

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB - 1930 to 1941

“A PERIOD OF CONTRAST” - DECADE FOUR

written by David Bartlett #11

The years 1930 to 1941 were ones of great contrast for the Adelaide University Football Club. During the early 1930's the Club retained its position as one of the pacesetters in the Amateur League, contesting all the Finals from 1930 to 1935. 'The Blacks' were the undefeated Premier in 1932, runner-up in 1930, 1933 and 1934 and fourth in 1931 and 1935.

The early years of the 1930s are remembered for the Club's great rivalry with Underdale United, which produced some remarkable Finals matches. The A1 team lost the 1931 Semi-final to Underdale and defeated them in the 1932 Final. In the 1933 Finals series, University defeated Underdale in the Final; then drew the Challenge match (Underdale was Minor Premier) and then lost the Challenge replay. In 1934, 'the Blacks' defeated them in the Final, but lost the Challenge match again. In 1935 University was defeated by Underdale in the Semi-final.

These were truly memorable contests, with Underdale holding the upper hand, playing in six Finals from 1930 to 1936 for two Premierships, compared with University's four Finals for one Flag.

The 1932 season (the University's undefeated Premiership year) signalled one of the greatest seasons in the Club's history. It was also the end of the complete dominance of University and Semaphore Central in the Amateur League. The 1932 Flag was 'the Blacks' eighth. In the 18 years of the SAAFL competition to that stage, the two clubs had won 14 Premierships.

The University Football Club suffered a decline over the years between 1936 and 1940, which reached its low point with the A1 team almost being relegated in 1939. Fortunately, the team rallied in crucial games late in the season and, with a little bit of luck, was able to finish eighth. This is the lowest position that the A1 team has ever occupied.

The 1941 season saw the Club improve its standing and contest the Finals series once again, finishing fourth.

Despite the lack of success in the Amateur League, the period 1930 to 1941 was one of the most successful in regard to the Inter- Varsity competition. Matches against Melbourne University were won in 1932 and 1936 - only the third and fourth occasions that this had occurred in 28 attempts.

The irony of the 1936 Inter-Varsity victory was that this season was the first time that the A1 side did not contest the Finals since the Amateur League was formed in 1911.

The Club's 'B' and 'C' grade sides did not perform well during this period. Teams experienced the ever present problem of trying to maintain playing numbers and stable sides. After finishing near the bottom between 1929 and 1932, the A2 side retreated back to the Students' Association from 1933 to 1937. The Club was nominated for A2 again in 1938 and continued to play in this grade until 1940.

In 1941, there was a shortage of players due to World War II and the University Football Club only fielded an A1 team in the Amateur League and a 'B' grade side in the Students' Association.

Amateur League matches were suspended after 1941 due to World War II.

A brief summary of each of the years during this period follows.

1930 Season

S.H. (Stanley) Lewis was appointed coach of the A1 side for the 1930 season, with C.B. (Chris) Sangster as Captain and F.H. (Frank) Finlayson as Vice-captain.

The A1 side started the 1930 season well by defeating the newly admitted Mount Barker side by 12 goals, but then promptly lost the next two matches - the last to Kenilworth by a big margin, 6.13 to 17.9.

It was noted that several team members had 'flattened' themselves at the University Sports Day. This was held the day before the Kenilworth game and players had not had sufficient time to recuperate.

The players missing from the 1929 side were A.S. Lewis, D.T. Mitchell, W.R. Baker, R.P. Larkin and B.W. Hone, with the promising acquisitions being R.H. Elix, R.V. McMichael, D.F. Burnard, N.J. McBain, W.L. Hann, C.K. James, Newland and Wilkinson. Except for the latter two players, all players were selected in the A1 side, and most had impressive careers. Elix, McMichael and Burnard later played for the State Amateur side.

After the indifferent start to the season, the form of the A1's improved to such a degree that it moved into second place late in the season.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1930

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Kenilworth	14	11	3	0	22
University	14	10	4	0	20
Semaphore Central	14	10	4	0	20
Teachers College	14	9	4	1	19
Underdale United	14	9	4	1	19
St. Augustine	14	3	11	0	6
Mount Barker	14	2	12	0	4
Kingswood	14	1	13	0	2

The A1 team defeated Teachers College by two goals (16.15 to 14.14) in the Semi-final and advanced to meet Kenilworth in the Final at Glenelg Oval.

A fast and vigorous game resulted, and with 45 seconds to go, Finlayson marked strongly in the goal mouth and kicked straight to give University the lead. Immediately afterwards, Kenilworth ran into an undefended goal and snatched victory by two points. Final scores were 12.13 to 12.15.

The outstanding player for the year was C.B. Sangster at centre half back and occasionally in the ruck. Chris was awarded his third Gunning Medal for the Club's Best and Fairest player. Others to play consistently well during the season were F.H. Finlayson, H.L. Abbott, R.V. McMichael, rover N.J. McBain, W.H. Baudinet, J.M.J. Jens, D.F. Burnard and A.O. McPherson.

It was noted in the *Adelaide University Magazine* that the University Football Club had a bad year for injuries, with A.J. Clarkson, C.K. James, R. LeP. Muecke and A.O. McPherson being sidelined at various times during the season. I.H. Seppelt also missed four matches due to athletic commitments.

The A2 side had a poor season, finishing bottom, but unfortunately had to frequently fill the depleted ranks of the A1's. The team's outstanding player was R.H. (Bob) Elix, who had established himself as an 'A' grade player by the end of the season. Others to play consistently well were W.C.J. White, J.A. Maitland, Leitch and Wilkinson.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1930

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Henley and Grange	12	11	1	22
St. Peter's O.C.	12	10	2	20
Prince Alfred O.C.	12	8	4	16
Y.M.C.A.	12	5	7	10
Scotch O.C.	12	4	8	8
University 'B'	12	3	9	6
S.A. Railways Institute	12	1	11	2

Here is a 1930 A2 team photo from our photos in the University archives;



Back Row: _____, _____, C.Gregory, _____, _____, _____

Middle Row: _____, Collins, J.A.Maitland, _____, _____

Front Row: R.Moore, D.Thomas, R.V.McMichael, E.A.Schulz, W.White, G.T.Colebatch

Sitting: D.Busbridge (*Umpire*)

The 'C' grade was expected to do well in the Students' Association, but were often short of players. The team won one or two matches, but losses and various forfeits placed the side near the bottom of the Premiership table. Players to perform consistently well were S. Pick, Henderson, W. Harris, A. Finlayson and Pat Treney, the Captain of the side.

1931 Season

At the 1931 AGM a motion was moved that the 'C' grade team *"relinquish its pleasant and historical match losing associations with the Students' Association"*, due to its continually poor performances. However, the motion was defeated.

Dr F.N. LeMessurier once again was elected Club President, Secretaries, committees and delegates were elected for each team (this was later no longer necessary as teams did not operate independently) and R. LeP. Muecke was elected Practice Captain.

The A1 side, under S.H. (Stanley) Lewis as coach, C.B. (Chris) Sangster (Captain) and R. LeP. Muecke (Vice-captain) had a successful season. On their departure for the Inter-Varsity match in Melbourne 'the Blacks' were assured of their place in the four.

There were also hopes of taking out the Minor Premiership if Underdale United defeated Semaphore Central in the last match. This duly happened, however 'Centrals' claimed the match on the grounds that Underdale had played an unregistered player. Their claim was upheld, and 'Varsity therefore finished second.

