

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STURT LACROSSE CLUB

The **Sturt Lacrosse Club** was founded in 1899 and first played at Unley Oval.

In the week leading up to the first game against University, A.C. Thomas (the SLC goalkeeper) said “ We have an uphill fight, and are sensible enough of the fact that we have much to do yet, but I am satisfied that there is a bright future for Sturt lacrosse. Whatever may happen to us this year, and we cannot expect to do much, we can at least say that Sturt is the first lacrosse club in SA to have an enclosed ground (Unley Oval) of its own. Our team is comprised almost entirely of juniors, but they are nearly all really good players and I am certain that Sturt will be well up in a year or two.”

The paper reported that the match had attracted a “fair crowd, liberally interspersed with members of the fairer sex” and “The Sturts are largely made up of young players and they have the makings of a fine young team. Their backs are strong but their forwards are lacking in enterprise. They paid more attention to their men than moving about and when the ball was thrown it generally went into a Uni stick. The Sturt goalkeeper turned off a bushel of shots but Ayers at the other end was hardly troubled.”



In the 1950s, SLC moved to Park 18, South Terrace (Glen Osmond Road corner) training at Kingswood Oval on Belair Road. Park 18 regularly flooded and before games, players and spectators removed rabbits and grazing cows from the ground and from one of these cows our bell was obtained.

In 1963 the Plympton High School team was founded by Don and Joy Gomer (SLC Life Members) and with 3 other women’s teams also formed and run by Don and Joy, were the foundation of women’s lacrosse in SA.

Sturt has won 23 A grade men’s premierships, the last in 2003, and between 1902 and 1922 Sturt competed in every A grade grand final with the exception of only two years, 1908-1909, which resulted in the coach being sacked!! The Australian team that played tests against Canada in 1907 included 4 Sturt players – Louis Humphris (Captain), Bill Noblett, Vic Hughes & Fred Kell.



In 1905 Sturt travelled to Melbourne to play the premier Victorian team of St Kilda and the following day played a combined team of Victorian players, winning both games, and deemed the premiers of Australasia, which included the 4 players who represented Australia in 1907 against Canada.



Sturt's 1905 Australasian premiership team

Members of Sturt started not only the Indoor competition in S.A. but also the women's competition. Sturt, whilst successful on the ground, has also played a significant role in the administration of the sport. While it is always dangerous to name those who have made significant contributions over the years members like C.A.M. West (Association Secretary for 10 years), Gomer, Drew, Wiles, Koshnitsky, Tuck, McCormack, Clive Carr and Isaachsen readily come to mind.

The Sturt Women's Lacrosse Club emerged from the Plympton High team in the 1960's. In the 1970s Sturt moved to Norman Reserve at Brownhill Creek for 2 years and then to Day Drive, Pasadena, and in 1993 moved to the Women's Memorial Playing Fields at St Marys