



ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

THE COACHES OF THE AUFC:

THE MEN'S A GRADE COACH

1922-2026

**Written by David Bartlett #11
and Peter Sharley #39**

Since the early days of the creation of a formal coaching position, the Adelaide University Football Club has been fortunate in appointing very experienced and dedicated coaches. Generally, the Club (or 'A' grade) coach has remained with the Club for three or four years, and this has resulted in stability that has paid dividends in terms of results of the 'A' grade side and the Club in general.

Indeed, the two longest serving coaches, E.G. (George) Tilley and A.S. (Allen) Greer were in the roles for six and eight years respectively. These two men brought 'the Blacks' their greatest successes – four Premierships each and 14 Grand Finals in 14 seasons. Never in their eras were 'the Blacks' not involved in the Grand Final.

Did the stability of a long-term coach bring success, or did the great successes cause these two coaches to stay and enjoy the benefits? It matters little - George and Allen were highly respected coaches who brought significant glory to 'the Blacks'.

A list of Adelaide University Football Club coaches as far back as can be determined is outlined in the table below.

Years	AUFC Men's Coach
1922-1924	W.H. Hutton *
1925-1928	S.N. McKee *
1929	P. Lewis *
1930-1931	S.H. Lewis
1932-1935	C.C. Daly
1936-1939	M.W. Evans
1940-1941	H.E. Page
1942-43	World War II
1944-1945	J.F.S. Monten
1946	L.J. Tugwell
1947-1950	H.E. Page
1951-1956	E.G. Tilley *
1957-1959	L.G. Giles
1960-1967	A.S. Greer *
1968	D.F. Kimber *
1969-1971	P.R. Vivian *
1972	B. Wells
1973	D. Panizza
1974-1976	K.R. Griffiths *
1977-1979	L.I. Hoskins
1980-1981	F.A. Bloch
1982-1985	M.A. Weatherald
1986-1987	J.D. Griffen *
1988-1989	P.A. Whaley
1990	J.D. Turnbull
1991-1995	D.K. West
1996-1997	N.R. Annear * T.J. McEvoy *
1998-1999	P. Simmons *
2000-2001	B.P. Phillips
2002-2003	W.B. Ploenges
2004	S.J. Jackson
2005-2006	J.J. Mason
2007-2008	T. Roach
2009	S.L. Tregenza
2010-2012	M Trimboli
2013	B. Lennon
2014-2017	J. Paynter
2018	C. Smith
2019	C. Smith/B Watkins
2020-2021	B. Watkins
2022-2024	G. Kellett
2025-2026	D. Kretchmer
2026-	O. Fantasia

* denotes Premiership Coach with AUFC.

*104 out of our 105 Premiership (up to 2025) team photos can be found here;
<https://uniblacksfsc.com.au/premierships/>

Some brief details of the careers of these coaches and the impact that they had on the Adelaide University Football Club are outlined below. As can be seen from these summaries, many of these men had great reputations in the broader football world – ‘the Blacks’ were indeed fortunate to have them involved in the Club.

W.H. (Billy) Hutton - 1922 to 1924

As far as research can determine, the first genuine coach that the Club appointed was W.H. (Billy) Hutton, who coached the Club from 1922 to 1924.

W.H. Hutton played 30 games for Norwood from 1908 to 1910 and returned to coach the ‘Redlegs’ in 1919 (seventh), 1920 (second) and 1921 (second).

In 1922 Billy led the University ‘A’ grade side to a Premiership and ‘the Blacks’ were runner-up the next season. One wonders why he left the ‘Redlegs’ after a Grand final appearance to move to ‘the Blacks’!

S.N. (Stephen) McKee - 1925 to 1928



1926 AUFC 'A' PREMIERS



BACK ROW: N.A. Walsh, M.W. Evans, F.H. Finlayson, H. Wilson (Trainer), L.N. Allen, F.W. Wagner, L.S. Walsh.
MIDDLE ROW: H.L. Davie, B.S. Hanson, W.R. James, A.D. Smith, B.W. Hone, C.B. Sangster, G.W. Nunn, W.R. Baker.
FRONT ROW: S.N. McKee (Coach), D.G. McKay (Captain), Prof. D. Naylor, N.S. Gunning (Vice-Captain), D.K. McKenzie.
SEATED: A.E.C. Treloar, D. Le R. Boucaut.
INSET: S. Williams.

S.N. (Stephen) McKee, a former Captain of South Adelaide and South Australian representative, coached the Club from 1925 to 1928, taking the 'A' grade team to a Premiership in 1926.

Stephen's grandson S.K. (Steve) McKee also played for the University in the 1960s, being Captain-Coach of the Senior Colts in 1965 and the A3 team in 1966.

Stephen Noel McKee, was widely known and highly respected across Adelaide. He was Captain (and a Life-Member) of South Adelaide Football Club and played interstate matches for the state, representing SA in the 1921 Carnival in Perth. Steve held several Australasian amateur featherweight weightlifting records. In 1911, he broke the double-handed lift record by lifting 220 pounds, the right-handed jerk record by lifting 152 pounds and the clean two-handed record by lifting 199.5 pounds.

In 1931, Steve founded the Sporting Service at 5AD and was that radio station's Sporting Editor for many years. He wrote regular football and other sports articles for The Register, The Advertiser, The News and the Sporting Index.

A memorable story about his approach to radio broadcasting involved Sir Donald Bradman. The 1948 Australian cricket team was returning home from their "Invincibles" tour on the Orontes. As it was travelling up St Vincent Gulf, Steve boarded the liner and knocked on Bradman's cabin door. The great man was amazed to see Steve there, but gave him an exclusive interview much to the annoyance of other journalists waiting for the ship to dock at Outer Harbour. Steve had achieved one of Adelaide's earliest sporting scoops. Steve was appointed as Chairman of the Sports Committee of the State Jubilee celebrations.

Not long after the establishment of Glenelg Golf Club in 1927, Steve became a member of the Golf Club and was part of a small group that worked long and hard to ensure the Club survived through difficult times in its early years. He served on its Committee for 12 years and was its Captain from 1950 until his death in 1952. The golf club honours his memory with the annual Steve McKee Memorial Trophy. Steve's business career was with MacRobertsons (SA) Ltd, where he was Manager and Director.

Steve would have turned 61 in April 1952 but died suddenly in January of that year.

P. (Percy) Lewis – 1929



P. (Percy) Lewis, a former North Adelaide Player and Captain (1922 to 1926), was the AUFC 'A' grade coach in 1929. Percy Lewis was a well-credentialed player when he accepted the position at 'the Blacks'. He had played 185 games for North Adelaide in 17 seasons, commencing in 1912 as a key forward.

Percy was one of the stars of North's 1920 Premiership side and succeeded the legendary Tom Leahy to the Captaincy.

Percy ended his career in 1928 as a fullback and moved into the University coaching position the next season. What success he had! The A1 team won the Premiership in 1929. He then coached North Adelaide to Premierships in 1930 and 1931. (3 in a row).

SANFL ACHIEVEMENTS

- 185 games and 145 goals for North Adelaide, 1912, 1915, 1922 – 1928
- Captain of North Adelaide, 1922 – 1926
- 8 interstate matches for SA
- Club Champion North Adelaide, 1922
- North Adelaide Leading Goal Kicker, 1923, 1924
- North Adelaide Hall of Fame
- SANFL Leading Goal Kicker, 1923 (58 goals)
- Coached North Adelaide, 1925, 1930 – 1934
- Premiership Coach North Adelaide 1930 and 1931
- North Adelaide Football Club President 1940 -1948
- North Adelaide Football Club Patron 1949 – 1950

Percy Lewis was one of the 24 people inducted into the SANFL Hall of Fame in 2001 for the 1901 to 1930 era.

To quote from the *Adelaide University Magazine* of August 1929:

"Mr Percy Lewis has been coaching the team regularly and has been good enough to attend and lend his moral (and sometimes vocal) support at most of the matches. He has greatly improved the side, and his practice of taking each man on his own and giving him advice (on football) has had wonderful results."

S.H. (Stan) Lewis - 1930 to 1931

Stanley Heathcote Lewis represented the University Football Club for three years from 1923 to 1925, playing on the wing, on a half forward flank or in goals. Stanley played in the A1 side for these three years, represented the Club in three consecutive Inter-Varsities and earned his Football Blue in 1925. He progressed to play League football with South Adelaide in 1926 and 1927 and was on their Committee until 1929.

In that year Stanley Lewis became the first 'past player' to coach University when he trained the A2 team one night a week, with Percy Lewis coaching the 'A' grade team. He continued with the Club in 1930 and 1931, coaching the A1 side to second and fourth during these two years.

Stanley had played 30 games with South Adelaide in 1926 and 1927 and later turned to football administration, firstly with South Adelaide and later with the SANFL. Stanley Lewis was President of the League from 1950 until his death in 1961. He was a strong personality who was very decisive in this key administrative role.

The Stanley H. Lewis Trophy has been presented in his honour since 1962 to the club gaining the highest aggregate points from League level down to Under 17s during minor round games.

Life Membership of the SANFL was conferred on Stanley Lewis in 1944.

Charles C. ('Lulla') Daly - 1932 to 1935



C.C. 'Lulla' Daly, who had been a prominent Norwood player in the 1920s, succeeded Stanley Lewis to the coaching position. C.C. Daly played with Norwood

from 1926 to 1930, appearing in 56 games and winning the Club's Best and Fairest in 1929. He was the son of J.D. ('Bunny') Daly, who was *"generally acknowledged to be the greatest South Australian footballer from 1877 to the close of the 19th century"*. *

'Lulla' Daly coached 'the Blacks' from 1932 to 1935.

As far as can be determined, the coaches up until this time did not coach in the manner of today. They were mainly involved with Saturday games and did not manage the practices of the team during the week, as is now the case. In general, they left the mid-week preparation to a Practice Captain and concerned themselves with Inter-Varsity games and the Saturday matches.

C.C. Daly was appointed the first coach of the State Amateur League side in 1934, with the League keen to repeat its first win against the Victorians in 1932.

M.W. (Mervyn) Evans - 1936 to 1939



M.W. (Mervyn) Evans, who coached the Club from 1936 to 1939, had enjoyed a very successful playing career with 'the Blacks' as a player from 1926 to 1929. He was awarded a Football Blue, an Australian Blue in 1927 and represented the State Amateur team in 1929.

In 1930, Mervyn joined PAOC and continued to play for the State side, twice winning the Outstanding Player Trophy. Mervyn's highlights of this period were winning the Chambers Medal for A2 in 1932 and the Hone Medal in 1934, after playing only nine games for 27 votes. These were truly outstanding performances.

Mervyn returned to the University Football Club in 1936 as the 'A' grade coach and continued in that capacity for the next four seasons. During this period (1936 to 1938), he was also in charge of the State Amateur team and coached the side that defeated the Victorians in Melbourne in 1937. This was only the third time that South Australia had beaten the Victorians and the first win in Melbourne. This feat was not repeated until 1973.

Mervyn Evans was probably the first coach who actively trained with the team during the week and on several occasions sat on the fence for the A1s.

H.E. (Harold) Page - 1940 to 1941 and 1947 to 1950



Another Norwood player, H.E. (Harold) Page, was appointed to coach the Club in 1940 and 1941 at the time when World War II interrupted the Amateur League program. Harold had played 140 games with Norwood from 1929 to 1939 and so was ideally qualified for the job.

Harold Page wrote a long letter to the Editors of the AUFC 75th Year History in response to calls for information. A few coaches since have expressed similar sentiments to the experiences of Harold in 1940!

"I could not understand why the University team was so low on the Premiership table. The players were soon to learn that training was a key factor for results, which they seemed to appreciate after several weeks of heavy going."