Adelaide's Inter-Varsity team travelled to Melbourne on the Tuesday before the Semi- final against Underdale. The game in Melbourne was hard fought and the Amateur League Final was played a day after their return from Inter-Varsity.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1931

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	14	11	3	22
University	14	11	3	22
Kenilworth	14	10	4	20
Underdale	14	9	5	18
Teachers College	14	6	8	12
St. Peter's O.C.	14	4	10	8
St. Augustine	14	3	11	6
Henley and Grange	14	2	12	4

Perhaps it was predictable that University's form in this match would bear no resemblance to their early season form. 'The Blacks' were defeated 6.4 to 12.20 and therefore finished a disappointing fourth.

This defeat would have been far greater had it not been for C.B. Sangster and D.L. Richards in defence who, along with H.L. Abbott and A.H. Magarey, were the team's best players. 'The Blacks' were also unlucky with regard to injury in this match as J.M.J. Jens and Cranston had to leave the field in the second quarter and I.H. Seppelt early in the last quarter.

The Final was played at University Oval, with 1500 people attending.

The most consistent players for the year were Chris Sangster, in his last season with the Club, D.F. Burnard, G.A. Dicker, R.H. Elix, I.H. Seppelt and W.L. Hann.

The A2 team once again had a lean season, mainly because the side was always unsettled. At the end of July the team had won only one match. The Captain, J.A. 'Shine' Maitland, and J.F. Funder played mostly in the A1 side and thus the 'B' grade was deprived of their valuable services. Vice-captain 'Bull' Ryan, F.E. Welch, Odlum and Barker played consistently well.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1931

Club	P	W	L	D	Pts
Alberton Church Unit.	14	12	2	0	24
Goodwood	14	12	2	0	24
Kingswood	14	8	4	2	18
Prince Alfred O.C.	14	7	5	2	16
Scotch O.C.	14	6	8	0	12
Mount Barker	14	4	10	0	8
Y.M.C.A.	14	3	11	0	6
University 'B'	14	2	12	0	4

The 'C' grade team had also only won one match at the end of July. However, for a change, there were enough players to field a full team most weeks. This was due in part to the occasional spare player from the A1 team, such as A.H. Magarey.

The better players in the 'C' grade team for the season were Finlayson and Greg.

1932 Season

In contrast to the disappointments of 1931, 1932 was one of the A1 side's greatest ever seasons. The team completed the season as undefeated Minor Premier and took out the Club's eighth Premiership in Amateur League. 'The Blacks' also won the Inter-Varsity match in Adelaide.



1932 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM - PREMIER AND INTER-VARSITY WINNERS

Back Row: J.P. Habib, J.W. Sangster, J.A. Maitland, G.D. Dawson, C.K. James, R.H. Elix.

Third Row: C.C. Daly (Coach), W.L. Hann, W.C.J. White, A.J. Clarkson, H.M. Thompson, G.A. Dicker, K.A. MacDonald (Hon. Sec.).

Second Row: A.G. Gillespie, J.M.J. Jens, H.L. Abbott (V-c), R. LeP. Muecke (Capt.), I.H. Seppelt, W.H. Baudinet, D.F. Burnard.

Front Row: R.F. Brown, J.F. Funder.

C.C. ('Lulla') Daly, a former Norwood League player from 1926 to 1930, was appointed coach in place of S.H. (Stanley) Lewis who had retired. R LeP. Muecke was elected Captain and H.L. Abbott as Vice-captain. K.A. McDonald and R.S. Day were elected Secretaries of the A1 and A2 sides respectively. New recruits were A.G. Gillespie, J.P. McFarlane and Porter.

One of the more meritorious victories of the A1 side during the season was that against Underdale United at Underdale, when the team was without the services of R. LeP. Muecke, R.V. McMichael, J.P. McFarlane and G.A. Dicker. I.H. (Ian) Seppelt played one of the best games seen in Amateur League for the year and A.J. (Alan) Clarkson's return to his past form gave the team a good win.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1932

Club	Pt	W	L	Pts
University	14	14	0	28
Underdale	14	10	4	20
Semaphore Central	14	9	5	18
Alberton Church Unit.	14	8	6	16
Goodwood	14	6	8	12
St. Peter's O.C.	14	4	10	8
Kenilworth	14	3	11	6
Teachers College	14	2	12	4

University defeated Semaphore Central in the Semi-final (15.12 to 7.17) and advanced to meet Underdale in the Final at Jubilee Oval. This oval was on the south-western corner of Frome Road and Victoria Drive.

In this match 'Varsity showed its superiority. The game was close until early in the last quarter when 'the Blacks' drew clear. The team capped a magnificent season to take out the Premiership, 14.11 to 11.13. Best players were I.H. Seppelt, A.G. Gillespie and H.M. Thompson.

In addition to the above players, J.P. McFarlane, W.C.J. White, J.A. Maitland, J.F. Funder, Hudson and G. Day enjoyed consistent seasons. W.L. (Bill) Hann had a good season in front of goals and kicked 20 of a total of 50 in the first two games.

One of the tragic aspects of the season was the sudden death of R.V. (Dick) McMichael from appendicitis complications after the Inter- Varsity game in Adelaide. Dick was a good Club man as well as a champion player and he was greatly missed.

The A2 side had another bad season, finishing last with no wins. So much concern was shown about their performances that a meeting of Club officials was held to determine their future. The team had not been in the Finals since 1928, which was the last year the 'A' team had been barred from playing 'B' grade players.

It was decided that the 'B' grade team should play in the Adelaide Students' Football Association in 1933. Some of the better players in the 'B' grade team were G.D. Dawson, Salter, F.E. Welch, G.A. Dicker, N.J. McBain and B.M. Jolly.

Former University player M.W. Evans won the A2 medal playing for PAOC.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1932

Club	P l	W	L	P ts
Colonel Light Gdns	14	14	0	28
St. Augustine	14	10	4	20
Henley and Grange	14	9	5	18
Prince Alfred O.C.	14	8	6	16
Scotch O.C.	14	5	9	10
Y.M.C.A.	14	5	9	10
Kingswood	14	5	9	10
University 'B'	14	0	14	0

The 'C' grade team had one of their best years for some time, winning at least three matches and its future looked brighter.

1933 Season

The 1933 season was regarded as a very successful year for the A1 side, although it did not take out the Premiership. Apart from the loss of I.H. (Ian) Seppelt, A.G. (Alby) Gillespie and R. LeP. Muecke from the 1932 Premiership team, the side was hampered by injuries throughout the season. Indeed, A.J. Clarkson was injured in the first match against Kenilworth and did not play again for the Club, and in one game against SPOC, eight of the regular players were missing.

University's first defeat of the season, which was the first loss since the Semi-final of 1931, came at the hands of eventual Minor Premier, Underdale. This was followed by some very close matches in which the team seemed to have lost *"its system and vigour"*. However 'the Blacks' form improved and the side finished second at the end of the minor round. This paved the way for a series of remarkable finals matches.



BACK ROW—O. W. LEITCH, B. M. JOLLY, J. W. SANGSTER, R. C. ANDERS, N. J. McBAIN, J. W. SKIPPER, C. K. JAMES,
G. D. DAWSON.
MIDDLE ROW—K. SOUTH, J. A. MAITLAND, D. F. BURNARD, J. M. JENS (Captain), W. H. BAUDINET (Vice-Captain),
T. O. MITCHELL, J. P. McFARLANE, R. H. ELIX, W. C. WHITE.
FRONT ROW—F. E. WELCH, J. F. FUNDER, S. E. WYETT.

