

The Glenelg Guardian

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GLENELG, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1920.

END OF THE FOOTBALL SEASON.

Glenelg Club Celebrates.

The A League Problem.

Presentation to Secretary Rugless.

The Glenelg District Football Club signalled the close of the football season by holding its first annual smoke social at Kenny's Family Hotel on Saturday night. There was a large gathering of enthusiasts over whom Mr. G. K. Soward presided. Representatives of the following were also among those present:—Messrs. A. L. DeLanie (Secretary B Grade League), G. Hele (West Torrens), S. Cope (Norwood), J. Dixon (South Adelaide), S. T. Gauley (North Adelaide), Kenny (West Adelaide), and A. Parslour (Glenelg Imperials). An excellent programme was arranged by the committee, and a most enjoyable time was spent.

In proposing "The Glenelg District Football Club," Mr. A. T. Haddrick outlined the many difficulties experienced in their endeavours to bring into being an A grade team for Glenelg. A few years ago he had moved at a meeting of the Glenelg Oval Association that they apply for admission into the League and had kept up the agitation until the matter had developed so far that a deputation had been allowed to wait on the League. The delegation had put up a good fight, but had not met with success; they were offered inclusion in B grade, and had perforce to accept that. Personally, he was against the B grade scheme, because he thought it would take too long a time to get into the League, and also because it would be impossible to get players good enough for the A grade into B. From the inception of the club the support promised had not been forthcoming, and when finally they picked the team they found that the players were nearly all Glenelg boys. If Glenelg was admitted into A grade they would have a different team. He hoped that a better system would be adopted by the club and that a man would be engaged and paid a coach to train the team thoroughly. Those who did not attend training would then be dropped. The Glenelg Club had hardly done as well as was expected, as it was thought it would have won at least five matches. Still, those who saw the game between Glenelg and West Torrens could not possibly have seen a harder battle.

Mr. H. G. McKittrick, in response, said the Glenelg Club was a pretty important institution in Glenelg that day, and next year would be of far greater importance. They were on the verge of good news, and they would know all about it in the course of three weeks. All things considered, the club had had a very good year. They had to start off scratch, with only the Glenelg Imperials loyal. Glenelg had been turned down by other clubs in the district; and so long as he was connected with the Glenelg Club he would never forget the loyalty of the Imperials. (Applause.) When Glenelg was admitted into A grade they would find those very players who had turned them down falling over each other to get into the team. Not being in the A grade was a great handicap, more particularly so in regard to finance. The club had issued a button, and the secretary (Mr. Ern. Rugless) had disposed of £48 worth, besides securing £42 in subscriptions. (Applause.) If any other club had a secretary who had achieved such a record he would like to hear of him.

The Glenelg District Football Club had a team of players comprised of sportsmen. They were going to have a bigger year next season. Naturally, there had been a little friction, which was not avoidable. They had to realise that if a man was dropped, that action was taken for the benefit of the team. That would obtain as long as football existed. He wanted everyone to come forward and do their best in the interest of football. Glenelg was going to be an important district in the football world, and when they got into A grade the club would get its fair share of funds. He was glad to see such a large attendance that evening, and prophesied that in the near future it would be necessary to secure the Town Hall for the annual socials. They must, however, be satisfied to go on from small beginnings to big endings, and end as premiers of A grade. (Applause.)

The toast of "The B Grade League" was in the hands of Mr. R. G. Kappler. He said Glenelg was the oldest part of the State and the newest of the football districts. Two years ago the Football League had been approached with the request that a football team should be formed in the Glenelg district. The reason and arguments then used were plain and sound. The district was a large one, being some 30 square miles in extent, with a population of at least 20,000, and it was well equipped with an oval, men and material. Glenelg was nominally a part of Sturt, but was so far removed as to be of no practical use. The means to develop the resources were now to hand. The result of that application had been both disappointing and unexpected. The B League had given the club the utmost consideration throughout the season. It must be admitted, however, that when the club's delegates first took their seats there was a certain strangeness, but thanks to the attitude of the League that strangeness and awkwardness were removed. (Applause.) Upon the return of the representatives of the club from Wallaroo they were full of complimentary references in regard to the management of the team which had visited that mining town. The season had been more or less successful, but there were some regrets. One regret was that they had not succeeded in beating more than two teams (although they had beaten Souths twice). Another matter for regret was that the conduct of some of the spectators on the Glenelg Oval had not always been exemplary. There had been times when the umpires had been embarrassed on account of the strenuous barracking, particularly on the eastern unfenced portion of the oval. But, after all, he supposed it was only enthusiasm that carried them away, and when that could be directed properly it would be a driving force to the district. He recognised the fact that the B League was playing an important part in fostering football in South Australia, and the League was playing it well. (Hear, hear.) The club had made a further application to be admitted into A grade, and he hoped for a favourable answer.