Harold continued as coach of 'the Blacks' from 1947 to 1950.

On the resumption of State Amateur football, Harold was appointed coach in 1947. In the match on Adelaide Oval in front of a crowd of 6,000, South Australia defeated Victoria by 44 points – their fourth win in 16 matches. He was also State Coach for the first post-War World II Carnival in 1948 and led the side to wins in all three games, claiming South Australia's first Carnival success. Harold continued in this State coaching role in 1949 and 1950; such was the esteem in which he was held in amateur football circles.

Harold Page was made an Honorary Life Member of 'the Blacks' in 1953.

Not everything went the way of the Blacks in 1947. Harold Page had coached the A1 side into second place at the end of the minor round, and hopes were high for the first Flag since 1932. University beat Payneham 9.18 to 6.11 and advanced to the Grand Final against Woodville. Interestingly (as was the custom at that time), the side then departed for the Inter-Varsity Carnival in Tasmania – good preparation!

However, Payneham protested on the grounds that University player L. (Leo) Streng had umpired for fees the previous season (apparently about £3) and hence had forfeited his amateur status. The Amateur League Executive duly awarded the match to Payneham.

The unfortunate part of this matter was that the Club was given no opportunity to present any defence. It is understood that legal proceedings were taken out against the Executive of the SAAFL *"in respect of their high-handed action"*. Certain apologies were given, but the decision remained in place.

Don Brebner, many, many years later recalled his painful recollections of the unjust handling of this matter.

As an aside to highlight a different world.....In 1940 J.D (John) Hill, the Club Secretary, and R.T Steele organised the Football Club Ball at the University Refectory. It was a black-tie affair as was the custom at the time. Coach Harold Page brought along Albert Sawley, a friend from the Norwood Football Club. They were neatly dressed, but no black tie. The Manager of the Refectory would not admit them, despite pleas from the President of the Sports Association. A couple of St Marks' students came to the rescue by finding appropriate attire to pass the stern test of the Manager. An embarrassing situation was avoided.

J.F.S. (Stan) Monten - 1944 to 1945



In 1944 and 1945, Sgt. J.F.S. (Stan) Monten coached the University Football Club. At this time, the official SAAFL competition had been suspended due to World War II.

Stan Monten had played 14 League games for West Torrens in 1925 and 1926.

L.J. (Lloyd) Tugwell – 1946



L.J. (Lloyd) Tugwell took over the A1 team in 1946. He had played 63 League games with Norwood between 1933 and 1939 and his appointment continued the Club's strong association with that League club.

Lloyd was a very enthusiastic coach and travelled to the 1946 Inter-Varsity in Melbourne to coach the team.

E.G. (George) Tilley - 1951 to 1956



E.G. (George) Tilley, a former Sturt and South Australian player, took over the coaching position in 1950. George had played with Sturt from 1939 to 1950 (172 games), serving six years with the RAAF from 1941 to 1946. He was a regular State representative and was an extremely versatile player, playing centre half back, full forward and full back with equal assurance. In 1948 he kicked 13 goals against South Adelaide and a few weeks later played full back on Glenelg champion Colin Churchett.

The A1 side had not won a Premiership since 1932 when George took control, but he launched the Club into an era of unprecedented success. In the six seasons that he coached 'the Blacks', the A1 side played in all six Grand Finals and won four Premierships (1951, 1952, 1954 and 1955).

This era signalled the return to the dominance that the Club had enjoyed in the 1920s and early 1930s. During this period, George was also the State Amateur coach and coached the side to an impressive victory against the Victorian Amateurs in Adelaide in 1955.

During this period, the Club produced some very good players, and many progressed to play League football. The rejuvenation of the University Football Club was in no small way due to E.G. Tilley's efforts.

When George Tilley left the University Football Club after the 1956 season, he took up the position of Sturt League coach. He was inducted as a SANFL and Sturt Life Member in 2009.

SANFL Achievements;
Sturt Games: 172

Sturt Goals: 54
Sturt Captain: 1948
South Australia interstate matches: 9
Sturt League Coach: 1957-1958
Sturt Club Best & Fairest: 1947, 1949

The stand-out player in George Tilley's era was 'Wimpy' McLeod, who could dominate games in a variety of roles. Geoff Krieger, John Walsh, Pat Pak-Poy, Richard Hancock, Ross Johnson, and 'Chesty' Hyde were highly talented players who all performed well in the important games.

George Tilley vividly recalled addressing the players on his first night at training when he took over the A1 coaching position in 1951. *"I am not here for my good looks – I am here to win a Flag for you"*, he stated.

Leonard George (Jack) Giles - 1957 to 1959

Born 17 June 1921 – Died 23 August 1994

Another Sturt and State player, L.G. (Jack) Giles, then succeeded George Tilley to the coaching position in 1957. Jack had played 168 games with Sturt from 1941 to 1951, being Captain in 1949. Jack was also granted Player Life Membership of Sturt in 1950 and the SANFL in 1951. In 1942, he enlisted in the ADF, joining the 112th Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment and in 1943, he played one game for Richmond in the VFL. He also played cricket for SA.

After coaching SPOC from 1952 to 1955, Jack was appointed to coach 'the Blacks' from 1957 to 1959. This period saw the Club finish second once and third twice.

The Club experienced growth during this period, with up to five teams being fielded. The lower sides improved considerably in standard. There were four finals appearances by the 'C' and 'D' grade teams, which showed greater depth and consistency of performance at the lower levels of the Club.

Jack Giles rated *"John Lill, Peter Harbison and Charlie Akkermans as the most brilliant players of his time, with Tony ('Doc') Clarkson, Tom Mestrov and Frank Altmann the best team players under all conditions"*.

A.S. (Allen) Greer - 1960 to 1967



Born 20/01/1928 – Died 26/04/2018

A.S. (Allen) Greer, a former Port Adelaide League player, was appointed coach for the 1960 season and stayed in that position until 1967.

Allen had played 173 games for Port Adelaide between 1946 and 1956, being involved in the 'golden era' of the Magpies. He was initially a wingman before turning into a speedy half-back flanker ('Racehorse' was his nickname) and won many awards with the Magpies and represented the State.

Allen played in two Premierships, being the best player in the 1951 win against North Adelaide. He was also high up in the best players in the losing Grand Final side of 1947. Allen was Vice-captain in 1952 and 1953 and active on the Management Committee in the mid-1950's as a player representative.

In 1957, Allen was Captain-Coach of Riverside in A2, leading the team to the Minor Premiership. He was selected as Vice-Captain of the State Amateur team that season. In 1958, Allen coached Riverside to second position in A1 (behind University) and then defeated 'the Blacks' in the Grand Final by 10 points. This was a great achievement - taking the A2 Grand Finalist of the previous year to the Flag in A1.

When Allen arrived at 'the Blacks' in 1960, his experience was perfect for a coaching role in the University environment. During Allen's eight seasons, the Club enjoyed a most successful era, with the A1 side playing in an unprecedented eight consecutive Grand Finals for four Premierships (1960-61-62 and 1965).

Allen saw many brilliant players pass through the Club during his coaching days, many of them graduating to League ranks (more than 25) and playing with distinction at that level. He rated Tony ('Doc') Clarkson and Dudley Hill as a great match-winning ruck combination and cornerstone of the great sides. Other brilliant players of his era that he rated highly were Allan Byers, Lloyd Morris, Carl Meyer, Malcolm ('Emmy') Jones, Geoff Krieger, John Sangster, Brian Seppelt and Juan Hooper.

Allen's coaching reputation was highly regarded and he was appointed State

Amateur coach in 1962 and also coached West Torrens in 1971 and 1972. His career at Torrens was 'squeezed' between two legends of the VFL in John Birt and Billy Barrot.

During this time, the University Football Club grew in size, with up to eight teams being fielded. The lower sides had more success than in past eras. In 1965, three sides won Premierships, one side was runner-up, and the Colts were disqualified, having finished second. Much of this success must be attributed to Allen, who insisted on the whole Club training together and thus developed a new level of Club spirit.

Allen Greer rates the loss to Melbourne in Adelaide in 1968 by one point as his biggest disappointment with the Club. The University players were keyed up for the game, but due to heavy rain during the week, it was moved from University Oval on the advice of the ground staff. University lost its home-ground advantage, which only came around rarely in Inter-Varsity Carnivals. The team went down to Melbourne by one point in an evenly fought game. Allan Byers played a brilliant game under the conditions. A win in this game would have given 'the Blacks' a hat-trick over Melbourne University, as there were good wins in both 1967 and 1969.

Allen was made a Life Member of the University Football Club in 1968, indicative of his significant contribution to 'the Blacks' and the respect that the players had for him as a Coach and leader of the playing side of the Club.

Allen was elevated to the AUFC Hall of Fame in 2019.

D.F. (Don) Kimber – 1968



The Management Committee selected D.F. (Don) Kimber to coach the A1s in 1968 – he had played league football with South Adelaide and represented South Australia as a ruckman.

Don achieved immediate success with an A1 Premiership in his first season. Unfortunately, Don could not continue his good work and had to resign his position, but he left a strong legacy for those to follow.

P.R. (Peter) Vivian - 1969 to 1971



P.R. (Peter) Vivian, who had played 140 League games with Norwood from 1953 to 1961, was appointed as coach in 1969. He had been Captain of Norwood in 1959 and was their leading goalkicker in 1954, 1958 and 1959.

Peter built on the foundation established by Don Kimber when he too produced a Premiership in his first season as coach. In 1970, the A1s were again looking a strong chance for the Premiership when an Amateur League ruling robbed the Club of all points in all grades. (another ridiculous and most severe ruling involving the A grade playing an extra game midweek due to intervarsity commitments in Melbourne where an A player played as a reserve mid-week, then played in the B grade on the next Saturday. Effectively playing in both grades in the same week).

Peter was a passionate footballer and, after leaving University, coached Yankalilla to two Premierships and Rostrevor Old Collegians to the 1980 A4 Premiership.

Peter was a very dedicated coach who related very well to the players, especially those with an interest in horse racing.

After his coaching stint, he observed, *“one of the most enjoyable periods of my football life. A well-managed club and, for amateurs, extremely professional in their management and dedication”*.

Peter Vivian saw some very good players in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He rated Paul Rofe as a great player with a great sense of humour, Jock McFarlane, Val Bondar and Ian Hockridge as the best four players that he coached.

B. (Brian) Wells - 1972

In 1972, Brian Wells, another Norwood player, who had played 75 League games between 1954 and 1960, succeeded Peter Vivian.

Brian had coached Broadview to a Premiership in A3 in 1964, so he had experienced what was required to be successful in the SAAFL. This was Broadview's first year in the Amateur League competition, which makes the performance more memorable.

After an indifferent start to the 1972 season, the A1 team recovered to play some very good football in the last half of the season, but narrowly failed to gain a place in the four. Outside pressures saw Brian Wells resign just before the start of the 1973 season

D. (Des) Panizza - 1973

Des Panizza, a former South Adelaide star, filled the breach left by the departure of Brian Wells. Des had played under Fos Williams at South in 1960, captaining the team and winning the Best and Fairest.

Des coached the A1s with some success, gaining a place in the Finals, but losing the Preliminary Final to Payneham to finish in third place.

K.R. (Kevin) Griffiths - 1974 to 1976



A most significant appointment was made in 1974 when K.R. (Kevin) Griffiths was appointed the first playing-coach of the Club since World War I. A former Teachers College and South Adelaide ruckman, Kevin had a very high reputation when he joined 'the Blacks'.

Assisted by his high profile, new players were attracted to the Club and a revival of the heady days of the 1960s was experienced in the mid-1970s.

Kevin led the A1 side to three consecutive Grand Finals for Premierships in 1974 and 1975.