1933 IntersVarsity Team

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1933

Club	Pt	W	L	D	Pts
Underdale	14	13	1	0	26
University	14	9	4	1	19
St. Peter's O.C.	14	7	6	1	15
Kenilworth	14	7	6	1	15
Goodwood	14	7	7	0	14
Alberton Church Unit.	14	5	8	1	11
Semaphore Central	14	5	9	0	10
St. Augustine	14	1	13	0	2

University comfortably defeated Kenilworth in the Semi-final, 19.15 to 10.17, and progressed to meet Underdale in the Final. 'The Blacks' had lost twice to Underdale in close matches during the season.

The Final was played at PAC in front of a record crowd and University won a brilliant match 10.9 to 7.7. Best players were J.A. Maitland, the ruck rover, who played the best game of his career, J.P. McFarlane, W.C.J. White and D.F. Burnard across half back, and G. Day in the centre. H.M. Thompson kicked four goals from centre half forward.

Underdale exercised the right to a Challenge match, which was again played on the PAC Oval, with University fielding an unchanged side. Underdale was leading at three quarter time, but J.P. McFarlane, who was the star of the match for University at centre half back, moved to centre in the last quarter. This allowed 'Varsity to overhaul Underdale in the last minutes of the game. The game finished in a draw.

This was the first draw that had occurred in a Final or Challenge match in Amateur League history! The scores were University 10.9 to Underdale 9.15, with the best players being J.P. McFarlane, N.J. McBain, D.F. Burnard, R.H. Elix, G. Day, H.L. Abbott, H.M. Thompson and J.A. Maitland.

The Challenge replay was played on Thebarton Oval in front of a crowd of over 2000 people, in very wet and windy conditions. Vice-captain W.H. Baudinet had come into the side in place of the injured J.W. Sangster. University was too strong in the air for the Underdale side, but the soft, slippery conditions suited their smaller players. Underdale went on to win the match by five points, 6.15 to 6.10. Underdale had kicked their final score at three quarter time, but a very wet last quarter prevented University from making full use of the wind and 'the Blacks' were unable to 'peg back' the opposition. Best players were R.P. Larkin, J.P. McFarlane, H.M. Thompson, C.K. James, D.F. Burnard, J.M.J. Jens (Captain) and W.H. Baudinet.

W.L. (Bill) Hann was the leading goalkicker in A1 with 66 goals. Bill did not represent the State that year because Sturt's legendary full forward, P.T. ('Bo') Morton, was playing for St. Augustines.

The 'B' and 'C' grade sides both played in the Students' Association and were called the University 'Blacks' and the University 'Whites'. Neither side lived up to expectations, however, and lost most of their matches. Some of the better players for these sides were J.W. Skipper, D.C. Cowell and O.W. Leitch for 'the Blacks' and G.C. Verco, Steele and Tillet for the 'Whites'.

1934 Season

With C.C. ('Lulla') Daly as coach for the third successive year, J.M.J. (Jack) Jens as Captain and W.H. (Bill) Baudinet as Vice-captain, the A1 side once again had a successful year finishing second overall. The 'B' and 'C' grade sides were again disappointing.

The Club was struck by injuries early in the season once again, mainly due to the hard grounds. When these were overcome, the A1's began to show the previous season's form. During the minor round, it defeated the eventual Minor Premier and Premier, Underdale, twice. 'The Blacks' lost to the up-and-coming SPOC team, drew with Kensington in a "*very pugnacious match*" and finished second.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1934

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Underdale	14	12	2	24
University	14	10	4	20
Kensington	14	9	5	18
Kenilworth	14	9	5	18
St. Peter's O.C.	14	8	6	16
Goodwood	14	4	10	8
Prince Alfred O.C.	14	3	11	6
Alberton Church United	14	1	13	2

Both University and Underdale had comfortable Semi-final victories (the former against Kenilworth, 11.15 to 5.9). 'The Blacks' advanced to meet Underdale in the Final at Norwood Oval. University won the match decisively, 15.4 to 7.7, with the whole side playing well. Those named in the best players were R.H. Elix in the centre, J.P. McFarlane, W.J. Bentley, W.L. Hann, D.F. Burnard, J.M.J. Jens, R.F. Brown and W.C.J. White. This was only Underdale's third loss for the season - each time to University.

Underdale reversed the result in the Challenge Final at Norwood Oval, setting up a large lead in the third quarter which 'Varsity was unable to overtake. Underdale won the Premiership by three goals, 11.11 to 8.11. W.C.J. White at full back played well, but kicked poorly and J.P. McFarlane dominated in defence. Others to play well were D.F. Burnard, R.F. Brown, J. Wright, R.C. Anders, R.H. Elix and R.W.T. Cowan. W.J. Bentley kicked two goals.

W.L. (Bill) Hann once again won the Amateur League A1 goalkicking with 69 goals.

The 'B' and 'C' grade sides once again played in the Students' Association, but little detail of their games is known.



1934 IntersVarsity Team Photo

1935 Season

The 1935 season saw the departure of J.M.J. (Jack) Jens and W.L. (Bill) Hann, but this was balanced by the entry of J.J. Rice and P. Kleinschmidt into the A1 side.

C.C. Daly was again coach, W.H. (Bill) Baudinet was elected Captain with R.H. (Bob) Elix his Vice-captain.

The team had a lean year, just scraping into the final four, although it did kick a higher total score than any other team in the A1 grade for the season.

The final four in order was SPOC, Underdale, Kenilworth and University. University lost the last game of the minor round to SPOC, 13.8 to 8.13, which did not augur well for the Finals.

Highlights of the season were J.W. Sangster's 11 goals against Goodwood and the hard-fought Inter-Varsity match in Melbourne in which University only lost by 3.6 - this was close for a game in Melbourne.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1935

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
St. Peter's O.C.	14	12	2	24
Underdale	14	11	3	22
Kenilworth	14	9	5	18
University	14	8	6	16
Exeter	14	7	7	14
Henley & Grange	14	6	8	12
Goodwood	14	1	13	2
Kensington	14	1	13	2



1935 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM

Back Row: J.W. Skipper, R.W.T. Cowan, J.W. Sangster, P. Kleinschmidt, J.P. McFarlane, R.C. Anders, C.C. Verco, W.P. Goode, H.V. Millard (Secretary SAAFL).
 Middle Row: D.C. Cowell, T.B. Lindsay, R.H. Elix (V-c), W.H. Baudinet (Capt.), D.F. Burnard, W.J. Bentley, K.H. South.
 Front Row: C.C. Kuchel, J.J. Rice, R.F. Brown, R.D. Hammill, P.A. McBride.

In the Semi-final match against Underdale, University put up strong resistance but was eventually defeated 12.9 to 9.5 and thus finished fourth. Underdale were only assured of victory in the last few minutes of the game. Best players were J.P. McFarlane and D.F. Burnard across half back, W.H. Baudinet at full back, J.W. Sangster with four goals, and W.C.J. White.

The outstanding player for the season was J.P. McFarlane, who won the Club's Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest player in A1 and was runner-up for the Hone Medal with 18 votes. R.H. Elix was fourth with 16 votes and R.F. Brown eighth with 13 votes. Others to play well were D.H. Burnard and J.W. Sangster who, along with R.H. Elix and J.P. McFarlane, gained selection in the State Amateur side for that year.

