

# LORD STUDLEY — AT YOUR SERVICE

By Trevor Gill

There always was a certain inevitability about the return to Glenelg of Graham Cornes. For 17 winters and a club record of 317 games Cornes graced Glenelg Football Club and, indeed, the game itself with the majesty and skills with which he was blessed.

In 1983, it was a time of reckoning for Glenelg for it faced the dilemma of appointing a new coach. Cornes, who desperately wanted the job, was at that stage held in obedience as the club elected for the established coaching record of former VFL and WA diehard Graham Campbell. It is history that Cornes, admittedly disappointed at missing the job at his beloved club, left to take over the reigns at South Adelaide. And for two years he served that club with distinction, if not a premiership.

But, as the winter of 1984 closed with dashed hopes of the pennant at the Bay, the club made that much-awaited call to one of its favorite sons.

Cornes was coming "home".

His words, reported in *The Advertiser* on October 4, 1984, reflected his innermost feelings about Glenelg Football Club. He said in part "... Obviously you don't discard the sentimentality you had and all the memories you've got — I played 17 years with the club." And so, if the philosophy that all good things come to those who wait, can be applied to football, things augered well for the Glenelg club which was striving to build its character and success on the achievements and inspiration of past masters.

For many of the more experienced Glenelg players Cornes was a familiar figure, but after two years coaching South, his resolve for success and certainly his leadership skills were noticeably steeled. For the younger brigade the presence of a legend was a steadfast reminder of the character required to walk tall and mighty in any form of sport. They could ponder Cornes' remarkable record. He played 392 senior games, including seven with North Melbourne, 47 for South, and 21 for South Australia. He won All-Australian blazers in 1979 and 1980 and was honoured with the Tassie Medal for the best player in the State of Origin carnival. In 1983 he was presented with the order of Australia Medal for his services to the game, quickly winning himself the affectionate title of Lord Studley.



From left: Graeme Bignell, Trevor Jaques, Graham Cornes and Geoff Blethyn finally get "the feeling". (News photo)

Through all those years Cornes had the intelligence and capacity to learn from his mentors and put their teachings into practice. Certainly the lanky kid who joined Glenelg from Whyalla in 1967 had been heavily influenced by Neil Kerley — one of the game's true greats — who brought Glenelg its second premiership in 1973. But he also was in the enviable position of being able to blend the teaching of other men whom he served under both at club, VFL and State level. They included John Nicholls, Ron Barassi, John Halbert, John Cahill, Hadyn Bunton and Mike Patterson. Cornes set out to blend their experience with his own beliefs to become a successful league coach.

So much has been written about Glenelg's fluctuating fortunes and ultimate triumph in 1985 that it needs no further description here. However, it must be said Cornes' loyalty to making 1985 a success for Glenelg was without question, for in May — with captain and champion ruckman Peter Carey struggling against injury — the coach, at 37, was prepared to pull on the guernsey again.

It was a tough year, one of the toughest. But Glenelg overcame all the odds to make it to the finals and loomed as one of the warm favorites to play off in the grand final. Cornes had been down that route seven times before, but only once had he tasted the glory, thanks to a miraculous

individual effort in the final scene of that most dramatic grand final against North Adelaide in 1973. So Cornes, forever the football realist, was able to marshall his troops with all the experience of a hardened finals campaigner. He had no illusions as to what was required by man and team for the ultimate triumph and he instilled that unbending outlook in his players.

And, oh, what joy it was for Glenelg supporters on that memorable Saturday in October, 1985. And it is without doubt that much of the sentimentality of the occasion belonged to Graham Cornes... the man who had waited for so long.

While he may be a charismatic character and one well-versed with the requirements of the media, Cornes was self-contained after he had given Glenelg the premiership. It was a truly matured champion who said simply "... I'm relieved and satisfied. It's been a tough year."

Now Glenelg has lost some of the players who were so influential in that great victory, most notably the vastly gifted Stephen Kernahan and rover Tony McGuinness.

But Graham Cornes remains to face the challenge of back-to-back premierships. And there is little doubt he is the man who will provide much of the foundation for building at Glenelg that elusive quality called winning tradition.