In a distinguished Amateur League career, beginning with Teachers College in 1966, Kevin played over 200 Amateur League games and represented the State on 12 occasions, including four AAFC Carnivals.

In addition, he was named an All-Australian Amateur in 1970 and 1974, and was runner-up to the winner of the Best and Fairest Award at the AAFC Carnival in Perth in 1970.

At the beginning of his South Adelaide football journey, Kevin was an elegant ruckman who later in his career switched to the forward pocket. He played 28 games for South Adelaide from 1971 to 1973.

Kevin had a measured and professional approach to his coaching, rarely being highly emotional about the task at hand. Every player understood their role in the team, and tactics for each opponent were clearly articulated. Kevin had led a resurgence of

'the Blacks' as the pre-eminent Club in the Amateur League.

A talented all-round sportsman, he is one of a select group in the modern era to have been awarded University Blues in more than one sport, namely Cricket in 1974 and Football in 1974. For this achievement, Kevin was awarded a silver Ken Hamilton Memorial Medal.

Expectations were high with the appointment of the new coach, and Griffiths did not disappoint, with the first game showing signs of things to come;

'The Blacks' defeated the 1973 Premier, Seaton Ramblers, by 23 goals, with rover Jim Katsaros kicking nine goals. The game was at Seaton, an odd-shaped oval that generally was not kind to visiting sides.

Other great performances followed, with Kevin Griffiths best memories including beating Exeter by 30 goals (Phil Holbrook kicking 9), with an 18.2 score line at half time.

In 1975 'the Blacks' kicked 25 goals against Walkerville in the second half, with Michael Teubner kicking 11.

Kevin Griffiths remembers the mid-1970's from both a social and football perspective.

"The 1970s were the days of the diamond (not the centre square), no interchange, copious frees, e.g. in the 1975 Grand Final Umpire Barry Manson paid over 100 frees!"

Coaches had few tactics, and players had long hair and wore flairs, mutton chops, etc to make their social statements."

In this 1975 Final, Paul Rofe's experience and knowledge of the umpiring strategy saw him capitalise early. As soon as Barry Manson bounced the ball, Paul fell over, gave a yelp and the resulting free gave him the first kick of the game.

In the mid-1970s, Kevin was Captain-Coach of both the Cricket and Football Clubs at the University. Kevin coached the Cricket Club for five seasons and the Football Club for three.

Kevin also won the premier award in District Cricket – the Bradman Medal in 1976-77.

Unfortunately, in early 1977, professional commitments forced Kevin Griffiths to resign as coach. He later joined the Board at Adelaide Oval SMA as a Director, and as a member of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee. In addition to this, he was a member of the SACA Board and the Cricket Australia Board.

Professionally, Kevin completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Education at Western Michigan University. His career pathway led him into leadership, management and team building when he established KRG Consulting in 1988.

On reflection, Kevin stated, *"This was an era that had everything - great players and great human beings - success all through the Club – Premierships, great social*

gatherings, memorable characters with plenty of J.T. Goose award nominations. A culture of success and fun – unsurpassed teamwork.

“The opportunity to be a part of such an era within such a great club - and the memories that go with it - and the building of people and characters – to see our future leaders in the community in their developing years. Everything was a privilege to be part of”.

“The characters around the Club who provided such a rich tapestry of life in all its forms and memories that live forever – Mrs May, Pat Rofe, VC Prof Badger, Richard Whittle, Geoff Harcourt, ‘Doc’ Harley, ‘Sandy’ Cockburn, Richard Gask and his poem, David and Greg Lovell and Pat Flynn.”

“Many of the components of what a 'football club' requires to function more professionally were put in place during my years – the 'club was put into AUFC, a place to call home was developed, committee people went much further in their involvement than ever before and hence making it a 'real' club and not just another student sporting club. The role of the Bartletts, Olekalns, and later Freddy Bloch put back an enormous amount into the Club to ensure it prospered.”

Kevin Griffiths, when rating his best four players coached, gave the Primary School coach's response, “All played well”. Kevin proceeded to rationalise his response. “Where does one start? Six All-Australians in 1974 (Rofe, Trumble, Katsaros, Johnson, Ferris and Griffiths). Rofe was Best and Fairest at the 1974 Carnival in Melbourne. Holbrook 94 goals and Katsaros 60 goals in 1974. Then Bartlett, Olekalns, Schwartz, Kerr-Grant, Teubner, Jock McFarlane, Croucher, Dare, Kemp, Bradshaw, etc.”

“The heart and soul of the team in this era was described by ‘Griff’ as “the sheer tenacity and ability of Rofe, who epitomised everything University football stood for.”

“The University did have 17 in the State Amateur squad in 1974 – and ‘the Blacks’ thrashed the 'rest of the State' team easily in a trial game”.

Kevin Griffiths was a coach who was rarely ruffled – at least on the field it would appear. Kevin recalls one of his challenges as being confronted by the mother of one of Australia's famous football sons. “Mrs X. knocked on my front door at 7:30 am on a Sunday morning, complaining that her son was not playing in the A1s the day before”. This was not the deal that he signed up for when appointed as coach. Later in his career, Kevin had to perform a rare presentation to Simon Trumble and Mary-Ann Rofe on their imminent wedding and honeymoon. The venue - the Uni bar during the after-match celebrations.

Kevin Griffiths died on the 11th November, 2019

L.I. (Laurie) Hoskins - 1977 to 1979

The A3 Coach of 1976, L.I. (Laurie) Hoskins, was appointed to the A1 coaching position in 1977. Laurie had coached and played with CBOC in the Amateur League, taking them into the Finals each season. His task was not an easy one, as 1977 marked the end of an era in many ways, as six State players retired prior to the start of this season.

This period saw the rebuilding of the A1 side and the Club in general. After narrowly missing the finals in 1977, the A1s then played in the finals of 1978 and 1979.

Laurie was a tireless worker for the Club and an excellent organiser of the playing side of the Club's activities. During his time at 'the Blacks', he encouraged lower-grade players to reach their potential and several players became good contributors in the A1 side. Initiatives such as A1 Club badges and other activities recognised the importance for the future of 'the Blacks' to focus on A1 success and have players striving to perform at the highest level.

Laurie also worked with the Management Committee most effectively to improve the performance and management of the lower sides and his efforts were rewarded in this area.

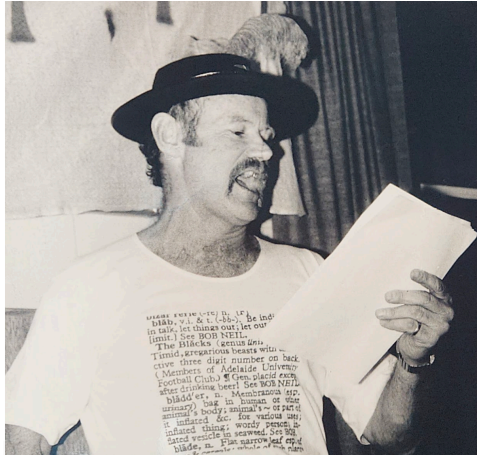
With a strong background in business, Laurie's experienced advice for the Management Committee was invaluable. As Ian Dinnison stated in the Secretary's Report of 1979, *"Laurie was a Club coach in the true sense"*.

Laurie's son, Nick Hoskins, played 19 games for 'the Blacks' in 1994 and enjoyed an outstanding season in the A1 side. Nick was awarded the Best Team Man Trophy and was named as a rover in the SportsBeat Team of the Year.

Laurie Hoskins was a well respected coach and a real character who quoted Ron Baraasi once too often in his match preparations. Hence the nickname, 'the Balding Barassi'. His assessment of the four best players in his time included the following remarks.

"There can be conjecture about the word best, does it mean most brilliant or best for the team, that is the question. Certainly, the stand out for brilliance as a player and consistency for the team was Egils Olekalns - an unbeatable wingman first and in later days as a rover. He was followed by Michael Kenny, a player born to play centre with beautiful disposal by hand and leg with the advantage of being naturally left-footed and with a very clever football brain. Then Malcolm Kerr Grant (much was expected of him in several positions by the coach and team, which was probably not much of a help to him). Malcolm was a very strong and brilliant player and, surprisingly, with his delightful nature, a very tough player who shirked no situation. The final spot could have gone to any of some six players, but I would plump for Rick Hearn on the basis that he made many inspirational and required efforts at critical moments in games. Richard could be relied on to do the job at hand. Special mention should be made of Michael Harrison who was extremely spectacular as a full forward if on song and fit, but not consistently brilliant."

Dr F.A. (Fred) Bloch - 1980 and 1981



One of the greatest characters in the history of the Adelaide University Football Club, Paul Rofe, decided after the 1979 season to put his hand up to coach the A1s. This was to become the shortest tenure as A1 Coach in our history.

A letter to all players before Christmas stated *“his experience of amateur football and knowledge of the University Club should stand Paul in good stead for his coaching duties”*. Well, Paul fronted to the late January pre-season training in his 1974 All-Australian green and white jumper and promptly announced that he was considering accepting a lucrative legal position in Darwin. All was not lost as he was in negotiations with a replacement coach who would step into the breach immediately.

The Secretary's report at the end of this season described Paul conducting *“a very enthusiastic, if somewhat laid-back, pre-season workout.”*

Paul did manage to lead the team to Melbourne for a pre-season Inter-Varsity. Jack the bus driver banned alcohol from the bus as the squad arrived at Uni Oval. It was only Coach Rofe's Inter-Varsity experience and his negotiation skills that avoided a major incident were very useful.

The replacement Coach recruited by Paul Rofe was none other than Dr Frederick Archibald Bloch, who then started a second career with 'the Blacks'. But for the demise of Paul Rofe, the Adelaide University Football Club would have been denied its greatest administrator and one of its most unforgettable characters.

The Club newsletter at the time, *'Sub-Standard'*, reported the changeover of coach in less than enthusiastic terms.

“On a sad note (especially for the lazy players amongst us), coach Paul Rofe had to resign due to employment reasons taking over the reins is past North Adelaide champ and present fitness fanatic, Fred Bloch. Although his training methods take a little getting used to, they will obviously benefit the Club in the long run.....Even

though his training methods are rather strange and his training attire is even worse, he is not a bad bloke and deserves 100% support throughout the Club”.

The 1980 season saw the return to the Adelaide University Football Club of Dr F.A. Bloch after a seven-year absence. Fred had played League football with North Adelaide from 1961 to 1967, winning the Best and Fairest in 1965 when Don Lindner was Captain-Coach.

After his appointment to the Commerce Department at the University in 1968, Fred became Captain-Coach of the A2 team and remained in this coaching role until 1972. During this time, he was very active in the organisation of the lower sides. Fred was instrumental in the fostering of Club spirit and the consolidation of the strength of the Club to eight teams.

As coach of the Inter-Varsity team in 1968, Fred was a key factor in winning of the E.J. Hartung Cup for this competition. Fred won the medal and was named in the All-Australian Inter-Varsity team.

Other memorable events during this phase of his involvement with 'the Blacks' were the A1 Premierships of 1968 and 1969 and the A4 Reserves Premiership of 1972. His colleague, Professor G.C. Harcourt, *“the longest serving footballer-Professor that Amateur League has ever seen”*, had led this latter team.

Fred's return to the Club in 1980 as A1 Coach saw the continuation of improvement in performances of the Club in general. There was also a lift in the atmosphere and spirit at the Club that had been fostered by Laurie Hoskins in the late 1970's.

The A1 side was beaten in the Preliminary Final in 1980, but consolation was forthcoming in the Premierships of the A1 Reserves under N.W. (Neil) Page and the A8s under R.J. (Ron) Carey. These victories were particularly pleasing to Fred as he had helped considerably with the improved performance of these lower grade sides during the season.