Once again, University had two sides competing in the Students' Association, although few details about their performances are known.

1936 Season

The 1936 AGM commenced on a sad note, with regret being expressed at the untimely death of H.M. (Horry) Thompson who *"like the late R.V. McMichael was one of the outstanding forwards in 'Varsity football history'"*. This season turned out to be a poor year for the Club.

R.H. (Bob) Elix made a presentation to C.C. Daly, who was retiring after four seasons as coach. It was agreed to approach M.W. (Mervyn) Evans, a former 'Varsity player of

outstanding ability, to accept the position of A1 coach. This was duly undertaken and Mervyn accepted.

Bob Elix was subsequently elected Captain of the team, J.P. (John) McFarlane was elected Vice-captain. Prospective new A1 recruits were G.W. Page, Johnston and Appelt. The main players who left the Club were W.H. Baudinet and D.F. Burnard, both State Amateur players.

The A1 team did not have a good year, winning only 10 of the 18 minor round games and finishing fifth - the first time that the Club had finished out of the Final four since the inception of Amateur League some 25 years previously. The team made a concerted effort to reach the four during the latter half of the season. The poor early-season form and consequent losses were costly which prevented this from occurring.

The highlight of the minor round was a string of three successive victories during the May vacation, at a time when many players were missing. There was also a narrow loss to old rivals Underdale on the University Oval - the first time that Underdale had accomplished this feat in four years. To balance this defeat, there was also a surprise win over Underdale on their home ground later in the season.

Despite the poor finish to the season, the team was still able to win the Inter-Varsity match against Melbourne (13.10 to 10.13), for only the fourth time since the competition began in 1904. More details on this match are given in the chapter on the Inter-Varsity competition.

The most consistent players through the year were R.H. Elix, who won the Club's Gunning Medal, J.J. Rice, G.W. Page, R.C. Anders, J.P. McFarlane, R.F. Brown, P. Kleinschmidt, P.C.R. and W.P. Goode, R. Hammill and M.M. Playford. The most prolific goal scorers were J.W. Sangster, J.J. Rice, P.A. McBride, G.W. Page and W.P.C. Goode.



1936 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM

Back Row: M.G. Gratton, J.W. Skipper, H.L. Masters, P.C.R. Goode, P. Kleinschmidt, R. Hammill, W.P. Goode.
 Middle Row: P.A. McBride, J.H. Homburg, W.J. Bentley, W.L. Betts, G.H. Page, M.N. Playford, R. Anders, D.C. Dawkins.
 Front Row: R.F. Brown (Sec), J.J. Rice, M.Evans (Coach), R.H. Elix (Capt.), K.H. South, J.W. Sangster.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1936

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
West Adelaide United	18	18	0	36
St. Peter's O.C.	18	14	4	28
Semaphore Central	18	14	4	28
Underdale	18	12	6	24
University	18	10	8	20
Kenilworth	18	9	9	18
Exeter	18	6	12	12
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	5	13	10
Henley & Grange	18	2	16	4
Goodwood	18	0	18	0

Both the 'B' and 'C' grade teams again played in the Students' Association and, from the results appearing in *On dit*, seemed to win the majority of their matches.

W.J. Betts, P.C.R. Goode and G. Gratton played well early in the season for the 'B' grade side before being promoted to the 'A' grade side. In one match, J.H. Homburg and A.H. Goode, the full back and full forward respectively, kicked six goals. They were promoted to the A1's late in the season.

Others to play consistently well for the 'B' grade side were D.C. Dawkins (also promoted to the A1 team), J.W. Skipper, Johnston, and M.G. Gratton, whilst those to play well in the 'C' grade team were A.L. King ('C' Grade Secretary), Woolcock, J.G. McGlashon and Appelt.



1937 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM

Back Row: D.L. Elix, W.J. Betts, G. Mayo, B.A. Magarey, C.M. Gurner, M.M. Playford, G.W. Page,
L. Parkin, J.C. White, R.D. Hammill, D.C. Dawkins, H.V. Millard (Secretary SAAFL).
Middle Row: P.C.R. Goode, P. Kleinschmidt, J.J. Rice, R.H. Elix (Capt.), K.H. South (V-c), R.F. Brown, H.L. Masters.
Front Row: T.A. Hutton, A.P. LeMessurier, C. Millard (Jnr), R.J. Shaughnessy, W.P.C. Goode.

1937 Season

The 1937 season saw Mervyn Evans coaching the side for the second successive year, R.H. Elix elected Captain for the second time, and K.H. South elected Vice-captain.

The season began poorly with the A1 team losing the first two matches, and as, *The Advertiser* put it, "May 11, 1937, was a 'black day' for University sport. Of all the University teams in all sports, of which there were over 20, only three succeeded. No men's 'A' teams won, and only one women's team was successful. Surprisingly, one of the winners was the 'B' side, which won its match against PAOC II."

The team's form picked up as the season went on, and, in late June, the A1 team defeated SPOC for the first time since 1934. The eight point victory was mainly due to the efforts of P. Kleinschmidt at full back and rover J.J. Rice, although the whole team played well.

The team still had a chance to reach the Finals right up until the last game, when it was placed equal fifth with PAOC and one point out of the four, behind Underdale. In the last game, University (6th) had to beat Underdale (4th) and West Adelaide United (1st) had to beat PAOC (5th), for University to make the four. In a very close match, University eventually ran out winners against Underdale 13.10 to 11.12. Unfortunately PAOC narrowly defeated West Adelaide United to earn themselves fourth spot. University finished in fifth position.

Best players in the vital last game were R.H. Elix, L. Parkin with seven goals, M.N. Playford, G.W. Page, K.H. South and R.F. Brown.

The most consistent players for the year were P. Kleinschmidt, A.P. LeMessurier, J.J. Rice, R.H. Elix, K.H. South, L. Parkin and W.P.C. Goode, with Parkin, Rice and Goode being the leading goalkickers.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1937

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
West Adelaide United	18	14	4	0	28
Semaphore Central	18	13	5	0	26
St. Peter's O.C.	18	11	6	1	23
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	10	8	0	20
University	18	10	8	0	20
Underdale	18	9	8	1	19
Kenilworth	18	7	10	1	15
Exeter	18	7	11	0	14
Walkerville	18	6	11	1	13
Eastwood	18	1	17	0	2

The 'B' and 'C' grade sides played in the Students' Association again. Little is known of the 'C' team's results. The 'B' grade team played 10 or 11 matches and of four known results, three were victories (against PAOC, PAOC II and SPSC) and one a loss against SPSC. The better players for the year were D. Michaels, Palmer, J.H. Homburg, T.A. Hutton, J.W. Skipper, Martin, Fletcher, Wagstaff, Parker and J.C. White, who kicked eight goals in one game.

1938

The 1938 season promised to be a good one as most of the team from the previous season were still

available. There were some fine newcomers in R.T. Steele and J. Hodge. This promising result was not to be, however, and the team could only manage fifth position as in the previous two years.

Under the leadership of R.H. (Bob) Elix (Captain), J.J. Rice (Vice-captain) and M.W. (Mervyn) Evans, coach, the team had an 'up and down' season, winning a little more than half its games. 'The Blacks' still had a chance to reach the final four up until the last match. In similar circumstances to 1937, the team had to defeat Underdale - this time by six goals or more to displace them from the four.