# GEORGE JOHNSTON —

George "Blue" Johnston, the former Glenelg ruckman and living legend of the club's first premiership in 1934, believes the Tigers will go close to their fourth flag in 1986.

An Blue, now in his 79th year, knows what it takes to win.

As the 1934 Magarey Medallist, his feats as an iron man for Glenelg are folklore and these days he rarely misses seeing his beloved Tigers play. Blue was at Football Park last October to witness the club's third premiership and still heaps praise on the efforts of Graham Cornes and his men. But surprisingly, Blue, who played 203 games for Glenelg and 13 for South Australia between 1927 and 1940, believes the 1973 premiership was the grandest of all.

"In my opinion, the '73 side was the best of the three premiership teams at the Bay," said Blue, who now lives at the Masonic Village in Somerton Park. "They lost only one game through the season and seemed to have so many players capable of kicking goals."

As for last year's triumphant side, the veteran Tiger believes there were many similarities in personnel to the team with which he shared glory 52 years ago. "The rovers were similar in that they were so fast. We had three very quick in Roy Colyer, Arthur Link and Lance Peak. And both the '34 and '85 sides had some pretty slippery half forwards."

To appreciate Blue Johnston's judgement of football teams past and present one only has to look at his personal record of achievement.

Blue, so called by his first league coach Jim Hanby because of his fiery red hair, was presented with the Magarey Medal by SA Football League chairman, Mr. T.S. O'Halloran, on the day of the 1934 second semi-final. The medal win came as a big surprise for the master ruckman, who gave himself little chance of taking out SA football's most coveted award. Blue had previously tipped his team-mate, Glenelg centreman Len Sallis, as a big chance of winning the medal, however Sallis polled just 19 votes while Blue scored 46 to win by 17 from South's Max Mundy.

The Magarey Medal presentation ushered in a disastrous day for Glenelg, which lost to Port Adelaide in the second semi. But the Bays qualified for another shot at Post by beating Sturt by 13 points in the preliminary final, in which Blue suffered an untimely knee injury.

But, after a week of non-stop treatment, the high flying ruckman emerged to become a hero in Glenelg's first premiership. He booted three goals, including one late in the final term that snatched the



game away from the Magpies just when they seemed ready to inflict another defeat on the Tigers. The Mail report of October 6, 1934 stated "... Johnston gave a sound ruck display. His towering mark on the goal line in the last quarter was the turning point of the game which threatened to slip away from Glenelg." Big Blue sank the steadying goal and Glenelg went on to victory.

"When the siren sounded we could hardly believe it ... the fans went wild. It came as a bit of a shock to them I think because a lot of them didn't expect us to win."

Celebrations went on long into the night in Moseley Square where thousands of revellers gathered to pay homage to their heroes. It had been a rough, tough game

with three Port players suspended for a total of 30 games. But Blue Johnston, with a heart of steel and stamina to match, had ruled supreme with his talented team-mates.

These days to old champ restricts his exercise to a daily stroll along the beach or fishing for mullet from his boat in the exquisite beauty of The Coorong. But he is a regular at the football and has put a lot of thought into Glenelg's chances this season. "Yes," he said. "We have lost Stephen Kernahan and Tony McGuinness, but whenever good players go it always seems somebody else steps in to replace them. I'm glad to see Peter Carey going on. He did a mighty job in last year's grand final and I think he will play next year as well. We have Kym Hodgeman back from Melbourne. He is a match winner on his day, and of course Adam Garton is a big improver. Overall I think we will go pretty well."

They are sound words from one of Glenelg's most decorated footballers. Blue lives alone these days. His wife Florence, whom everybody knew as "Glad," passed away in 1977. But while this great man has his friends, his memories and his footy, he will be happy,

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# CAPTAIN CAREY CONTINUES SUPER CAREER

If Graham Cornes is a veteran Tiger on the prowl for successive premierships, he has a willing ally in the seemingly indestructible giant Peter Carey.