Fred coached the Club again in 1981 and his enthusiasm and organisational abilities ensured that 'the Blacks' commenced the 1980s with a strong foundation.

Fred had placed a stronger emphasis on fitness as an essential component of success at the A1 level. His training methods and drills were innovative, concentrating on developing both the skills and attitude to fitness of the squad. A Fitness Coach was appointed for the first time (Trevor Hastings), as the Club had entered an era where its natural skill and ability could not alone win A1 games.

Unfortunately, due to lecture commitments, Fred could not continue in the 1982 season. He 'created' the position of Football Co-ordinator which he filled most admirably from 1983 until 2004.

More details on Fred's significant involvement with the Adelaide University Football Club can be found in the written history "Remembering Fred Chocka Bloch".

Fred was confirmed as an AUFC Life Member in 1988 and was the inaugural inductee into the AUFC Hall of Fame in 2012.

"Well, it kept me busy" Chocka stated after dedicating more than 40 years to the Club.

Fred Bloch's coaching style was different and demanded high levels of fitness and a disciplined approach. Fred listed the best players he coached during his two seasons. These were Malcolm Kerr Grant, Richard Hearn, Egils Olekalns, David Bartlett, Michael Kenny, John Parker and Mark Wellington.

Fred passed away on July 24, 2023, at the age of 83 after a battle with dementia. His Memorial was held in the University Bonython Hall in an ocean of "Blacks".

M.A. (Michael) Weatherald - 1982 to 1985



M.A. (Michael) Weatherald had a legendary reputation in the Adelaide Hills and Scotch Old Collegians when he was appointed as the AUFC Coach in 1982. He was to follow in the big footsteps of Fred Bloch – not an easy task.

Mick recalled 103 players on the track on his first night, only three known to him. He immediately impressed with his passion for football and strong work ethic. Mick was prepared to train on a third night to encourage a 'youth squad' and involve those players unable to train on Tuesday and Thursday nights. This extra session assisted the development of young players and made all players feel respected by the Club coach.

The Grand Final defeat by Riverside in 1983 was the closest 'the Blacks' came to a Premiership in Mick's time at the Club – in no way reflecting his effort and influence.

Generous with his time and eager to encourage social interaction, Mick was innovative in his approach. He, along with Fred Bloch, introduced the 'Chocka' Trophy for the best performed team. Mick provided a keg to accompany the trophy, as he did for Photo Days. The tradition of the coach providing a keg (the 'Weathers' keg) if all sides won was instituted by Mick in 1983 and remains to this day.

The emphasis on player milestones and presentations of photographs to record these events was a further initiative that has encouraged players to stay that extra season or two and build team stability.

'Mick's ability to teach and impart his knowledge made him a well-respected coach. This ability has been utilized by both Sturt and Norwood at SANFL League level as their assistant coach since his time at the Blacks.

In many ways, Mick, together with Fred Bloch, established many innovative practices that have ensured that 'the Blacks' have continued to attract and retain both the quality and quantity of players that have ensured its success.

This pair worked magnificently together and left a legacy for future generations of players to enjoy the whole football environment at 'the Blacks'.

Michael Weatherald rated 'Sandy' Hancock and Richard Anderson as two of the best players that he coached. Both were highly talented players who did not always have football as their highest priority, but when 'on song' were match winners. Many would rate them amongst the best few players to represent 'the Blacks' over recent decades.

Mick's other two best players contrasted with his first two. Michael Kenny and Egils Olekalns were Club Captains and brilliant long-term players, playing over 200 games in distinguished careers. They were both Gunning Medallists who always polled well in Club voting and the Hone Medal.



A 1983 Uni Blacks team photo extraction with son Tim Weatherald as mascot (future Magarey Medallist with Sturt in the SANFL).

Mick Weatherald was an intense competitor, and no matter what the game, his charges knew that winning was the prime concern.

In 1984, 'the Blacks' travelled to Melbourne to play both Melbourne and Monash Universities. 'Weathers' was particularly proud of this success because wins in Melbourne by Adelaide sides had been very rare. In May 1984, the A1 side was invited to play the State Amateur squad under lights at Thebarton Oval to prepare

them for their State campaign. Mick jumped at this opportunity and 'the Blacks' triumphed in this contest which was a great credit to the AUFC.

A few seasons later, in the early 1990s, Mick was assigned the responsibility of coaching the A3 – A6 State side. He led the team to victory over the Victorians in 1993 by 64 points. This was the biggest defeat inflicted on the Victorians in the history of State football.

The Broadview A1 team of the early 1980s looked for inspiration from the 'Rocky' theme song – *"Eye of the Tiger"*. The song would boom from strategically placed speakers as the side ran onto the ground - whether at home or away. Coach Bloch was a master tactician and would not concede any edge to the opposition. Particularly so when 'the Blacks' were struggling and needed to defeat the more fancied 'Tigers' in the game of the day at University Oval. The Uni boys were inspired by the usual Bloch oration in the lead-up to the game. 'Chocka' seemed a little on edge and had started his talk later than normal, keeping the boys in the rooms after the *"one minute"* call of the umpire. 'Chocka' instructed Captain Egils Olekalns to hold the team inside the change rooms until he gave the word. Well 'the Blacks' were really primed for the contest by the time they ran up the stairs and down the grassed mound.

Then it started – Coach Bloch had produced his biggest speakers from the Presley Room and had set his own motivation song at peak volume. *"Always look on the bright side"* from the 'Life of Brian' starring the Monty Python crew boomed out all over the oval.

Broadview, partway through their warm-ups, stopped dead in their tracks and looked in amazement at the performance by 'Chocka'.

The tactic worked as 'the Blacks' hit top form and over-ran a shell-shocked Broadview outfit.

This was not the only time that Coach Bloch tried some different motivational techniques to lift the A1 side to new heights. The 1983 Grand Final at Adelaide Oval was another example. Riverside ran onto the ground with "Up there Cazaly" blasted over the sound system. The Blacks ran on to the very clever and thinking man's music "The Peter Gunn theme" from the Blues Brothers collection. Unfortunately, the plan did not work that day.

Most coaches, when recalling memorable games, did not go past a defeat of Broadview as a victory to savour. Michael Weatherald recalled the 1983 game when 'the Blacks' were 40 points down at halftime to Broadview at Broadview and came home to record a great victory.

Late in the 1984 season 'the Blacks' defeated Adelaide College to retrieve the Alan Hickinbotham Trophy, which was another. This win (11.17 to 2.1) was particularly satisfying and avenged a 13-goal defeat earlier in the season.

Michael Weatherald is undoubtedly one of the most passionate coaches to be associated with the Adelaide University Football Club. In reflecting on his four seasons at 'the Blacks', Michael stated:

"I have coached now for 37 years, and my time at University still rates as the most

challenging, but most of all, a great atmosphere to bring a young family up in. It is second to none."

J.D. (John) Griffen - 1986 to 1987



J.D. (John) Griffen was appointed coach of 'the Blacks' in 1986 – this was an excellent appointment as the demise of Adelaide College meant that there would be an influx of players wishing to continue playing A1 football with a 'student club'.

John had impressive credentials, having been Captain-Coach of Premiership sides with Adelaide College in 1981 and 1982. He had been a State Amateur player from 1981 to 1983, captaining the side in the latter two years. He won the Hone Medal in 1981.

John placed much emphasis on the importance of the team approach. He based his coaching philosophy on his paper 'The Winning Edge', which was distributed and emphasised at training. John had been appointed as a Playing Coach and played 27 games for 'the Blacks' in two seasons.

No better man could have done the A1 coaching job at the time. 'The Blacks' finished the season as Minor Premier. The Premiership resulted from two three-point wins in the Preliminary and Grand Finals – both great tests of character. The win from a score-line of 7.2 to 8.9 at three-quarter time of the 1986 Grand Final spoke well of John motivation qualities and confidence in the team.

In John's two years with the Club, 'the Blacks' won the Norwich Life Cup for the best club in the Amateur League. John also coached the Club to an Inter-Varsity Carnival victory in 1987 and was named the All-Australian Inter-Varsity Coach. In this season, he was also an Assistant Coach of the State Amateur team.

After departing from 'the Blacks', John's esteem in the football world was recognised with senior appointments at League level with South Adelaide. Initially he was assistant coach to Adelaide Crows guru John Reid and coached Nigel Smart, Mark Bickley and Michael Doughty. Later still, he was very much involved with the Southern Football League. He has a plaque on the wall of "Nino's of Victor Harbor" in recognition. The League Junior Medal also now carries his name.

As a Premiership coach with 'the Blacks' (and twice with College) and a legend of the modern era of the Amateur League, John will always be a highly respected member

of the senior coaches at the Club.

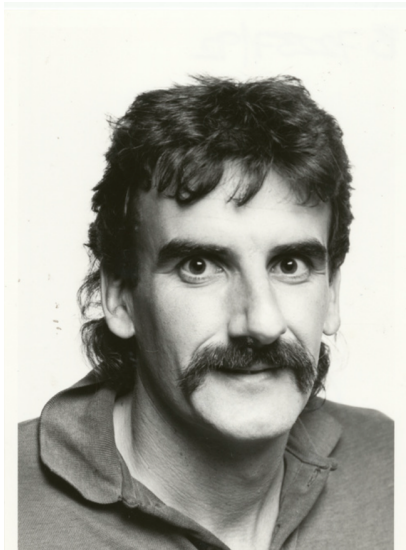
John Griffen reflected on the depth of the 1986 Premiership side and the impossibility of selecting a 'top four' players list.

The ratings included Steve Bland, a Pfitzner Medallist, Michael Eaton and Andrew Antonello, who both could change the direction of a game, young Sean Tasker at full forward, Chris James in defence (*"did not say much, but made sense"*), Cory Williams (*"the Rock"*), 'Sarge' Schulz, 'Keg' Foster, ruck-rover combination, Bruce Keynes and Trevor Hall, lanky Paul Whaley and the leadership of Michael Kenny. Michael Dadds had a great year winning the Gunning Medal.

"Griff" then had a youthful Andrew Muir arrive in 1987 and win the Gunning Medal as a Fresher.

"Griff" passed away on the 2nd May 2025.

P.A. (Paul) Whaley - 1988 to 1989



P.A. (Paul) Whaley arrived at University Oval in 1986 after the demise of Adelaide College the previous season. Paul had played in three College Premierships in 1979, 1981 and 1982. He was Vice-captain in this last year and played in the State Amateur side. He was accustomed to success and had been influenced by his Premiership coaches John Turnbull and John Griffen – co-incidentally these were the two 'Blacks' coaches either side of Paul.

Paul was an important member of the 1986 'Blacks' Premiership team, playing as a follower.

After John Griffen departed, the Management Committee appointed Paul to the A1 coaching position. During his two seasons at the helm, the A1s finished fifth and sixth. The squad was relatively inexperienced and undergoing a re-building process, after departures in the 1986 Premiership.

In 1990 and 1991, Paul offered to coach the A1 Reserves. He took the team into the

finals in both years, including a Premiership in 1991.

Paul was a great character who instilled his fierce determination and competitiveness into the players he coached. His football knowledge and experience were recognised when he became a 'talent scout' in the AFL system.

Paul Whaley considered Andrew Muir and Bob Burgess the best players of his time.

Paul Whaley's first impressions of Adelaide University Football Club:

"Having played against the club at both Henley and Adelaide College I had an understanding of the Club's tradition, but no real understanding of 'the Blacks' ethos."

"The Club is what football clubs should be - a fun place where all players have the opportunity to taste success and that they play for the club, their mates and themselves in that order."