The position at this stage of the season is shown below. University lost fairly easily, however, and Underdale progressed to reach the Final.

One highlight of the season was the six-goal defeat of the top team, and eventual Premier, Semaphore Central, 16.15 to 11.7. The match was very evenly contested for the first half, but with the full forward G.W. Page getting on top in the third quarter, University put on 6.5 to Central's two goals. With another three quick goals at the start of the last quarter the match was won. Best players were Page with five goals, R.F. Brown, A.P. LeMessurier, D.C.Dawkins, R.H. Elix, B.A. Magarey, W.J. Betts and J.J. Rice.

A1 Premiership Table 1938 (as at the end of round 17)

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts	%
Colonel Light Gdns	17	14	3	28	56.95
Semaphore Central	17	13	4	26	62.02
Exeter	17	13	4	26	58.15
Underdale	17	12	5	24	57.36
University	17	11	6	22	56.37

A1 Premiership Table 1938 (end of season)

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	18	14	4	28
Exeter	18	14	4	28
Colonel Light Gardens	18	14	4	28
Underdale	18	13	5	26
University	18	11	7	22
St. Peter's O.C.	18	7	11	14
Walkerville	18	5	13	10
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	5	13	10
Kenilworth	18	4	14	8
Alberton Church United	18	3	15	6

The State Amateur League practice squad was chosen immediately after this game, with the 'Varsity members being Brown, Magarey, LeMessurier and Page, along with P. Kleinschmidt.

The most consistent players for the year were D.C. Dawkins on the wing, who won the Club's Gunning Medal, A.P. LeMessurier, R.H. Elix, B.A. Magarey, H.L. Masters, P. Kleinschmidt, W.J. Madigan, R.F. Brown and G.W. Page, with the latter being the leading goalkicker along with R.H. South.

It is interesting to note that there was a four week break between the penultimate and last Amateur League games, during which time the State Amateur Carnival and the first Inter- Varsity Carnival were held - both in Tasmania.



1938 FIRST INTER-VARSITY CARNIVAL TEAM - HOBART

L. to R.: J.J. Rice (Capt), D.C. Dawkins, W.P. Goode, D. Michaels, T.A. Hutton, A.P. LeMessurier, W.J. Madigan, J.D. Hill, K.H. South, R.J. Shaughnessy, R.T. Steele, J. Hodge, C.M. Gurner, J.G. McGlashon, P.C.R. Goode, G.W. Page, P. Kleinschmidt, B.A. Magarey, W.J. Betts, H.L. Masters.

After its successful season in the Students' Association in 1937, the 'B' grade team competed in A2 Amateur League again for the first time since 1932. The team performed creditably, winning slightly less than half its matches. Those to play consistently well were Tregonning, J.C. White, J.D. Hill, Hammatt, Nicholls, R.T. Steele, J.G. McGlashon, J.H. Homburg, Michaels, Hutton and J.C. King. The leading goalkickers were Parker and Tregonning.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1938

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Payneham	18	18	0	36
S.A. Railways Institute	18	16	2	32
Teachers College	18	12	6	24
Christian Brothers O.C.	18	11	7	22
Kings' O.C.	18	9	9	18
Scotch O.C.	18	9	9	18
University 'B'	18	7	11	14
Pulteney O.S.	18	5	13	10
Y.M.C.A.	18	2	16	4
Combined Banks	18	1	17	2

The 'C' grade team played in the Students' Association, but did not have an outstanding season. The names of A. Ifould, Wellington and Barrell were prominent during the year.

1939



The 1939 season would have to go down as the least successful year in the Club's history. The A1 team came close to being relegated, and the A2 team finished bottom.

Mervyn Evans continued as coach for his fourth successive season, B.A. (Brian) Magarey and A.P. Cherry were elected A1 and A2 Secretaries respectively and J.J. Rice was elected A1 Captain.

Even though the side lost the first match to Exeter, things looked reasonably positive as four of the team's new members were in the best players - J.D. Hill, Lapthorne, P. Young and N.C. Ligertwood. However, the team did not seem to be able to win games. In the first round, it won only three of its nine matches, losing by an average of just over five goals each time.

After losing to SPOC, 13.13 to 10.14, in the third-to-last match of the season, the side was clearly bottom of the table. The following week it played the top side, Semaphore Central, and in a fiercely fought match in which everyone played well, ran out winners 15.16 to 7.14. Goalkickers were N.C. Ligertwood (6), C.M. Gurner (3), W.J. Betts (2), J.J. Rice (2), R.F. Brown (1) and J.E. Dunstan (1).

With this win, the team moved from clear bottom to equal bottom along with PAOC and SPOC, but behind the latter on percentage.

In the vital last round of matches, SPOC received a forfeit from Railways. With their good percentage, University could not hope to overhaul SPOC on the Premiership table. However, if University defeated Underdale and Payneham defeated Walkerville, the latter could drop to ninth position behind University. Even then, the winning margins had to be enough to change percentages.

'Varsity put up another fierce struggle, and won its match by ten points, 10.12 to 9.8, with the best players being W.J. Betts, G.M.E. Mayo, R.F. Brown, J.J. Rice, B.A. Magarey and M.G. Gratton. Fortunately, Payneham defeated Walkerville by 25 points, which was enough to send them to ninth spot - 0.49% behind University. Walkerville were subsequently relegated along with PAOC.

Dr R.T. (Bob) Steele wrote to the Editors of the 75th Year Book concerning the pressure on the Club at the time. His recollection of these events is outlined at the end of this chapter.

The most consistent players for the year were R.T. (Bob) Steele, who won the Club's Gunning Medal, N.C. Ligertwood, who regularly kicked a 'bag' of goals, W.J. Betts, J.E. Dunstan, P. Kleinschmidt, J.J. Rice, H.L Masters and P. Young.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1939

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Payneham	18	13	5	26
Exeter	18	13	5	26
S.A. Railways Institute	18	11	7	22
Colonel Light Gdns	18	8	10	16
Underdale	18	7	11	14
St. Peter's O.C.	18	6	12	12
University	18	6	12	12
Walkerville	18	6	12	12
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	5	13	10

The 'B' grade side started poorly by losing the first game against the previous season's bottom side, Banks, by a large margin. The team did not improve much during the year. The team only won one match for the season against Scotch Old Collegians 15.13 to 5.11. The team's most consistent players throughout were M.G. Gratton, C.J. Stevens, Nichols, J.W. Skipper, F.C. ('Chester') Bennett, A.P. Cherry, D.L. Davies and Hutton.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1939

C lub	Pl	W	L	Pts
Kenilworth	18	16	2	32
Alberton Church United	18	13	5	26
Teachers College	18	11	7	22
Pulteney O.S .	18	11	7	22
Kings' O.C .	18	10	8	20
Y.M.C.A .	18	9	9	18
Scotch O.C .	18	9	9	18
Christian Bros OC	18	6	12	12
Combined Banks	18	4	14	8
University 'B'	18	1	17	2

The 'C' grade team under the dynamic leadership of Austen (Ivan) Ifould had a reasonable season, defeating SPOC II for the first time in five years, and repeating the performance later in the year. The team won at least four matches, with some of the players to be mentioned including Gordon, Monfries, Deane, Quigley, L.M. White, Kuhlman and Hancock.