At 32, and a veteran of 356 league games for Glenelg, "Super" Carey is shaping up for a new assault on the flag with all the relish of a rookie. Carey's enthusiasm in what seem to be forever radiant twilight years of a grand career is a driving force in Glenelg's mission of '86. After lengthy celebrations for the 1985 premiership and an appetising campaign over the festive period, the Bay skipper found himself pushing the scales to 18 stone. But a strict diet ushered in the new year and on January 6 "Super" emerged a good deal lighter and eminently capable of handling coach Cornes' imposition of a team training session lasting almost three gruelling hours.

"Yes," Carey declared. "Physically I am confident that I am up to another season or two." Such is this man's devotion to the game and success for his club.

And what great news it is for Glenelg supporters who feared Carey's playing days were numbered as he struggled with a nagging groin injury early last season. "I had a few problems with the groin injury last year, but I have overcome that," he said. "There is no suggestion of surgery. They don't operate on footballers over the age of 30 do they?"

The champion ruckman and forward, a veteran of 16 seasons, secretly vowed years ago that he would retire immediately if he required corrective surgery to keep playing.

"But I have been very lucky over the years," he said. "The only major problem I suffered was when I had an ankle operation at the age of 19. You know, the doctor told me at the time I would only play for another three seasons."

How that doctor must now cringe with embarrassment over that prognosis to a young man destined to serve one of the longest and most illustrious football careers in South Australia. Although Peter Carey never realised his dream of playing in the VFL he has walked tall in interstate competition representing his State with honours on 17 occasions. He was a starting member of Glenelg's 1973 premiership side and waged gallant, yet frustrating battles to help his team repeat the efforts in the long winters which followed.

Few will forget Carey's anguish, and indeed the public outcry, in the major round of 1984 when he was suspended on an attempted striking charge in the qualifying final against Central District. That fateful penalty cost him two games and his absence in the second semi-final and preliminary final was seen as a major contribu-



Peter Carey apprehends a Rooster. (News photo)

tion to Glenelg's demise.

Yet any lingering bitterness over that dark episode was demonstratively swept aside in Glenelg's barnstorming victory in last year's grand final against North Adelaide. As supporters' eyes searched Football Park for heroes in the dying stages of the final, most lingered on the big man wearing number 5, making light of his heavy load in the goalsquare. Carey's joy at leading the Tigers to a premiership remains one of the lingering memories of that thrilling battle against the Roosters.

"It was a far bigger thrill than in 1973," he admitted. "The last premiership came after 12 years in the wilderness. It was tremendous after all the frustrations of the previous few years. I love the game and the thrill is still there from last year's final."

Carey harbours a strong ambition to play 400 league games for Glenelg, yet he is forever the professional football realist.

"I don't consider 400 games, including State appearances, as a great milestone. I would dearly love to play 400 for Glenelg. But I will just have to take things game by game."

The evergreen champion says the discipline required to win last year's flag has swept over into the new campaign and described team spirit at pre-season work as "fantastic."

"While we have this spirit there is an ideal opportunity for us to go for another premiership. All the evidence is there that we will go close again. The loss of Stephen Kernahan and Tony McGuinness to the VFL may even give us an extra spur. All the boys know they will have to put in a little extra. I don't want to sound overconfident, but we are looking forward to a good season. Other teams will be out to knock us off and that alone is an incentive. Cornes is meaner than ever. He will be even harder and more determined this year and we won't let him down."

There is no doubt Peter Carey carries some aches and pains home to his wife Linda and their two children, Matthew and Justin. But for as long as the "old fella" can raise a roar, his gallop for another Bay premiership will surely follow.

# KERNAHANS HISTORY ENTRENCHED IN GLENELG

By Trevor Gill

The name Kernahan is richly revered in the history of Glenelg Football Club. It doesn't seem all that long ago that Harry Kernahan was captain and ruckman for the Tigers and performing feats of heroism for South Australia in interstate matches. Harry "The Horse" Kernahan joined the club in 1959 and went on to play 171 senior games, interrupted by a three-year stint as captain-coach of South Whyalla in the late 1960s. One of Harry's most memorable efforts in interstate football was in Perth in 1962 when he broke his collarbone in the last quarter, but gallantly stayed on the ground because South Australia had both reserves off the bench. His efforts to mark the ball one-handed in the dying stages of that match will never be forgotten by those privileged to have witnessed the fortitude and dedication which were the intrinsic features of Harry Kernahan's approach to football at the highest level. He played 11 games for his State.