J.D. (John) Turnbull – 1990



J.D. (John) Turnbull had a wealth of football experience when appointed coach in 1990. John's coaching background meant that he came to 'the Blacks' with the highest quality credentials. 'JT' had coached Adelaide College in 1978 and 1979, the latter year taking them to a Premiership. In 1980 and 1981, he coached the Norwood Reserves.

'JT' impressed everyone with his passion for the game and drive to see the Adelaide University Football Club achieve the highest standard possible.

John was well aware of the University culture, being a player with 'the Blacks' in the mid-1960s. He initially came under the influence of 'Chesty' Hyde, playing in the undefeated A3 Premiership side in 1965. John had attended the Inter-Varsities in Melbourne in 1966 and in Hobart in 1967. He played in the 1968 A1 Premiership side.

In 1990 'the Blacks' did not perform to expectations. There was a high turnover of players and an indifferent attitude amongst some players in the senior grades - changes were required. John addressed the issues in his forthright style and established a platform for subsequent success. These initiatives included a stronger focus on the A1 squad and more effective support for the two senior grades.

'JT' sadly only coached for the 1990 season with 'the Blacks'. However, his impact on the Club lasted for many years past this time. He brought with him a new era of

professionalism and recruited several outstanding players to the Club. The competitiveness that 'JT' was able to install in a squad of very raw, young A1 players drove the A1's success of the mid to late 1990s.

John later became a selector with the State Amateur side in the early 1990s. A career as the Recruiting Manager for Hawthorn saw him involved at the elite level with the AFL. In the 2006 season, 'JT' was a recruiting agent for the Adelaide Football Club, based in Melbourne.

John rated Grant Miles, Simon Kewell and Andrew Muir as the best players he coached in 1990. Simon was straight out of school and played beyond his years – his nine-goal game against Kilburn was a stand-out.

Some excerpts from the report submitted by 'JT' include:

"The constant turn-over of A1 players from year to year does not lead to mateship, team stability or the development of a consistent hard training, hard football team winning ethic, development of team patterns or influence correct attitudes after a loss."

"The basis is there, this year, but it requires enormous effort between October and April and beyond and a considerable amount of social engineering and leadership and direction to change attitudes and galvanise a fraternal approach."

John Turnbull was also paid 'the compliment' in a song entitled 'Waiting' sung to the tune of "Cats in the Cradle".

*"Well J.T. arrived just the other day
He came to the Club in the normal way
But he had plans to change the way we play
He taught us team rules from the very first day
And as he spoke we'd hear him say
I'm not waiting for you, boys
You know I'm not waiting for you"*

John Turnbull also famously remarked off the record, so we have placed it on the record, "a social club loosely based around football".

D.K. (Daryl) West (1991 to 1995)



Daryl West had enjoyed a long career in football before he joined 'the Blacks' in 1991. He had coached at several Amateur League clubs, including Mitcham and Kenilworth. In 1990, Daryl had coached South Adelaide Under 17s to a rare Premiership. In 1983, Daryl had coached Kenilworth to the Minor Premiership in A2, unfortunately not making the next step to A1 due to a rash of injuries in the Finals.

Daryl had applied for the coaching position for the 1985 season, so his persistence was rewarded in 1991. 'Westy' remained as coach of the A1 side for a period of five years until 1995, providing much-needed stability.

He immediately stamped himself as a very professional coach who could relate well to all players and infuse a group with his passion for the game. There was no doubting his experience in football and his total commitment to lift the A1s into the Finals for the first time since 1986.

Daryl readily accepted the culture and tradition of the Club and had, as his primary goal, to see that 'the Blacks' were successful, both on and off the field. He taught a very young team how to play football with passion and pride.

Daryl took up the challenge and, in his first season in 1991, the A1s made the Finals. In his five seasons, the A1s finished in the top four three times, unfortunately losing the First Semi-final each year. In all three games, the Blacks' fought hard, only to go down in the last quarter. The A1s won 50 games from the 93 games coached by Daryl. This was an excellent result, considering the new era of professionalism and growing strength of the other A1 clubs in the competition.

The highlight of Daryl's coaching career at University was the 1991 Inter-Varsity Carnival at Flinders University. Adelaide defeated Melbourne for the first time in over a decade. Not only did he coach the team to a great win, but he was also named All-Australian Coach as recognition of his tremendous performance.

Daryl West rated Andrew Muir, Ben Higgins, Cory Williams and Corey Gray as the best players that he coached over his five seasons. Two were All-Australians and two played League football after coming under Daryl's influence – Ben Higgins with Woodville-West Torrens and Corey Gray with Sturt. Ben Higgins won the A1 Pfitzner Medal during his time at 'the Blacks'. All four were State Amateur players and they won eight Gunning Medals between them.

Daryl was one of the hardest-working coaches seen at 'the Blacks' and drew the most out of the squad of players at his disposal. Many players recall his ability to communicate with all levels of the Club. He built a culture that meant everyone in the Club was part of something very special. No matter what level of football you played, you were playing for 'the greatest football club in the world'.

His efforts during this period must be acknowledged as establishing the building blocks for the A1 Premierships in 1996 and 1999.

Daryl continued his involvement in football through roles of Football Director and President at Rostrevor Old Collegians.

When asked about his lasting impressions of his time, he stated, *"Coaching Uni was everything I expected it to be. Thinking back, it was the best thing I've ever done."*

Memorable recollections include playing at home and down four goals at three-quarter time with a large crowd resulting from a 'Greys' function. 'The Blacks' fired up and, spurred on by the 'Bob Neil' chant, kicked 10 goals in the last quarter.

The famed *Bob Neil Songbook* contains songs on many topics, and even the Club coaches have not escaped. Daryl West features in the song 'Coach West' sung to the tune of "Go West"

The chorus (different for each verse) refers to all the well-known characteristics of the very popular coach.

Chorus 1

*"Coach West - is not a pretty man
Coach West – but he gives a damn
Coach West – yelling from the fence
Coach West – he is making little sense"*

Chorus 2

*"We love him – to buy kegs of beer
We want him – coaching every year
Because when all is said and done
There's no-one wants 'Spook' to coach the Ones"*

N.R. (Noel) Annear and T.J. (Terry) McEvoy - 1996 and 1997



Pictured: Annear on the left, Andrew Muir Captain, McEvoy on the right.

In an innovative move, the Management Committee appointed a 'duet' to coach the A1 side in 1996. This turned out to be an inspired choice as the two coaches complemented each other and produced the results.

Their approach was based on improving the fitness of the squad and insisting on more discipline from the players. Both Noel and Terry placed considerable importance on game day strategies and thorough preparation.

The pair had 'instant' success, taking the A1 side to an emphatic grand final victory over Edwardstown by 51 points in 1996 – the first 'A' grade Premiership in 10 years. To say that the effect they had on the Club was startling is an understatement.

'Sleepy' and Terry moulded an underachieving group of players, who lacked self-confidence and the belief to beat the district sides, into a team of well-drilled, highly skilled, disciplined and passionate players. By the end of the season, they would lay claim to being the strongest team that 'the Blacks' had fielded since the halcyon days of the 1960's.

The combination of the two personalities could not have been scripted any better. McEvoy could extract every last drop of emotion and determination from the player group. Annear had the football brain and experience to put together a football plan that was unstoppable on any given Saturday.

Not only did the two bring 'the Blacks' their first A1 success for ten years, but they also brought a culture of professionalism not seen before. Player sponsors, game day uniforms and structured training camps (to name a few) were all introduced during their reign and continue to be used by the Club today.

Noel ('Sleepy') Annear had enjoyed a career in Amateur League surpassed by very few. He had played with distinction with Seaton Ramblers, Broadview and Riverside, being one of the stars of the 1970s and early 1980s.

'Sleepy' was a State player in 1973, 1974, 1976-78, 1980 and 1981, captaining the side in the last four of those years. He was named in the All-Australian teams in 1976 and 1979. 'Sleepy' Annear also won the Hone Medal in 1977.

As a coach, his reputation was equally impressive. The 1986 season marked the end of a remarkable feat by Super Coach Noel ('Sleepy') Annear. After leaving Seaton Ramblers as a player in 1978, he coached Broadview in 1979 and 1980 (their first A1 Premiership), then Riverside from 1981 to 1986. In every one of these years, his team appeared in the Grand Final, with Premierships in 1980, 1983 (defeating University) and 1984.

Terry McEvoy had coached the A1 Reserves at Riverside and was looking to develop his coaching experience further with a Division 1 club.

Noel Annear believed that the defining moment in the 1996 Premiership season came in the game against Broadview at University Oval. Simon Dixon had created a diversion, with an all-in brawl erupting on the three-quarter time siren. Players, officials and supporters were involved – 'the Blacks' went on to win 14.9 to 6.8.

Despite the large number of retirements and unavailability of players in 1997, the pair was still able to take the Division 1 team into the Finals.

The co-coaches critiqued their most highly rated players during their two seasons, linking performances closely to the 1996 Premiership season;

-Andrew Muir – rated very highly as a Captain and leader of the Club over an extended period;

-Kurt Roberts-Thomson – rated as the best centreman that Terry McEvoy had seen in the SAAFL;

-Simon Dixon – was the best centre half back in the competition in the 1996 season;

-Grant Miles – was a great leader, with bundles of excitement and interest in the team and its success;

-Josh May - a great young man who would try his heart out for the team every week; and

-Simon Tamke – had a very good football brain and was a strong character to have around the Club.

Above all else, the reign of Annear and McEvoy instilled into the Club a level of self-confidence within the senior playing group. They ensured that ‘the Blacks’ was the place to play football if you wanted to be a winner and enjoy your football.

Noel Annear, arguably the most successful Amateur League coach in the modern era, reflects on his two years with ‘the Blacks’. The experience commenced, leaving him somewhat bemused – being interviewed in the grandstand (the Long Room)

“My time span and successes qualify me to appraise from club to club, and here are a few comments.

- 1. The 1996 Premiership side was as talented as any side I have coached.*
- 2. The support staff was equal to any previous club. There were groups of people that have to be acknowledged.*
- 3. The coaching staff from the top down was a rare breed and gave great support.*
- 4. The players were wonderful, at times a strange group of young men. I thoroughly enjoyed your friendship and support.*
- 5. The Management Committee was a unique and very personable group of professionals, and thank you for the opportunity.*
- 6. The parents and supporters were terrific, and I was very fond of the varied personalities within the supporter base.*

‘Sleepy’ appreciated the work of “Bloch, Maddern and the Committee, and enjoyed the culture and getting into the minds of the educated – a worthy challenge indeed.”

P. (Peter) Simmons - 1998 and 1999



Peter Simmons joined the Club in 1998 following a successful League football career at North Adelaide that was cut short by a chronic knee injury. Peter was clearly influenced by his former League coaches and the direct, free flowing, running style of football that he advocated fitted in well with 'the Blacks' players and the wide expanses of University Oval. Like many new coaches at University, Peter was confronted with the loss of a large number of players from the prior year. Round 1 in 1998 saw only eight players from the previous year's senior team take to the field. To progress through to the Preliminary Final, but lose to Broadview was an outstanding achievement.

In the following season, Peter's hard work and commitment to the Club paid dividends. The respect of the player group he had developed was rewarded with a nail-biting one-point Premiership victory under lights at Adelaide Oval against Goodwood Saints.

Peter Simmons decided to accept a senior League coaching role at Glenelg. His coaching record at 'the Blacks' shows 29 wins and 12 losses. Much of the future successes the Blacks were to enjoy over the ensuing years can in part be attributed to Peter's time and influence at the Club.

Peter Simmons critiqued the best four players in his years as coach:

Andrew Muir – never played a bad game and was never intimidated by any situation;

Tom Martin – could play and win any position on the ground and did;

Evan Arnold – very accurate kick, great anticipation and very good hands, a match winner; and

Mark Reid – never fumbled the ball and was as good a disposer of the ball by hand or foot in any competition going round.