1940 Season

At the 1940 AGM W.J. (Bill) Betts was elected Captain, B.A. (Brian) Magarey Vice-captain and J.D. (John) Hill and C. Steele Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively. Former champion Norwood player, H.E. (Harold) Page, had been approached to coach the A1's in place of Mervyn Evans who had retired, and he had accepted.

The season started auspiciously for the A1 team with a seven goal win against SPOC in the first match, an easy victory over Underdale and a two point loss to Semaphore Central.

The new recruits N.C. (Norm) Shierlaw and B. Cowell were playing quite serviceably at this stage. The team's form fell away in the middle of the season, as players went off to wartime training camps. However, 'the Blacks' performances improved by the end of the season, and the team just missed out on the final four after some very narrow losses.

'The Blacks' had to win the last four games to make the four, but it lost the third to last game to Kenilworth 13.18 to 16.14 and finished fifth. (The last two games against Teachers College and Colonel Light Gardens were won on forfeits).

The most outstanding player for the season was J.E. (John) Dunstan, who won the Gunning Medal for the Club's Best and Fairest A1 player. Others to do well were N.C. (Nigel) Ligertwood (who kicked five goals on the State full back in one match), N.C. (Norm) Shierlaw (who won the Sangster Medal for the Club's Most Improved player), J.S. (John) Skipper, N.G. Abbott and R.T. (Bob) Steele.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1940

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	18	16	2	32
S.A. Railways Institute	18	14	4	28
Exeter	18	13	5	26
Payneham	18	12	6	24
University	18	11	7	22
Kenilworth	18	11	7	22
Colonel Light Gardens	18	4	14	8
Underdale	18	4	14	8
St. Peter's O.C.	18	3	15	6
Teachers College	18	2	16	4

Adelaide University Football Team 1940



Back Row.—V. Mansell, M. G. Gratton, W. W. Solly, M. D. Bridgland, M. W. Stain
 Second Row.—H. Page (Coach), N. D. G. Abbott, J. G. Shierlaw, N. C. Shierlaw, D. B. Cowell, M. J. O'Grady,
 I. M. Disher, K. L. Berndt, H. Wilson (Trainer)
 Sitting.—J. D. Hill (Secretary), C. M. Gurner, G. W. Page, W. J. Betts (Captain), R. T. Steele (Vice-Captain),
 J. E. Dunstan, J. Hodge
 On Ground.—A. J. Allen (Trainer), A. Robinson (Boundary Umpire)
 Absent.—B. A. Magarey (Vice-Captain), P. Kleinschmidt, G. M. E. Mayo, P. J. Young, D. Law-Smith (A.I.F.),
 H. L. Masters, N. C. Ligertwood (R.A.A.F.), W. J. Madigan, K. B. McMichael, and J. S. Skipper.

The effect of World War II was particularly noticed by the 'B' and 'C' grade teams as they were quite often short of players. Austen (Ivan) Ifould, the 'C' grade Captain, had the uncanny knack of being able to rustle up a team each week, probably due to more than his organisational skills (see story below). The week after Ivan left to join the AIF the side could only field 11 men. 'The Blacks' were soundly thrashed!

Both teams won their share of matches early, but lost more regularly as the season progressed. Some of the players named in the best players being Berndt, D.L. (Don) Davies ('B' grade Captain), W. Stevenson, I. Smith, Harris, Rosenthal, Wallman, M.W. Stain, R.G. White, Fletcher, A.P. Cherry, Colton, O'Grady, Whiting and K.B. McMichael.

On reflection, the Club considered the 1940 season a great improvement over 1939 (it needed to be to restore the confidence of the players).

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1940

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Walkerville	18	16	2	0	32
Woodville	18	15	3	0	30
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	15	3	0	30
Y.M.C.A.	18	11	7	0	22
Pulteney O.S.	18	10	8	0	20
Alberton Church Unit.	18	8	10	0	16
Kings O.C.	18	5	12	1	11
University 'B'	18	3	14	1	7
Payneham 'B'	18	3	15	0	6
Combined Banks	18	3	15	0	6

1941 Season



1941 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM

Back Row: W.W. Solly, R.M. Holmes, H.E. Page (Coach), H.V. ('Long'un') Wilson (Trainer), J. Ryan, R.G. White.
Third Row: W.J. Madigan (RAAF), K.B. McMichael, J. Nicolls, I.M. Disher, P.A. Dalwood, M.J. O'Grady (RAAF).
Second Row: C.M. Gurner, J.S. Skipper, R.T. Steele (V-c), W.J. Betts (Capt.), G.W. Page, N.G. Abbott, N.C. Shierlaw (Secretary).
Front Row: G.G. Brookman, R.E. Dunstan, A. Robinson, L.T. Gunn, R. Duncan.
Absent: M.G. Gratton (AIF).

About 30 of the 1940 season's members had joined the military forces by the start of the 1941 season, including eight of the regular A1 players. This provided an opportunity for several Freshers to make the A1 side. In previous years an average of two Freshers per year only had been able to make this grade. Stars such as J.E. (John) Dunstan and N.C. (Nigel) Ligertwood were missing, but there were some promising new players on the horizon in P.A. (Peter) Dalwood, R.E. (Richard) Dunstan, R. Duncan and R.M. (Murray) Holmes.

Harold Page offered to continue on as unpaid coach for the year. W.J. (Bill) Betts was elected Captain and R.T. (Bob) Steele Vice- captain of the A1 side. D.L. (Don) Davies was Captain of the 'B' grade team.

The Management Committee had decided early in the year that the Club would only field two teams, the A1 side in Amateur League and the 'B' grade side in the Students' Association, due to the shortage of players.

The A1's started the season well and were undefeated and on top until the University holidays. 'The Blacks' then lost three of the next four games to go down to fourth position. The team's form improved however and by the end of the minor round the A1's were second. One highlight of the team's performances during this time was the defeat of Railways for the first time since they had joined the Amateur League.

The A1 side met Railways again in the last match of the minor round and drew with them.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1941

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Exeter	15	13	2	0	26
University	15	10	4	1	21
Semaphore Central	15	9	6	0	18
S.A. Railways Institute	15	7	6	2	16
Walkerville	15	3	11	1	7
Payneham	15	1	14	0	2

The Semi-final against Railways was unfortunately played on a very wet day, which did not suit the 'Varsity style'. 'The Blacks' lost (12.12 to 14.19), thus finishing fourth for the season.

The most consistent players for the year were N.C. (Norm) Shierlaw and P.A. (Peter) Dalwood, who were runner-up and fourth respectively for the Amateur League's Hone Medal. Other players to play well included N.G. Abbott, I.M. Disher, G.G. Brookman, W.W. Solley, K.B. McMichael, M. Holmes, W.J. Madigan, R.G. White and J. Ryan.

The 'B' grade team started the season with a win against SPOC, and there were great expectations that the side would come top of the Students' Association. This was not to be, as they soon lost matches to Kings' Old Scholars, Immanuel College and Scotch College, partly due to the departure of players to War Service. The team lost its Captain (D.L. Davies), its Vice-captain (R.A. Russell) and its Secretary (M. Bridgeland) at various stages during the season. R. Duncan and E. Norman were elected Captain and Secretary, respectively in their places.

The best players over the season were E. (Ted) Norman, Lewis, M. Bridgeland, J. and B. Colton, Rieschbieth, J.B. Day, Anderson, Bennett and G. Cheeseman.