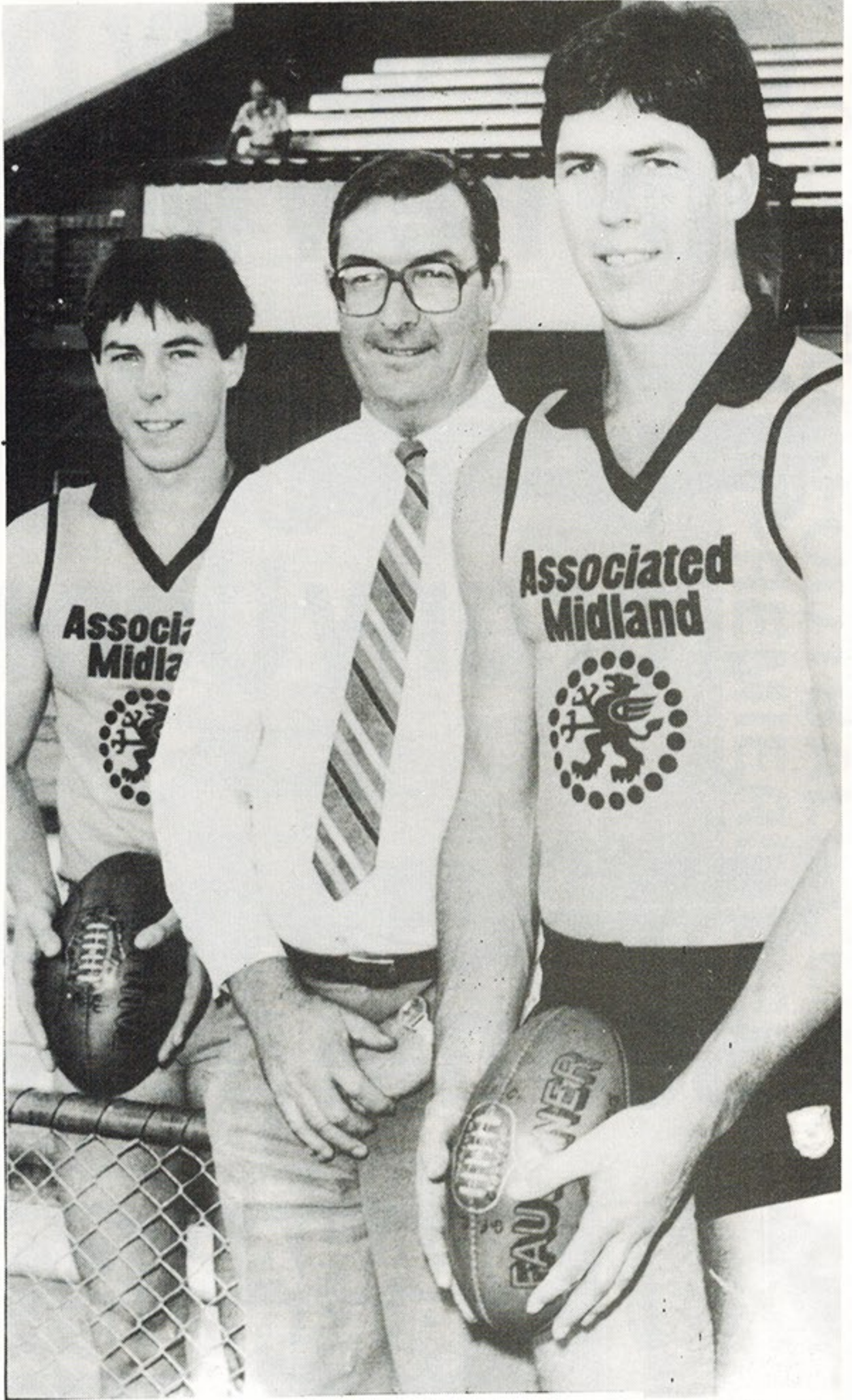
Harry retired as a player in 1971, but two years later returned as secretary-manager and later football director for his cherished Glenelg.