Peter Simmons describes his approach to being involved with 'the Blacks' and how he found the environment when he arrived.

"If you do any homework prior to your application for a coaching role with 'the Blacks', you very quickly realise that this is not your average suburban football club. I had assumed that students and ex-students strive to be successful at everything they do. I was right, they do, but I was wrong in terms of the order that they prioritise their lives and although football was high on the list of priorities, drinking, socialising and going on interstate and overseas holidays were higher. I learnt to adjust my understanding of the playing group very quickly.

My first impressions of the Club were that it was different from any other club I had experienced. To date, I still believe this, and that is what makes the Club so special."

Coach Peter Simmons recalls a memorable event during his coaching career at 'the Blacks' (1998 and 1999). Peter says, *"I rang Dwayne Massey (coach of PHOS Camden) on the Thursday night of the last round in 1999, telling him that if they defeated Kilburn for 'the Blacks' on Saturday, which would ensure us the double chance in the Finals, that I would buy them a keg. "Putting a keg in a taxi out the front of the General Havelock on Saturday night about 6.30 pm and telling the cab driver to deliver it to PHOS Camden Oval"* was a great end to the story. The best ending to this story was that 'the Blacks' Flag that year (1999).

B.P. (Brenton) Phillips - 2000 and 2001



The Adelaide University Football Club was fortunate to secure Brenton ('Sticks') Phillips as the A-grade coach in 2000. Brenton was an extremely accomplished AFL and SANFL player who had won the Magarey Medal with North Adelaide in 1993. He also played for Essendon and Brisbane. However, for Brenton, this was his first attempt at coaching, so it was not only a gamble by the Club, but also a learning experience for him.

Brenton embraced the University spirit and culture and was extremely well-regarded and respected by all players and officials within the Club. Brenton was able to communicate at all levels within the Club. Brenton built on the work that Peter Simmons had started. More importantly he was able to retain a core group of senior players, something that is often difficult to achieve at 'the Blacks'.

The 2000 season was somewhat frustrating for Brenton as 'the Blacks' performed well at home, but struggled to win away. The team finished a disappointing sixth in this year.

Under Brenton's direction and tutelage, the A1 team regrouped. However, it lost the 2001 Grand Final to arch-rivals Kilburn. The match was in the balance until mid-way through the third term when University suffered a number of injuries to key players.

The players and officials of the Club were disappointed when Brenton accepted a League coaching role at Sturt. His coaching record at 'the Blacks' shows 24 wins and 16 losses

Brenton Phillips rated Evan Arnold, Andrew Muir, Mark Reid and Jamie Sibbick as the best players coached by him in the early 2000's.

Brenton Phillips describes the positive impressions that he experienced when he arrived at University Oval; *After coming out of an environment where the focus was*

very much regimented with a strong emphasis on discipline and dedication, it was refreshing to find a club with a good balance between a competitive nature and their off-field entertainment.”

Brenton Phillips, noting the impact of his two years in the coaching role *“I have always stated that the two years that I was privileged enough to coach this Club were the best two years I have had in football.*

The Club had more of an impact on me than me on the Club. It taught me a side of the game that had been missing for a long time, and that is the enjoyment factor.”

Brenton was appointed to the senior coaching role at Sturt in 2002 and took the side to its first League Premiership since 1976. Interestingly, Tim Weatherald, son of former coach Michael Weatherald and a former A1 mascot, was a key member of that team and the 2002 Magarey Medallist.

Brenton was elevated to SANFL Hall Of Fame in 2016

PLAYING RECORD

- 222 games and 139 goals for North Adelaide 1981 – 1985, 1992 – 1998
- 10 games and 3 goals for Essendon 1986 (1 preseason game not included)
- 61 games and 30 goals for Brisbane Lions 1987 – 1991 (4 preseason games not included)

MATCHES FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 1 game for South Australia (State of Origin) 1987

INTERSTATE MATCHES

- 1 game for Queensland (State of Origin) 1991

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Magarey Medal 1993
- Best and Fairest for North Adelaide 1993, 1994
- Player Life Member of North Adelaide
- Player Life Member of SANFL
- North Adelaide Team of the Century (Interchange)

COACHING RECORD

- Assistant Coach of Port Adelaide FC (AFL) 1999 – 2000
- Coach of Sturt 2002 – 2006 (Including 2002 Premiership)
- SANFL State Under 18 Coach 2007 – 2018 (Australian Under 18 Championship Winners 2013, 2014)

W.B. (Warren) Ploenges - 2002 and 2003



Left to right; Roy Grandstand, Evan Katsaros, Warren Ploenges

Warren ('Wow') Ploenges was appointed Division 1 Coach following the departure of Brenton Phillips to Sturt. Warren was an accomplished footballer in his own right, having played Amateur League football for many years. He was well aware of 'the Blacks' playing record and the culture, having been a long-term adversary of 'the Blacks' as a player and coach for Goodwood Saints.

Warren was successful in pushing harder for players to compete in higher grades. This encouragement increased player depth in the senior sides and ultimately provided more opportunity to find 'A' grade players from within the playing ranks.

In his first year at the Club, Warren successfully coached 'the Blacks' to another Grand Final, this time against PHOS Camden. However, it was once again not to be University's day, with injuries to several key players early in the game. PHOS ran out winners by 30 points. In the subsequent season, player turnover was again a major issue, and the team finished a disappointing fifth. Warren was well respected during his time at the Club. His coaching record at 'the Blacks' shows 26 wins and 15 losses.

Warren Ploenges considered Brenton Cardone, Jamie Sibbick Andrew Muir, and Hamish Dillon the best players that he was involved with during his two seasons.

Warren Ploenges had been associated with Goodwood Saints for many seasons, so he was familiar (at arm's length) with 'the Blacks'. His first impressions of the Club were *"the enormous base of people that made up the Club, coupled with the enthusiasm, pride and confidence that existed"*. He stated, *"When I first came to the Club I wondered how 'the Blacks' had maintained such a consistency in the A1 competition. It didn't take long to realise the enormous potential of the Club."*

Warren was also impressed by *"the fantastic history and documentation of that history"*. He also commented that *"the 'amateur' situation of all players resulted in the players playing for good reasons, with the good time social aspect of the Club being a strength."*

Warren Ploenges really enjoyed the 2003 game against the 'Tigers' at Broadview Oval. 'The Blacks' had lost three of their past four games and were faced with a 39-point deficit in the third quarter. In the last quarter, Andrew Muir inspired with a run

from half back and finishing with a long goal. Evan Arnold's three goals were pivotal in the two-point win.

As a feature in the Broadview 'Tiger Times' in the first round of the 2006 season, the Broadview Secretary included a breakdown of the games against Adelaide University since 1964. The games since 1974 have been in A1/P1/Division 1. The 'A' grade results as of 2006 were 33 won, 31 lost and 1 drawn, following the resounding Round 4 victories in 2006. The biggest winning margins are 119 points in 1976 by 'the Blacks' in 1976 and 102 points by 'the Tigers' in 1989.

S.J. (Sean) Jackson – 2004



Sean Jackson came to the Club with a sound coaching pedigree, having coached successfully at SANFL Reserves level at Sturt and the Eagles. Sean had played with some distinction in the Riverland earlier in his career, polling well in the Mail Medal.

Despite his coaching background, Sean was challenged by the environment at University and did not fully understand 'the Blacks' culture and ethos. Losing experienced, senior players impacted his effectiveness, and the changes he was proposing were *"too much too soon"*.

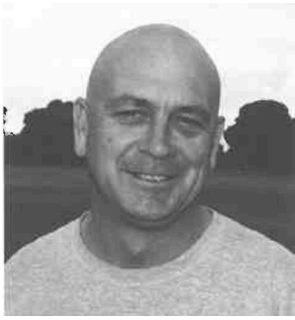
Sean left the Club after one season and took on the coaching role at Gepps Cross.

In his Coach's Report in the Annual Report for 2004, he wrote:

"Finally, I must thank all of the players who represented the Club this year. It was an absolute pleasure to watch them attack their football with a fierce resolve and acquit themselves in such a positive manner. The ability of this club to maintain its status in Division 1 is quite remarkable, especially when at times I believe the focus and culture from off the field is not always directed to success at 'A' grade level.

There is no question that in so many areas, Adelaide Uni stands apart as a football club. I have enjoyed my time here and would like to wish all involved the very best for the future."

J.J. (Jamie) Mason - 2005 and 2006



Jamie Mason was recruited to 'the Blacks' in 2005. His pedigree in football was first-class. Jamie Mason had played League football with Glenelg (10 games) and North Adelaide (45 games) between 1983 and 1985, prior to joining Broadview.

Jamie was in the State Amateur side in 1986 and was named an All-Australian player after the Carnival in Adelaide.

The 1989 season was a great one for Jamie. He played in the State team again and was a member of the 'Tigers' A1 Premiership side. In addition, Jamie was also the A1 Pfitzner Medallist that season.

Two years earlier, Jamie had torn the medial ligament off the bone in a trial game for North Adelaide. Medical opinions were that he would be unlikely to play again, so his efforts in 1989 are remarkable.

Jamie coached Kenilworth in 1993 and 1994, winning the A2 Medal in 1993 as a playing coach. He also coached Rostrevor O.C. and North Adelaide Under 17s, before assisting with the fitness work with the 'Roosters' League squad.

Jamie was thus well qualified to take on the challenges at 'the Blacks' and has performed admirably in the senior coach's role.

Jamie had prepared and motivated the senior players to ensure that the playing side of 'the Blacks' is memorable in the centenary year. In our centenary year the A grade went down in the Grand Final in 2006 to Goodwood, having beaten them twice during the year. Jamie describes the loss as "*Utter despair*" of the highest level in my 35 years of football.

Tony Roach 2007 – 2008



Tony Roach came to the Blacks after the Grand Final loss the year before in our centenary year.

Tony was a 100 League-game player at North Adelaide between 1975 and 1983.

His coaching experience was very broad;

1980 -1983 Coach South Australian Primary Schools State U12

1985 – Playing Coach Pulteney OS FC Division 2

1986-1990 – Coach Broadview FC – Division 1

1989-1990 SAAFL State Coach

1991 Assistant Coach/ Reserves Coach Sturt Football Club

1993- 1996 Coach Kilburn Football Club – Division 1

1997-1998 Coach Broadview Football Club Division 1

2000-2001 Coach Salisbury North FC – Division 1

2003-2004 Coach Scotch College First XV111

2009-2026 Member Adelaide Footy League Tribunal

2022 Coach Pt Noarlunga FC

Tony was an excellent communicator, well-liked and respected.

His coaching memories at the Blacks include: *2007 was an infamous year for the AUFC, as they were relegated to Division 2 for the first time in the Club's history.*

Unfortunately, after the 100 year celebrations in 2006 the Club lost numerous players and officials. If my memory serves me correctly, there were only 8 players left from the 42 players that played in the Division 1 and Division 1 Reserves Grand Finals in 2006. The A grade in 2007 was simply unrecognisable.

Tony also coached for our first year in Division 2 in 2008 finishing 5th.

Players that I enjoyed coaching were Tom Kurzel and a young Simon Sharley who had taken up football for the first time after playing soccer all through school.

A great Club to be involved in, and I still to this day enjoy being involved with the club as a supporter.

Simon L. Tregenza 2009



Simon Tregenza came to the Blacks as a well-credentialed AFL and SANFL Player.

He was part of no less than 4 SANFL Premierships with Port Adelaide and was runner-up in the Magarey Medal twice; 1989 to Gilbert McAdam and 1990 to teammate Scott Hodges.