Special players of the era include;



J.M.J. (Jack) Jens

J.M.J. Jens began with the Club in 1928 and immediately showed form as an outstanding wingman. Jack remained with the Club until 1934 and played in six consecutive Inter-Varsity matches from 1929 to 1934 during that time.

Jack was Captain of 'the Blacks' in 1933 and 1934 and in the latter year also captained the State Amateur side against



D.F. (Don) Burnard

Don Burnard played in the University A1 team for six seasons from 1930 to 1935. He also played in the Inter-Varsity team for each of those years. In 1930 he played at centre, in 1931 on a half back flank, and in the next four years at centre half back.

In 1933 Don was awarded the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest A1 player and was selected for the State Amateur League teams in the years 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935.

Don received his Football Blue in 1931 and an Australian Universities Sports Association award in 1932. His success as a player was due to an ability to read the play and be at the fall of the ball, plus a *"fair turn of speed"*. His kicking was accurate and his marking usually reliable. The centre half back position suited his open style of play, but when the situation, or his opponent, demanded defensive play, he was able to adapt his game accordingly.

Prior to joining the University Football Club, Don played with Prince Alfred College, winning their Best and Fairest award in 1929.

After leaving University, Don joined the Elsternwick Club in the Victorian Amateur Football League and played for three seasons (1936, 1937 and 1938), again at centre half back. He was selected for the Victorian State Amateur League team in 1937, and played against the South Australian team that year. This is a rare achievement and testimony to his skill as a footballer.

He received a Football Blue in 1930 and an Australian Universities Sports Association award in 1932.



W.L. (Bill) Hann

W.L. (Bill) Hann began with the Club in 1930 and made the A1 team in his first season. Bill played for five seasons until 1934, missing only the 1933 Inter-Varsity game.

Bill was unlucky not to receive a Blue during his time with University, but was awarded an Australian Universities Sports Association Award in 1932 for selection in the Combined Universities team.

In the 1932 season Bill also played well in front of the goals, kicking 20 goals in the first two games and winning the goalkicking for the season with 63 goals. In 1933 and 1934, Bill won the A1 goalkicking with 66 and 69 goals respectively.

Bill was a State Amateur player in 1931 and 1934, playing full forward in both years.

In 1936, when playing for SPOC in A1, Bill again won the A1 goalkicking with an impressive 116 goals.



W.H. (Bill) Baudinet

W.H. (Bill) Baudinet began with the Club in 1929 and immediately progressed to the A1 team where he remained until 1935. He played in every Inter-Varsity match during that time.

Bill played mainly at full back and received his Football Blue in 1930. He was elected Vice-captain of the side in 1933 and 1934 and became Captain in 1935. His steady performances earned him positions in the State Amateur team in 1932 and 1933.

His talent was not confined to football however, and he received a Cricket Blue in 1934.



W.C.J. (Tim) White

W.C.J. (Tim) White began with the Club in 1932 and played in the A2 side after a few games. By 1932 he had progressed to the A1 side. He was selected in the State Amateur team for 1933 and again in 1934. He also received a Football Blue in 1933.

During his career, Tim played mainly in the back lines and was in three Inter-Varsity teams from 1932 to 1934, including the victorious 1932 game. His final year with the Club was 1935.



R.H. (Bob) Elix

R.H. (Bob) Elix began playing with University in 1930 and was still playing in 1938, eight years later. He had commenced a Pharmacy course, but continued on to become a Doctor. In his first season, Bob started in the A2 team, but had established himself as an 'A' grade player by the end of the season.

Bob was a fixture in the A1 team during his years with 'the Blacks' and was renowned as a fearless centreman, a great leader and a good wet weather footballer.

Bob was Captain of the team from 1936 to 1938, having been Vice-captain in 1935. He played in eight consecutive Inter-Varsity matches. He missed the 1938 Carnival in Hobart, but had the rare distinction of playing in two winning Inter-Varsity sides, 1932 and 1936. He was Captain in the latter match against Melbourne, which was won 13.10 to 10.13.

R.H. Elix was awarded a Football Blue in 1931 in only his second year with the Club and won the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest Player in the A1 team in 1936. He also represented the State as a centreman in 1935 and 1936. Bob displayed outstanding form in the 1936 State games which were part of the first AAFC Carnival. He was the best player against NSW and was playing brilliantly against Victoria until injured.

On the administrative side, Bob was involved with the SAAFL as a member of the Tribunal up until 1971. He was awarded Life Membership of the SAAFL in 1962.



A.G. ('Alby') Gillespie

A.G. ('Alby') Gillespie played for the A1 side in 1931 and 1932 – the latter side was the undefeated Premier. 'Alby' was a strong, vigorous player who played at centre half forward or full forward. Long kicking and strong overhead marking were traits of his game.

'Alby' was awarded a Full Blue for Football in 1932, the year he represented the State Amateur side. This award complemented his Full Blue for Baseball in 1931.

Sadly 'Alby' Gillespie was killed as an air crew member in the RAAF in World War II.



W.J. (Bill) Bentley

W.J. (Bill) Bentley played for Teachers College in the mid-1930s, winning the Chambers Medal in A2 in 1933 and 1935.

Even though Teachers were in A2, Bill represented the State in these two years at centre half forward and was Vice-captain in 1935. He was amongst the best players and kicked two goals in the 1935 game.

Teachers did not field a team in 1934 and Bill joined 'the Blacks', playing very well for his new club. The A1's won the Final that season, however, were defeated by Underdale in the Challenge Final. Bill was amongst the best players and goalkickers in these games.

Bill played Inter-Varsity football from 1934 to 1936, being best player in 1934 and 1935 and high up in best player lists in the other years. The 1936 side inflicted only the fourth defeat on Melbourne since 1904. Bill's record against the strong Melbourne side was outstanding.

After his great 1934 season, Bill was awarded a Football Blue.

Bill Bentley was obviously a talented player. He played 101 League games for Sturt between 1936 and 1941 and two SANFL State games. He played half forward in the 1939 Sturt Grand Final team and back pocket in the 1940 Premiership team.



P. (Peter) Kleinschmidt

P. Kleinschmidt played six seasons with the Club between 1934 and 1939 and was the regular A1 full back over those years, except for 1934 when he was in the 'B' grade team.

During this time he played in Inter-Varsity games in 1936, 1937 and 1938, and was reserve in 1935. He received a Football Blue in 1936 and the Australian University Sports Association award in 1938. His best season was in 1937 when he received the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest A1 player, and was also selected in the State Amateur team.



W.J. (Bill) Betts

W.J. (Bill) Betts started with the Club in 1936, and played a few games in the 'B' grade side before being promoted to the A's, where he stayed for the rest of the season. Bill remained with the Club until 1941 and was a prominent A1 player either in the ruck in his early years, or at centre half back

in later times.

Bill played in the 1936, 1938 and 1939 Inter-Varsity teams (he appears in the 1937 photo, but did not play due to a broken finger), and was Captain of the A1 team in 1940 and 1941.

Bill was unfortunate never to have been selected in a State side, but he played in the Combined Universities team at the 1938 Inter-Varsity Carnival, for which he was recognised with an Australian Universities Sports Association award. He was awarded an Adelaide University Blue in 1939, the year in which his good form in the late-season games helped the Club avoid relegation.

On the administrative side, W.J. Betts was a member of the Selection Committee in 1940 and 1941 and was also acting Secretary in the 1940 and 1941 era when B.A. Magarey left for World Service.