But a new breed of champions — the sons of Harry and his devoted wife Annette, were to carry on the grand family tradition at the Bay. The first son, Gary, obviously knew his football early for, at the tender age of three months, he was reported in *The Advertiser* as using a nappy pin to help his dad pick the best players of the round on media votes and won fifty pounds.

Gary was to play with distinction for Glenelg in junior ranks and the Under 19s and looked destined for a fine league career before a tragic double rupture of his left Achilles tendon ruined his aspirations. Gary has since pursued his football career in the mid-north.

At the end of the 1963 season the Kernahan's second son, Stephen, was born at Glenelg Community Hospital, an event that will long be rejoiced by Tiger fans. Stephen's remarkable football ability came to public notice in 1975 when he captained the South Australian schoolboys football team which won the Australian title in Adelaide. Stephen progressed rapidly through junior ranks at Glenelg and in 1980, before he had even played a league game, he was pursued and signed by powerful VFL club Carlton. As a member of the SA Teal Cup team and former captain of Glenelg Under 17s, the lofty youngster was first spotted by scouts at the Under 16 carnival in Perth in 1979. After winning Glenelg's Reserves best and fairest trophy in 1980 his promotion to league ranks was inevitable and he had not looked back since.

In fact, Stephen was to become such a dominating force in league football he was openly tagged perhaps the greatest young talent in the country. Determined to be involved in a premiership for the Tigers,



*The Kernahan Clan: David (left), Harry and Stephen. (News photo)*

Stephen resisted Carlton until the end of the 1985 season, which he finished on a glorious note as winner of the Jack Oatey Medal for best player in the grand final.

There have been great triumphs for Stephen at Glenelg . . . and some tragedies. The 1.95 metre ruckman and forward played 136 senior games for the Tigers and kicked 290 goals. He represented South Australia six times (against Victoria under lights at Football Park in May, 1984 he kicked 10 goals) and Australia once on a tour of Ireland. Stephen won three successive club best and fairest awards in league ranks. His greatest disappointment, apart from grand final losses, was polling most votes in the 1983 Magarey Medal, but being unable to claim because of suspension. Stephen is a player of outstanding ability and one destined to become one of the all-time greats. His

army of supporters wish him well in his debut season with Carlton this year.

But yet another Kernahan stays behind to maintain the family name in Glenelg's league team — third son, David. "Dooza," as he is known, made his league debut in 1984 and, although smaller in stature than his older brothers and father, his skill and pace have proven a valuable asset for the club. In 1983, while playing in the Under 19s, he found he was suffering from a stress fracture at the base of his spine and his football future was in serious doubt. Yet, blessed with the same determination and courage that epitomises the football family Kernahan, he made it to the top and firmly established himself in the senior side. In the build up to the 1985 grand final David was again under an injury cloud, but proved his fitness on the eve of the match

# TIGERS FATHER FIGURE

Alf Wadham is in every sense the father figure of Glenelg Football Club. He is a diehard Tiger as instantly recognisable to Glenelg fans as Graham Cornes, Peter Carey, Harry Kernahan or David Marshall.

Last season the man who has been part of Tiger territory since the club was admitted to league competition in 1921, was honored for his loyalty by being named Glenelg's No.1 ticket holder.

And in his 88th year the club presented Alf with his own guernsey . . . No. 88, of course.

Alf cuts some dash around town in his majestic Rolls Royce these days, but as a young man he was just as stylish as a player with the Bays.

He played with Glenelg Reserves in 1921 after several years with local teams in the district, including Glenelg Imperials. A year later he was in the A-grade and played for two years before ankle injuries forced a premature retirement.

"I was a wingman in those days, but we didn't have the nice ovals of today. Glenelg Oval was all knobs of turf with bits of grass here, there and everywhere. It was hard as clay and resembled a bit of a cow paddock."

How things have changed over the years and Alf, along with his wife Marg, were "tickled pink" with his No.1 standing.

Glenelg officials, coaches and players have always been regular visitors to the Wadham household in Tigerland and among the "greats" Alf lists Fred Phillis, Cornes, Peter Marker, Kym Hodgeman, Peter Carey and Paul Weston.



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