockets ever produced by the cult. He brings to the Swans youthful exuberance, height, and a handy moonwalk that will no doubt come in handy at Soi Cowboy.

Toby Russo and Daniel (178cms / 89kg)

Both recent draft picks in Hanoi, these young guns are expected to surprise all with lightning speed and raw passion for the ball. Under the age of 40, they are both stand outs in the Swans line up and are expected to run all day, carry the heavy things back to the cars, and help Micky J find his teeth. The Asian Champs will be their first glorious run for the Swans.

Ian Boz (184cms / 92kgs)

Ultra competitive ruckman, this Irishman even peels potatoes like he's in the dying seconds of a Rubiks Cube Championships.

Michael Growder (Growds) (188cm / 90kg)

Another ultra competitive ruckman for the Swans. On the field, this fella can forget he's a Diplomat off the field. Expect bursts of eloquence between passages of brilliance. Also occasionally known to mark and kick the Sherrin. Northern Australian origins means Growds can cause occasional confusion among team-mates as he tries to drill a long spiral pass past the five-eighth and into the centres, but learning gradually - he has managed to remove the kick for touch from his game in the last 1 practice match, and is cutting down on screaming "forward pass" at the referee umpire. Yet to cut down on the screaming more generally.

Russell Williams (Love Muscle) (180cm / 80kg)



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He lights up any football field he walks onto. A proud ginger, he prides himself on his quick feet and ability to bulldoze through people twice his size by using his head as a battering ram. The Love Muscle is a competitor and a real Trojan who has endless enthusiasm for just about anything, and could talk an opponent into submission within the first 5 minutes of a game. Watch out for this AFL rookie who is bound to impress on an off the pitch in Bangkok.



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