G.W. (Geoff) Page

G.W. (Geoff) Page was a very good player, who represented 'the Blacks' in the mid to late 1930s.

Geoff was a member of the 1936 Inter-varsity team which recorded a rare victory over Melbourne University. In the Hobart Inter-Varsity in 1938, Geoff was in good form in front of goals, kicking seven goals against Tasmania and four against Melbourne in a closely fought game.

Geoff was included in the Combined Universities team that played a game at the end of the Carnival.

His good form resulted in Geoff being named in the State Amateur team to compete in the second AAFC Carnival in Launceston. He played in a forward pocket against Western Australia and Victoria.

Geoff was a fine all-round sportsman and represented the University Cricket Club with distinction. He topped the 'A' grade averages in 1939-40 with 439 runs at 31. He top-scored with 104 this season.

ANECDOTES FROM THE 1930's

The Depression of the 1930's

Dr F.A. (Fred) Bloch's book on the history of the SAAFL reports on the impact of harsh economic times in the early 1930s for Amateur League footballers.

"1931 was a difficult time financially, as the world was in the middle of a depression. The significant number of unemployed amongst the playing ranks in the SAAFL prompted a request for all clubs to accommodate any of their players who were unable to pay for their sport. The Amateur League itself, however, was in an excellent financial position (Advertiser 3.3.31), and was able to afford an honorarium of £5.5.0 to Secretary Millard."

It's the umpire, not us!

Dr F.A. (Fred) Bloch's book on the history of the SAAFL reports on a protest by Underdale in 1934.

"However, Underdale exercised its right of challenge and also protested against the appointment of umpire D. Busbridge on the grounds that he favoured the University team, so he was duly replaced by K.W. Packham for the Challenge Final at Norwood Oval."

It should be noted that Underdale won the 1933 Premiership against University with Umpire D. Busbridge in charge.

'Blacks' champion to a Magpie

J.P. (John) McFarlane, the champion University half back during the 1930's, was borrowed by Port Adelaide for the 1934 Grand Final against Glenelg, after their regular full back, K. West, was injured. Fresh from the Amateur League Final, McFarlane distinguished himself at half back and was named in Port's best players. He was also included in the Magpies 1935 Finals training squad.

Football instruction and a good time

Dr F.A. (Fred) Bloch's book on the history of the SAAFL reports on the approach to football coaching and entertainment 1935 style.

"To boost the players' morale in a gloomy winter, smoke socials, euchre and bridge evenings, 'bucks' picnics, picture evenings and dances proliferated. A lecture entitled 'How To Play Football' became all the rage as coaches took it in turns to tell the masses how the game should be played. First Underdale received it during a pasty supper evening (which also included musical offerings and recitations) from Magarey Medallist, Mr. Jack Sexton, captain-coach of Norwood; then West Adelaide United took its turn with Mr. Sexton, followed by Semaphore Central receiving the same address from Port Adelaide coach Mr. L. Ashby."

Numbers are a problem – even in A1

Dr F.A. (Fred) Bloch's book on the history of the SAAFL reports on some difficulties faced by clubs in 1935 in fielding teams.

"The 1935 playing season was inundated by flu epidemics and social evenings. On several occasions teams either forfeited through a lack of fit players (or in the case of Teachers College because its players were on vacation!) or took to the field with anything from 13 to 18 players (plus a reserve on good days."

Inspiration from the cheer-leaders!

The A1 team played exceptionally well against Goodwood at University Oval in 1936 in winning 19.26 to 1.8. It seems that some 'mysterious power' had arranged for dancing girls to support several members of the team.

It was rumoured that 'Speigle' Rice (best player that day) had his particular 'dancing girl' in attendance at the match. He played extremely well in kicking seven goals. This bag of goals and the fact 'Speigle' wore clean shoes were both unprecedented.

Social highlights – 1938 style

"Undoubtedly the social event of the year was the Amateur League Ball held at the Palais Royal in May. A committee of 21 people organised the function which attracted 600 dancers in a hall garlanded with ribbons in the colours of the clubs. A two-column article in the Advertiser on May 6th mentioned the names of many of the people attending and the clubs with which they were associated, as well as the women's fashion details and the following:

'Much fun was caused by the sale of ridiculous little hats which everybody wore and which gave a quaint touch to their evening dress. Exciting events were miniature bicycle races, in which members of the clubs competed.'

(A History of the South Australian Amateur League, 1911-1994, pg 85-86)

Reverse logic pays off

In 1938 the State Amateur team played in Launceston in the week prior to the Inter- Varsity Carnival in Hobart. As M.W. (Mervyn) Evans was coach of both the State Amateur side and 'the Blacks' he decided to drive down to Hobart to coach the Club to victory in the Inter-Varsity games.

To facilitate this, he hired a Chevrolet in Launceston (the first occasion he had hired a car) and drove down to Hobart. On arrival there it was soon discovered that the speedometer would run backwards if the car was reversed. Since the car was paid for on a mileage basis and, University students being what they are, this car spent a great deal of its time going backwards. To make this job easier, the car was put on blocks overnight and the engine left running. By the time the car was returned to Launceston very little mileage had been run up to the surprise of the rental firm manager.

As an interesting sideline to this story, Mervyn had insisted on additional clauses being inserted in the hire conditions and the manager had acquiesced, thinking that Mervyn was a lawyer. On returning the car, Mervyn produced a few extra clauses as disclaimers which set the manager in a frenzied check under the car and bonnet.

Some years later, at an Apex gathering in Albury, Mervyn Evans recognised the particular manager and struck up conversation with him. The manager remembered the incident and his first words were unprintable.

What a kick!

A post-season event was staged at Adelaide Oval in 1940 in aid of the patriotic funds. The SANFL Premiers Sturt played a match against a team from the rest of the League winning 22.25 (162) to 25.12 (157) in front of 7000 people. Incidentally a former star of the Amateur League and 'Blacks' player, Bill Bentley played for Sturt.

There were also long-kicking and sprint contests for players from the League, S.A Football Association and Amateur League. The winner of the long kicking for the Amateur League was G.W. (Geoff) Page of University with a kick of 65 yards 2 ft. 6 inches (over 60 metres).

Mature age student proves worth

In the early 1940's, player numbers were at a premium and innovative methods were required to ensure a full side.

In 1941, the Club Secretary (Norm Shierlaw) was very creative - he enrolled Club coach Harold Page in Fitting and Turning 1 at the School of Mines on the corner of Frome Road and North Terrace.

On seeing the application for his registration, SAAFL Secretary H.V. Millard, was somewhat incredulous.

Harold duly played against S.A. Railways Institute and proved his worth in a tough game against far more experienced opposition. He moved himself onto 'the enforcer' from the opposition and delivered a bone-crunching hip and shoulder which showed the Railway men that they should respect the students.

Social football in the 'C' grade – 1941

In response to request for information for the 75th Year History, J.B. (John) Day wrote in detail about key administrators, players and coaches, particularly glowing words about coach Harold Page – a former Norwood player!

John was also keen to highlight the efforts of Ivan Ifould who captained the University 'C' grade team in the Students' Association. The team played at the Waite Oval, which was poorly turfed and had cows grazing on it during the week. The results on the ground for the Saturday games were predictable.

Ivan had a large Tourer car which could fit half the side, plus the mandatory 'keg'. This essential item was *"always speared at some time during the game and finished after the match."*