Personal information		
Born	9 March 1971 (age 55)	
Original team	Port Adelaide (SANFL)	
Draft	No. 59, 1987 national draft	
Debut	Round 1, 22 March 1991, Adelaide vs. Hawthorn , at Football Park	
Height	182 cm (6 ft 0 in)	
Weight	86 kg (190 lb)	
Playing career ¹		
Years	Club	Games (Goals)
1988–1991	1998–2000 Port Adelaide	107 (67)
1991–1998	Adelaide	106 (16)
Total		213 (83)
¹ Playing statistics correct to the end of 1998.		
Career highlights		
• Port Adelaide Premiership Player 1989, 1990, 1998, 1999 • State of Origin Representative for South Australia • Fos Williams Medallist 1995 SA v Vic at the MCG • Adelaide Team of the Decade - Wing • Adelaide Football Club Life Member 1999 • Port Adelaide Football Club Life Member 2005		

Simon coached the Blacks for only 1 year, and they did not make the finals in Division 2, which was the goal. The Blacks remained desperate to get back into Division 1.

Marcus Trimboli 2010 – 2012



“Trimmers” was a very popular and successful Coach at the Blacks for three years. He was an excellent communicator, especially to the younger players. A born leader.

The Blacks returned to Division 1 after making the Division 2 Grand Final in 2012 at Thebarton Oval. Trimmer’s last game as the Head Coach.

Some reflections from Marcus “Trimmers” Trimboli;

After finishing school at Rostrevor, I went to Sturt to play. After a handful of Under 19s games, I moved into the Reserves, as they were so bad that if a player had two arms, two legs, and could kick, they’d get promoted! I played my first League game the following season (1993) and went on to play 31 League games before returning to ROCs.

I spent most of the next 12 years there, with a brief return to the SANFL in 1997 at Norwood, where I managed a few Reserves games before a knee issue saw me back at ROCs before season’s end. I was fortunate to play 6 SAAFL state games, captaining twice and vice-captaining twice, and was also named Vice-Captain of the All-Australian Amateur team (I believe selected from the 2003–2005 period).

I captained ROCs for 10 seasons (1998–2007), including three seasons as captain-coach (2000–2002). I won a few B&Fs and Div 2 medals (1996, 1998, 2001), but the highlight was the Rostrevor OC 2003 Div 2 Premiership and promotion to Division 1 in 2004, where I played until retiring at the end of 2007.

I then spent two seasons as an assistant coach at ROCs before moving on to coach Uni in 2010.

At the Blacks I was fortunate in my first season to have a strong leadership group led by Nick Kurzel and Tom Martin, who did some excellent work with recruiting before the 2010 season, which built some early momentum. Peter Walsh joined as a playing assistant coach, Brett Thomas, an old mate and teammate of mine, came on board as an assistant, and Jamie Mason (former A-grade coach) took charge of the B Grade. We had an excellent season, finishing minor premiers and clearly the most skilful side in Division 2. Unfortunately, the finals didn't fall our way, losing the 2nd Semi to PHOS Camden in the mud, then going down in extra time to Eastern Park in the preliminary final in what felt like a lake! I still have nightmares about that game. Eastern Park went on to win the flag.

Over the next two seasons, there were changes to the coaching group. Mick O'Leary joined to coach the B Grade, Mase remained involved, and Michael Barker came in as an assistant.

In 2011, we finished third, defeated Walkerville in the qualifying final, then lost another extra-time semi to ROC, before SPOC overran us in the last quarter of the prelim after we controlled most of the game. SPOC also went on to win the flag.

In 2012, despite a few retirements, we welcomed talented recruits including Seb Paynter, Will Paynter and Lachie Roach. We finished second on the ladder, beat Port Districts in a home final, then convincingly defeated TTG (for the third time that season) in the 2nd Semi to earn a Grand Final berth and promotion to Division 1. Unfortunately, we forgot to turn up on Grand Final day and were comfortably beaten by TTG, whose coach later told me he didn't know how they would go about beating us, which didn't make it feel any better!

When Trimmers was asked for his best 2 or 3 players that you coached in your time, he replied;

There were some very good players across those 3 seasons;

- Nick Kurzel was a player with silky smooth skills, but his knees were as fragile as my first car (a 1972 Mazda 808), held together by hope and zip ties.*
- Tom Bateman was a valuable player who could play numerous positions.*
- Michael Taylor was tough and uncompromising, but unfortunately, we only had him for one season.*

- *Seb Paynter was consistent and could be relied upon week after week.*
- *Will Paynter was classy and skilful.*
- *Peter Walsh provided much-needed experience and was obviously a classy player.*

Most memorable game or games in those 2 years;

My first game coaching was, funnily enough, against ROCs at Campbelltown Oval. We won in a tight game with an exciting final quarter. However, the game that gave me the most satisfaction was when we beat TTG in the 2nd Semi (2012), which gave us promotion to Division 1.

On reflection of my time at the Blacks, I was incredibly fortunate to coach such a great club and to have the support of a dedicated off-field committee and support team. John Kernahan, Peter Maddern, Sam Bridgwood, Michael Dadds, Peter Sharley, Bob Maloney, Malcom Ashwood, Adrian Howard and Bob Miles all worked tirelessly for the club and provided me with tremendous personal support.

I am grateful to the players who bought into what we were trying to build, particularly Captains Nick Kurzel, Tom Kurzel and Tom Walker, who led from the front. I was also fortunate to have coaches Jamie Mason, Peter Walsh, Brett Thomas, Michael Barker and Mike O'Leary supporting me directly, while runners Nick Emmett and Will 'Astro' James generously gave their time to the team. The coaches across all lower grades, especially Simon Ritchie, were also incredibly supportive, and I never took that for granted.

Before a game had even been played, I made a significant request of several senior players (they know who they are), asking them to step down from the B Grade to the C Grade to help create opportunities for younger players to progress. I was extremely grateful that most embraced the idea, and it was particularly rewarding to see the C Grade and our young B Grade go on to win premierships that season.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Blacks, and without family and work commitments, I would have loved to continue coaching the club in 2013 in Division 1. It was emotionally draining, consumed my thoughts, and time-consuming, but was very rewarding. I met some wonderful people along the way. I still check the scores each week and take a keen interest in the club's fortunes.

Bruce Lennon 2013



Bruce played with Sturt between 1994 and 2002, playing 209 games and was also drafted to Richmond and played 10 games with them in 1993.

He was Best and Fairest at Sturt in 1994 and 2000.

This was our first year back in Division 1 after 5 years in Division 2.

We consolidated in Division 1 with some classic wins against established Division 1 teams.

John Paynter 2014 – 2017



John “JP” Paynter is pictured below in the front row, 3rd from right, with Seb Paynter (on JP’s left in the front row) and Will Paynter (far right in the front row) at the “Blacks Father and Son” photo shoot in 2015. All sons and daughters of past “Blackers” were playing in that year in various grades. Families of that year included (fathers L to R from rear to front row): White, Roach, Austin (the shy one), Wellington, Bartlett (HOF), JP. Parker, S. Parker, Milton, Butler, Leonard, Schulz, P. Maddern (HOF), Sharley, Keynes, Dadds, Ball, DeCure and Paynter. (noted the Noonans missed the photo). Also note: The “HOFers” just added general weight to this multigenerational classic photo.



Back to John Paynter. John Paynter was a SANFL icon.

Glenelg League; 1980 - 1982 playing 70 Games (goals 82).

Sturt League; 1983 - 1992 playing 246 games. (goals 249).

Sturt Club Champion 1983, 86, 89 and 91.

Sturt Captain 1991 and 1992.

Sturt and SANFL Life Member

SA State League games - 6.

League Career goals 331 from 316 games.

Playing Coach of SPOC in 1994 and 1995. Division 2 Premiers 1995.

“JP” was elevated to SANFL Hall of Fame in 2015.

JP provides some words in reflection: *My best qualification to coach the Blacks was not my playing nor coaching record but the fact that I was Seb and Will’s father .*

I am proud that we remained in Division 1 in my 4 years as Coach.

In one of those years we were still mathematically a chance to play finals in the last minor round should we have beaten ROC's away. In 2 of the other years we narrowly avoided relegation in the last 2 minor round matches. I remain grateful to Will Paynter who made himself available from League Football duties in the last minor round match of one of those years to help us relegate SHOC and for us to remain in Division One.

Over my 4 years there was an impressive list of top end talent. The problem was that they were rarely available for extended periods of weeks, let alone years.

I appreciated the support of previous Blacks coaches and the support of players. The support I appreciated most apart from that of the players, was from Football Manager Adrian Howard, President Michael Dadds and from Dr Peter Sharley.

I enjoyed providing written feedback to individual players most weeks and later learned that this was appreciated by players. It was policy that I did not provide feedback directly after the match, as we tended to be emotionally engaged, win, lose or draw. Editor note: feedback from Seb and Will to JP as soon as they got home was a different story.

Competitive training was a rarity.

I do remember a couple of terrific wins over Salisbury North both home and away, a home win against a strong ROC's side, an away victory against Port Districts and the aforementioned win against SHOC to stay in Division One. I don't recall losing to SPOC nor Modbury but that may just be wishful thinking. Editor's note: Great wins on Ladies Day at home against PAOC were also well received.

During my time the Blacks we had multiple top-level meetings with the Adelaide Football Club exploring any mutual benefits for each other. In hindsight, I regret not exploring outcomes more thoroughly between the 2 parties and we may have benefited from including a star "Scum" forward and future State Premier "Mali" into such negotiations at the time. We sought to facilitate a feeder stream base of talent to our club, but our senior players in particular saw this as compromising the culture of our club. If an outcome was to be that the club generated a stronger stream of feeding talent into our top grade, then we may have slowed our future slide down from Division1.

I was proud that several Blacks were able to play in the SANFL in the year of the inaugural SANFL Crows side while still representing the Blacks that season.

My recruiting message to prospective recruits was that there were only two types of footballers in SA. Those that play for the Blacks and those that want to play for the Blacks and that no one has any idea as to what it is like to play at the Blacks until they do so.

I just wish more had been attracted to play to have the joy of wearing the best-looking jumper and having a home ground we have. More importantly I wish we to had the good fortune to have remained free of injury or temptation for longer than our beloved group of players seemed to have.

I remain appreciative of the opportunity to coach the Division One team of the Blacks and cherish the relationships I was afforded by admin, volunteers, assistants and players.

*Bob Bless,
May the Blacks be with you.
John Paynter*

Editorial note: Clearly the most outstanding player in JP's time was his son Seb #9. Winner of no less than 5 Gunning Medals (to join Egils Olekalns #9 and Andrew Muir #5 on that unbelievable number). Seb was consistent week after week; hard ball gets on the inside to move the ball through the middle was his specialty, and he was critical to many of our hard-earned wins in the "JP years". A superb team man who did exchange disposals with brother Will on a frequent basis. Often the 2 best players went by the name of Paynter. (judged by others, not the Coach).

In the editor's opinion, the most courageous player during the JP era was Captain Damian Cunningham #1. He put himself in harm's way without regard for his personal safety. He was the centre of our defence. A champion competitor and super leader on and off the field. As a medico, I was impressed by his high level of bruising week after week. Unfortunately, he did have to miss many games due to traumatic injuries.

Craig Smith 2018 – 2019



Craig was appointed as Coach after great success coaching Hahndorf to several Premierships in the Hills Football League.

Craig coached the Blacks for 2 and a half years.

Craig was known for his loud verbal communication from the grandstand which suited some but not all.

The team had some great wins but became known for beating higher teams and losing to lower teams, which frustrated everyone.

We did not play finals as was the plan.

Ben Watkins 2019 – 2021



Ben was a noted Rostrevor OC Past Player who took over coaching half way through the 2019 season with the early departure of Craig Smith.

