

THE HISTORY OF EAST TORRENS PAYNEHAM LACROSSE CLUB

LACROSSE.

A meeting was held at the Norwood Hotel on Monday evening to consider the advisableness of forming a lacrosse club in the district of East Torrens. Mr. M. C. Moore presided over a good attendance. It was decided after discussion to form a club to be called the East Torrens Lacrosse Club, and to enter the South Australian Junior Lacrosse Association. Mr. H. J. M. Hooper was unanimously elected secretary of the club. The following were nominated for office:—Patron, Sir E. T. Smith; president, Mr. J. Henderson; vice-presidents, Messrs. F. W. Coneybeer, M.P., John Darling, M.P., T. Graves, G. Auld, and J. W. Cowell, and Rev. P. R. P. Dodd; captain, M. C. Moore; vice-captain, H. E. Allen; association delegates, Messrs. P. Evans and H. J. M. Hooper; selection and general committee, Messrs. Moore, Allen, and Hooper. The colors of the club were fixed as dark-blue jersey, with red sash, dark knickers, dark-blue stockings, and cap of red. Over 20 members have been enrolled, and a successful season is anticipated for the club.

East Torrens Lacrosse Club ("The REDLEGS") was founded in 1899 where it entered the junior S.A. association, and only entered the senior association in 1902, thus it celebrated its centenary year in 1999.

There was also a bit of flux in those years when SALA brought in the "electorate" system whereby players had to play for the club in whose district they resided. The electorate system spelled the end for the Iroquois club (Which was strong in the late 1890's) as they did not represent a district, and we believe they combined with East Torrens in 1900 or 1901 but still called themselves Iroquois in the senior association, but Iroquois-East Torrens in the junior association, but eventually the club ended up as East Torrens.



East Torrens A grade team 1906

East Torrens won its first A grade premiership in 1922, followed by 2 flags in the 1930's (1933 and 1936), and during WW2 won the 1941 and 1943 flags, followed by a very successful decade or so where they won 8 premierships from 1947-1957, winning A, B and C grade flags in 1947.



One of the leading players for East Torrens during the 1940's – 50's was Don Gorman, who won the Memorial Medal on six occasions between 1946 and 1957, including four consecutive wins from 1949 to 1952. He first won the competition best and fairest award in 1941, when it was known as the Dunks Medal. Starting his lacrosse as a schoolboy in

1936-1937, he made a rapid rise to A grade and in his first season in the senior grade in 1941, as an 18 year old, shared the Dunk trophy with Bill Symonds. In 1947, he not only gained carnival honours but was chosen in the All-Australian team.

1967 has been the most successful year for the club, when it won premierships in all six grades of the SALA competition – A, B, C (seniors); D, E and F (juniors) grades.



While we have no evidence to verify this, we understand that the achievement of winning 6 grand finals in every grade the club played in was a world record acknowledged by the Guinness Book of Records at the time.



It is not surprising the ETLC club won 3 senior flags in 1967 when you see that the top 3 goal scorers in each grade threw 419, 507 and 353 goals respectively. The club colours match those of the famous Norwood Football Club of navy blue and red, the REDLEGS. By the finals in 1967 the call sign was the REDWINGS.

In the early 1980's, the club changed its colours to navy blue, red and white. Another period of success came for the Redwings when the club won four successive premierships from 1980-1983, but a series of retirements and transfers to other clubs saw the club's dominance fade. Despite some revival in the 2010s, with numerous finals appearances, including the 2016 grand-final, the club hasn't been able to maintain its strong standing in the association.

The seniors used to train at Norwood Oval and played at Victoria Park Racecourse, although A grade sometimes played at Kensington Gardens. The clubrooms & meeting rooms at Norwood were under the grandstands at the Norwood Oval.

When moving from Murray Park in Magill to Payneham circa 1968/69, the Club had to add Payneham to its name. Now having the clubrooms at Payneham the Club had to let go their rights to the Norwood Oval where they trained and was their headquarters from inception.

To celebrate the great achievements of 1967 a 50 year anniversary dinner was organized in 2017.



50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
— of the record —
1967 clean sweep

6.30pm JULY 22, 2017, \$30 per person
@ East Torrens Payneham Lacrosse Club

In 1967, East Torrens Lacrosse Club achieved a feat no other Lacrosse Club had ever achieved before: a premiership in every grade it competed:

Men's A Grade	Boys D Grade
Men's B Grade	Boys E Grade
Men's C Grade	Boys F Grade

In 2017 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this historic milestone.

THE NIGHT WILL INCLUDE:

- Cocktail dinner
- Photo boards
- Speeches from members of the 1967 teams
- East Torrens historic uniforms auction
- Wine Fundraiser
- Limited Edition "1967" range of merchandise available for purchase

MORE INFORMATION/TICKETS:

To purchase tickets or to find out more information about this event, visit:

www.redwingslax.com/1967

Leigh “Lethal” Vandepier recalls “The 2017 50th anniversary dinner was a great night and a lot of fun and I hadn’t seen most of the guys for a very long time. The A grade attendees were asked to give their recollections of the 1967 grand-final. My memories were quite vague, but I remembered being irritated that morning because the only serviceable stick I could find was a right handed box stick and I played with that.

I remembered being in shock at winning (13-12) because the Brighton team was made up entirely of State/Australian players. I recalled sitting on my own after the game in shock when Roger Attenborough took the time to come over and speak to me. There was much celebration that night but we had to get up and play Malvern the next day in one of those reciprocal club games”.



Women’s lacrosse started in SA in 1962, and the formation of the East Torrens Women’s Lacrosse Club followed in 1965. They played at the Victoria Park racecourse and Murray Park until moving to Payneham in about 1969, with several of the members of the club marrying members of the East Torrens men’s club in the early years. Lorraine Attenborough and Sue Vandepier played on loan to the Sturt Womens Lacrosse Club in about 1963 & 64 until the ETWLC was formed. The women’s club merged into the East Torrens Payneham Lacrosse Club in the late 1980s.

The following ETWLC photo was taken at Murray Park in 1967.

EAST TORRENS WOMEN'S LACROSSE CLUB
1967



FRANK BOASE PHOTOGRAPH

42 SHEFFIELD ST., MALVERN, S.A.

THIRD ROW: S. Johnston, K. Scarsvella, J. Whitham.
SECOND ROW: H. Russell, M. Hooper, L. Atterborough, J. Baker.
FRONT ROW (Sitting): K. Greys, M. Scarsvella, L. Symons (Captain), P. Forrester (Coach), J. Carle, R. Hamford, D. Russell.

Below is Kathy Benger, goalie for Australia 1980-82, the last goalie to play with a field stick.