Mr. A. De Lanie, in response, expressed regret that the chairman of the B League (Mr. Pounsett) was not present to acknowledge the pleasing remarks of the mover. He did not think it was any secret that when the first application was made by Glenelg to be admitted into the League, and that body decide to admit the club to the B League, there was a certain

amount of opposition in the latter body, but eventually it was decided to admit the seceders. Since then every member of the B League had endeavoured to treat the Glenelgites as old members. (Applause.) He congratulated the club upon its choice of delegates, and Mr. Rugless was one of the most popular in the League. He had always proved fair in debates, had been only too willing to lend a hand, and had been prompt in attending to matters as between the club and the League. He thought a fair thing had been done in allowing Glenelg to come into the B League. There was not much difference in the standard of play as between the A and B grades. In fact, the small attendances at B games had always been a matter of surprise to the B League officials, who considered that the games deserved bigger crowds. Speaking as a delegate of the B League he had no wish to see the ambition of Glenelg to get into the A League fulfilled, as he thought it might weaken the B team. (Cries of "No.") It was always a hard matter to get juniors to leave old teams owing to the many old associations—a feeling or sentiment which was hard to fight against. He was pleased to be present at the first social of the club and looked forward to seeing them again in the near future.

Other representatives also responded. A popular item, not on the programme, was the presentation of a beautiful silver tea-pot, suitably inscribed, to Mr. Ern A. Rugless, the secretary of the club, for valuable services rendered and as a small token of the high esteem in which he was held by members of the club. In making the presentation, Mr. McKittrick said personally he had never lost an opportunity of seeing what a good secretary the club had in Mr. Rugless. The secretary was the live wire of a club, and when Mr. Jolliffe reigned the position of secretary (through leaving the district) Alderman Kneebone mentioned Mr. Rugless as a possible successor. In doing that Ald. Kneebone had done something good for the club. Mrs. Rugless was the speaker went on, deserving of some recognition in the form of "absence from home," and the tea-pot was in reality intended as a gift to her from members of the club.

Mr. Rugless, who received quite a "football ovation," thanked the members of the club for their kindly consideration in making the presentation for Mrs. Rugless. He had not looked for any reward. He considered that his wife had done more for the club than he, because after he had been away from home five nights out of the seven. One thing would have pleased him more—and that the club could not give him—the admission of the club into A grade. He was sure if given the opportunity Glenelg would keep its end up. It would be impossible to get A grade players unless the club first secured admission into A grade.

Other toasts submitted were "Kindred Clubs" (by Ald. Kneebone) responded to by Mr. George Hele, and "The Press," by Frank Smith.

A first-class vocal and elocutionary programme was contributed to by Messrs. Stan. Lane, Jessel Cohen, F. G. Bain, Ferguson, and Alf Cross. Mr. Vic. Leake was highly pleasing at the piano, while Mr. Hedley Rowe gave an excellent exhibition of legendeinain.

Prior to the conclusion of the social the chairman thanked the various performers for their efforts to entertain.

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GLENELG, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1920.

FOOTBALL.

Glenelg in A Grade.

New Districts Outlined.

For some time the question of the rearrangement of the football districts, so that the South Adelaide and West Adelaide Clubs might have more territory from which to acquire members, has occupied the attention of the South Australian Football League. On Monday the League met to make final arrangements with regard to the scheme. It was also resolved to admit the Glenelg Football Club (which was attached to B grade last season) to the senior division, so that next season there will be eight teams competing for premierships honors in

Regarding the districts to be enlarged, the following report was submitted to the League by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose, and unanimously adopted:—

"That the South Adelaide Football Club district be extended by the addition of Sturt Football Club territory, commencing at a point opposite the Fountain Inn along the Fullarton Road, and then along the Cross Roads to the big tree, and thence down the Glen Osmond Road to the point of commencement, and by the addition of the territory of the Norwood Football Club district, beginning at the Parkside Hotel, and then along Glen Osmond Road to the western boundary of Eastwood Terrace, along Eastwood Terrace and Victoria Avenue to Kensington Road, along the western boundary of Kent Terrace, to the Maid and Magpie Hotel and then directly north to the River Torrens."