2020 saw COVID 19 change the world and the Adelaide Footy League included. The league only played 9 games for the season. Other country leagues did not operate and we were able to recruit players from the country leagues. Ben Edwards from Yorke Peninsula was one and he was top goal-kicker for the league with 38 goals. However, other clubs were also topped up, and the standard of Division One was boosted to levels way above recent years such that we only won 3 games. It was another frustrating season given the talent we had on the field. There were no promotions or relegations that year.

In 2021, we were relegated to Division 2 for the second time with only 6 wins. (Editorial note; Chocka always said you needed only 6 wins to avoid relegation. Chocka made up for this error in many others ways).

Graeme Kellett 2022 – 2024



Graeme was head coach of the Blacks for 3 years.

Graeme played 77 games for North Adelaide League (1997-2000 and 2002-2005) and continued his association with that club for many years after that.

Graeme was a Blacks player, having played 68 games and was part of the B grade Premiership in 2012.

Graeme was well liked by players, supporters and the Blacks Club as a whole. The Blacks again suffered from the lack of a full player list through injuries, compounded by a lack of depth in reserves. Some players ran for the “Hills” as player payments reached unbelievable levels, especially to your average University student. The Blacks enjoyed some success, but they only just survived in Division 2 for these 3 years.

“G” was asked for some reflections on his 3 years as Head Coach and who he saw were the best players he had coached;

Firstly, I'd like to thank the club for the opportunity and the faith shown in an untried coach. Adrian Howard reached out at the start of 2021 in search of a B grade coach / A grade assistant under then coach Ben Watkins. Prior to that, I'd been the runner at North Adelaide for four seasons under senior coach Josh Carr with the highlight being the 2018 SANFL premiership. Becoming a runner isn't something that any player really sets their sights on but nonetheless it was a rewarding experience and one that would reignite some interest in coaching. Through this period, I was involved with a side that went from wooden spoon to premiers a year later with no shortage of controversy and heartache along the way. The North finals campaign in particular was one to remember as we had to come from 5th spot, overcome the 19th man saga and subsequent legal challenge following a remarkable come-from-behind victory in the preliminary final, then upset red-hot favourites Norwood on grand final day to win the flag. Somewhere in the middle of all that, I earned myself a two-week suspension as the runner so all up, September of that year was a pretty wild ride and one to remember. Funnily enough, my father, Chris Kellett was involved in the last 19th man saga to unfold back in 1975 as a player in a match between West Adelaide

and West Torrens, so it's nice to now have two family members involved in a couple of the more infamous chapters in SANFL history. It was in this four-year period at North that I gained a better understanding of some of the structures being used at higher levels and got the bug for coaching. When the opportunity came along at Adelaide University, I felt the timing was right for me to scratch that itch and harness the experience gained from both my playing days and more recent involvement back in the SANFL system.

As a player, the journey to the Blacks was a path that many before me had walked. I'd spent 13 years at North Adelaide as a senior footballer in an injury plagued career under the tutelage of Chris McDermott, Darel Hart and Andrew Jarman and attended high school at Blackfriars so there was no shortage of familiar faces at the AUFC. The senior playing and coaching group from 2008 to 2013 was full of ex-Roosters, ex-Blackfriars students and teachers alike, which made the club an easy one to walk into. By the time I arrived as a 31-year-old, I was fully aware that my best footy was behind me and that I'd have to accept injury setbacks as part of the deal if I wanted to continue to play. As expected, there were a lot of missed games, but on the odd occasion where the body would allow it, it was great to contribute at A grade level and, in later years, play a part in a B grade premiership in 2012. Further to that, I'd taken the liberty of familiarising myself with the General Havelock beer garden and a Saturday night institution they referred to as 'hold your bowlies' well before I came on board as a player. I didn't need a lot of encouragement in joining a couple of former school or team-mates in the front bar or the 'forward pocket' as it was known, working on various projects for the evening. When you're faced with yet another long-term injury in the SANFL and a lean season with little to celebrate over at Prospect, it was a welcome distraction to check in at the pub and see what Chocka or Clinton Rule had to say about the day's proceedings. Somehow, it always put football and life in perspective.

My A-grade coaching journey began in 2022 with some challenges from day one. We'd lost quite a few players for various reasons following our demotion from Div. 1 and hadn't had much luck on the recruiting front over summer. Further to that, like all clubs, we were dealing with the ongoing covid disruptions that really tested our depth, especially in the first half of the year. In the run home we were able to get some key players back and signs of the type of footy we wanted to play became evident. A win at home over eventual premiers Broadview being the highlight. 2023 started more positively with some key signings, early wins and narrow losses to top sides but once again, we were tested with a dozen or so changes to the A grade side by the time we'd reached round five. From there we struggled to keep pace with the competition through the middle 8-9 weeks and had to defeat second-placed PHOS Camden in the final match of the season to avoid relegation. By 2024 I felt as though we had the core of a pretty good side and had managed to attract a few more handy types to the team, plus strengthen our ties with the SANFL clubs. Our early wins were the best, most cohesive football we'd played in my time, with the fitness levels and pattern of play we'd been working on now clearly on display. Despite our early promise with some superb footy against top sides we had a bad case of "déjà vu" in the round five with the curse of a long list of injuries, SANFL call-ups, and unavailability for personal reasons limiting our options at selection. While our depth was slightly improved, the middle rounds were again difficult, and we had to wait until the final three weeks to put our best side back together, culminating in a gritty win against old rival Goodwood Saints to avoid relegation and hang on in Division 2 for the third year in a row.

In true Uni fashion, the playing group through this period was an eclectic bunch. Football journeymen, misfits and reluctant cult figures, but in amongst all of that was some exceptional talent. While I could list many more solid contributors, some of the standout performers through this period were:

Nick Langridge; *A great user of the ball and accumulator of the footy on the wing, with a game underpinned by an extremely high level of fitness that would stack up at elite levels. His leadership over pre-season, especially when the group needed a senior player to lead the way was priceless. Nickname: "bad language".*

Matt Langridge; *Unlike his brother, Matt didn't enjoy training much at all but it didn't matter a great deal as he went on to win his first Gunning medal, 100 votes clear of his nearest rival, which would have to be a club record. 2022 was the most dominant individual season I think I've seen in my time, as he almost single-handedly pulled us out of the woods to avoid relegation. As a midfielder, his numbers increased gradually over the year as his fitness improved with regular 45+ possession games and ultimately a 63 possession game to round out the season. Highly skilled and a great decision maker, he was in everything that year. Nickname: "good language".*

Ryan Marini; *The 2021 Division 1 Gunning Medal winner had some hurdles to overcome with his body showing signs of wear and tear across the 2022-23 seasons to the point where I wasn't sure we'd see his best footy again. A testament to his character and determination, he put in a mountain of work over the 2024 summer to put himself back together from the ground up and take home his second Gunning medal later that year. A tough, bullocking inside mid who was a handful up forward, he was a key component of the A grade side through this period.*

Mitch Marini; *Possessing all of his brother's ball-winning ability and plenty of time up his sleeve, as many good left footers tend to have, Mitch was deceptively good overhead, which caught out many opponents, especially when resting up forward. He always looked dangerous and knew where the goals were however the opposition were fully aware of that, putting a lot of time into quelling his influence. He was our standout player of 2023 taking out the Gunning Medal. Ed note: Ryan and Mitch became the first-ever brothers at the AUFC to both win a Gunning Medal.*

Ben Adams; *The epitome of an inside contested ball-winning midfielder. The more important the game was to our season, the more you could bank on Ben Adams to show up at his best. Many times I'd watch the footage and review our game to find him winning clearance after clearance from under a pack, dishing out handballs to teammates that were hard to pickup on the day. He's exceptionally strong for his size and tough would be an understatement. He never flinched and would still perform under duress. The only reason he didn't add to his two Gunning medals was due to games missed through injury in 2023-24.*

Stefan Jankewicz; *the unheralded defender who was crucial to our chances every week. Another with exceptional fitness levels that made him an asset both defensively and offensively. Blessed with blind courage to drift off his man and intercept mark in front of oncoming traffic but also take the opposition on by foot to run and carry as we rebounded out of defence. For a small-medium build, Stef could handle himself on a bulky centre half forward or completely shut out a small zippy forward pocket goal sneak with little fuss. On his day, we were a 5-goal better side with him in it as he consistently got in the way of their forward entry plans and sent the ball back our way.*

Russell Jensen; *Most comfortable at centre half back but more than useful in the ruck or as a pinch hitting forward when we needed someone to pluck a mark inside 50m. His basketball background was obvious as he regularly jumped off two*

feet for a marking contest and there was a pretty good chance he'd catch it but it was his rebounding runs through defence that most will remember. His athleticism for a key position player really stood out.

I don't think you can skip around the fact that this period for the club in Division 2 was a repeat of what we'd witnessed over the previous 10 years or so in Division 1 where finals had become a hope rather than an expectation. Our grand final and major cause for celebration each season had become the big scalp we were able to take against the odds to avoid relegation, and while I'm proud of the group for managing to do exactly that for three years straight, there was definitely some frustration that came with it. A sense of what might've been had we extracted everything out of the group, had a bit more luck with injury and shown the commitment to the guernsey that previous generations seemed to embrace without question as the law of the land. But the reality was, the winds of change had been blowing for quite some time and I feel like we were probably in the eye of the storm through 2022 - 2024. So much had changed in the footy landscape around us with the strength of the old scholar clubs (in particular those in our backyard), new emerging metropolitan clubs with large junior programs, not to mention the ever-looming threat of cashed-up country clubs. To the club's credit, we continued to fight the good fight and stick to the core values that had held the club in good stead for over 100 years, but it was plain to see that a fork in the road was fast approaching. It was getting harder to attract the core nucleus of a solid A and B grade squad that would challenge for a return to Division 1. There was a sense of knowing that change was needed but equally as important was a respected club culture to protect, and in a lot of ways I understood that it wasn't a time for any knee-jerk reactions. I think everyone reading this would like nothing more than to see the AUFC take their rightful place once again in the top tier of the Adelaide Footy League. The challenge will be to find that pathway while preserving the club's ethos and unique culture. One thing's for sure, I'm certain it'll be done in true blacks fashion by preserving our point of difference rather than falling in line with the status quo, and I wish the club all the best in that pursuit.

Looking back, while there wasn't a lot to celebrate on the field at times, it was rewarding to be able to re-engage with the club and give a little back to the game. The AUFC is full of quality people who give up their time to make it all happen every season and I'm grateful to have been given an opportunity at a club as revered as the Blacks. I've been able to forge many great friendships over my years as both player and coach.

All the best and go the Blacks!

Dwaine Kretchmer 2025 – 2026



In 2025, the Blacks recruited former Glenelg Champion Dwaine Kretchmer as the A Grade Men's Coach.

Dwaine was Best and Fairest at Glenelg in 1998 and played 140 games for the Bays between 1991 and 1999.

He was drafted to Fitzroy in 1989 and then to the Sydney Swans in 1992.

In 2025, the Blacks could only manage 4 wins in Division 2 and were relegated to Division 3.

After a winless first half in 2026 due to our top players suffering long-term injuries, both parties agreed to amicably part ways.

Orazio Fantasia 2026-





Orazio played 80 games with Essendon (2014-2020), 19 games with Port Adelaide (2021-2023) and 21 games with Carlton (2024-2025).

Unfortunately, Orazio Fantasia, our boom recruit, was injured in the first game of 2026 and did not play again that season. However, he remained involved and, in the mid-season of 2026, took over the AUFC Head Coaching role.

Again, with many months of injury time for our top senior players, we remained winless and were relegated to Division 4 for the first time to start the 2027 season.