The following scheme concerning West Adelaide was also agreed upon:—"That the West Adelaide Football Club district be extended by the addition of all the territory at present forming part of the West Torrens Football Club district, and bounded on the north by Henley Beach Road, and terminating at a point opposite the Henley Beach Hotel, and on the south by the Sturt Creek and the Patavalonga River. Except that portion of territory bounded on the north by the Henley Beach Road, on the west by the Marion Road, on the South by the Hilton Road; and by the addition of the territory of the Sturt Football Club district running down the Goodwood Road to the Goodwood Railway Station thence down the Glenelg Railway line to the South Road. That the boundaries of the West Torrens district be squared off as follows:—One the west by the Woodville Road, on the north by the Junction Road, and on the east by the Lower North Road. That the boundaries of the North Adelaide district be squared off as follows:—On the west by the Lower North Road, on the north by

the Junction Road, and on the east by the road running along the eastern boundary of section 329 to 336 to the Junction Road."

GLENELG IN A GRADE.

After several ineffective conferences with the powers that be in the football world Glenelg has at last been admitted into the magic circle of A Grade football. This determination was come to at Monday night's meeting of the Football League. The news has been hailed with delight by Glenelg football enthusiasts, who had anticipated that sooner or later the League would reconsider its previous ruling that Glenelg would have to stand out and be satisfied with inclusion in the ranks of B Grade.

The decision of the League that Glenelg will in future make the eighth team under its jurisdiction is one which will have an important bearing in football in this State in the future. It means a big thing for Glenelg in many ways, and is one of the most momentous happenings that has occurred in the sporting world—at any rate, Glenelg's sporting world—for years. How much it will change the aspect of affairs as far as the winter game is concerned time alone can tell.

Unfortunately there are many persons in Glenelg who deny the possibilities of this town having a team which will be able to wrest premierships honors from the older clubs. They evidently overlook the fact that every one of the teams in the A Grade division had to start from the bottom of the ladder and gradually work up to the top of the tree. One has only to look back to the last 10 or 12 years to note how some of the old-day "crack" teams have had to give way to younger combinations. And history has a peculiar knack of repeating itself.

The possibilities of raising a decent team in the Glenelg district are by no means as hopeless as some would think. The district allotted is a large one, and there will be much good material to draw upon. Of course, it is not to be expected that Glenelg will go to the top the first year, nor the second, nor the third; but the time must surely come when Glenelg will put in the field an eighteen which will take a lot of beating. We feel optimistic as to the future of the seceders. And it is in that spirit that we would wish all Glenelgites to view the matter.

Besides giving some prestige to the town, the inclusion of Glenelg in the League means a brighter future for the Glenelg Oval. During the football season there will in all probability be about 10

matches played here, which will mean greatly increased revenue, out of which the many improvements necessary to make it up to date—such as erecting mounds round the fence, a new pavilion, and other conveniences—will be carried out. "Rome was not built in a day," says the old sage, neither can the Glenelg Oval be brought up to the minute in a similar period of time. It will have to be done by a systematic process, which must necessarily be slow. Outside of the Adelaide Oval there is not a better or larger ground than the one at Glenelg, which can be brought up to a state of perfection from every point of view. It will mean a good deal of thought and the expenditure of much money, and we feel confident that the Oval Association Executive will be equal to the task before them.

In reviewing the fight of Glenelg to be admitted into the League, one cannot do so without admiring the spirit of determination shown by the enthusiasts who put the case for Glenelg before the august high court of South Australian football. Notwithstanding the several rebuffs received they manfully hammered away with a force of argument which went far to convince the League that unless Glenelg was brought into the fold it would be impossible to make football a success under the B Grade system, simply because players would not join up with them. However, they succeeded, and the "Guardian" sincerely congratulates all concerned in the great success achieved.

Glenelg, however, have nothing to thank B Grade players for. From the inception of their admission into the Association those who promised to assist in making up a decent B Grade team failed to honour their word, and Glenelg had to battle along as well as it could with men drawn from within its own limited boundary. Brights and other districts stood out, with the result that the seceders suffered in comparison with other combinations. It should be a long time before that unsportsmanlike spirit is forgotten. Now that what has been considered as the unattainable has been attained there will probably be a great rush for inclusion in the team.

However, let us be joyful over the fact that we are now in the League, and let us all do our level best to assist the club and the men in every way—morally and financially—so that when the next football season starts Glenelg will be able to put a team into the field which will not only do honour to the town, but will endorse the opinions expressed by the gentlemen who so ably and convincingly put the case for Glenelg before the Football League of South Australia.

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