

2009 - A Grade

Competing in the South Australian Amateur Football League in Division 2

Coach - Stephen Carr
 Assistant Coach - Shane Maschotta
 Assistant Coach - Ross Wait
 Team Manager - Tony Griffin
 Captain - Kevin Hopper
 Vice Captain - Justin Sheedy

Round 1	4 April	Athelstone	4.2	7.3	11.6	17.8 (110)
	Haslam Oval, Pembroke School	<i>Pembroke OS</i>	2.0	5.2	6.5	8.8 (56)

Best - T.White, J.Trish, M.Grossmann, A.Waldon, J.Platten
 Goals - T.White 8, J.Maschotta 3, K.Hopper 2, M.Grossmann, S.Sullivan, J.Trish, B.Skurrie
 Strong start by Pembroke with a 2 goal breeze. Athelstone steadied with forwards leading well and backj line steady. Poor start to second quarter with 2 goals by Pembroke against the wind. White steadied team with freakish "goal of the day". Outscored by Pembroke this quarter. Started third quarter well and set up game with 2 early goals. Fourth quarter was all Athelstone, attacking relentlessly through the corridor.

Round 2	18 April	PHOS Camden	2.4	6.6	8.10	15.11 (101)
	Torrens Valley	<i>Athelstone</i>	2.1	7.5	10.5	13.8 (86)

Best - S.Fraser, L.Stewart, J.Sheedy, S.Harkin, A.Pokarier
 Goals - B.Skurrie 4, M.Caudle 3, M.Grossmann, T.White 2, J.Orlando, R.Cotter
 Backlines withstood tremendous pressure in first quarter as 90% of play was in PHOS Camden forward lines. Raggies were only able to penetrate half forward 4 times. Second quarter started same way until our 2 U18's combined for Caudle goal. Skurrie had a purple patch with 2 long goals to re-establish a short lived lead which was re-established in time on. Raggies were now playing team footy. Third quarter was hard fought as was the last until PHOS Camden hit the front at the 15 minute mark and finished strongly.

Round 3	25 April	<i>Adelaide University</i>	2.3	4.5	7.8	11.9 (75)
	University Oval	Athelstone	1.1	1.4	1.6	3.7 (25)

Best - M.Grossmann, J.Sheedy, J.Pike, S.Fraser, J.Trish, K.Griffin
 Goals - T.White 2, J.Maschotta
 It may have been Anzac Day but Adelaide Uni was a disastrous campaign. Our only highlight was Justin Maschotta's first quarter goal from tight in the pocket. Again this week we struggled past half forward and wasted too many opportunities.

Round 4	2 May	<i>Athelstone</i>	4.3	10.4	15.6	19.11 (125)
	Torrens Valley	Kilburn	1.2	7.3	10.6	13.6 (84)

Best - T.White, J.Pike, J.Orlando, A.Blake, M.Grossmann
 Goals - T.White 10, S.Sullivan 3, B.Skurrie 2, M.Grossmann, J.Orlando, J.Trish, S.Willment

Photos

Kilburn hit the front early but we hit back and led half way through the first quarter. Skurrie celebrated his 200th game with the Raggies first goal. We began to hit targets late in the first quarter resulting in 3 goals to White. Griffin took mark of the day getting crunched in front of the pack. Second and third quarters were both the same. Raggies dominating the first half but allowing Kilburn back into the game in the second half of each quarter. Young Jesse Orlando kicked goal of the day after a brilliant run and shot from the scoreboard pocket. White kicked his tenth in the last and Skurrie again celebrated with the Raggies final goal. Fleeting glimpses of brilliance.

Achievements: Ben Skurrie 200 games

Round 5	9 May	Eastern Park	2.4	8.7	13.13	15.19 (109)
	Torrens Valley	<i>Athelstone</i>	6.1	11.2	11.3	16.4 (100)

Best - A.Blake, S.Fraser, S.Sullivan, R.Cotter, J.Pike
 Goals - T.White 5, S.Sullivan 4, S.Harkin 3, S.Willment, B.Skurrie, A.Westergreen, A.Blake
 Best first quarter for the season. Zanker's experience was evident in the early minutes to set up Sullivan for the first of his 3 first quarter goals. The forwards were working hard to create set shots at goal as opposed to EP's rushed shots. Our backmen were prepared to back themselves and offer support forward with run.

Aaron Blake's play of the day saw him take mark of the day to save a certain EP goal and then immediately kick a goal of the day contender at the other end. In the second, EP looked like getting right back into the game but a late rally by the Raggies evened up the quarter.

The third quarter was a goalless disaster. If the first was our best, this was to be our worst. EP were goaling through our mistakes and turnovers to tie the scores up after only 5 minutes. To the players credit, patterns of team play emerged in the final quarter to bring the difference back to nine points.

Round 6	16 May	Athelstone	4.2	8.6	13.8	15.9	(99)
	Flinders Park Oval	<i>Flinders Park</i>	1.1	6.3	7.5	12.8	(80)

Best - B.Lomman, J.Pike, T.White, S.Fraser, M.Grossmann

Goals - T.White 8, S.Sullivan 3, J.Trish 2, M.Grossmann, K.Hopper

For the second week in a row Raggies opened strongly and Scott Sullivan kicked 3 goals in the first quarter. His first was the result of a great smother by Jarrod Trish and his third from a beautiful pass from Steve Harkin. Strong tackling was a feature of the Raggies game as they had to overcome a very defensive Flinders Park.

Flinders Park took control of the early part of the second quarter before the Raggies were able to add two goals in the time on period. Supporters were anxiously waiting for the third quarter - could it be as bad as last week's. "No way" said Whitey as he rattled on four goals for the quarter. Flinders Park made a late run but were stuffed when Luke Stewart worked forward to set up Kevin Hopper courtesy of a beautiful pass. Raggies put everything into this game to overcome a strong finishing Flinders Park.

Round 7	23 May	Athelstone	4.2	6.4	11.8	15.10	(100)
	Torrens Valley	Broadview	1.5	3.13	5.14	12.16	(88)

Best - A.Ruggiero, S.Fraser, J.Trish, B.Zanker, J.Sheedy

Goals - T.White, S.Sullivan 4, K.Hopper 3, M.Grossmann 2, J.Duigan

Photos

Grossmann opened the scoring in the first minute just as coach Carr had ordered. Running goals as the Raggies worked the ball from defence through the centre. The backlines consistently got out of trouble with constructive handballing and accurate kicking.

In the second quarter the Raggies repeatedly turned the ball over as Broadview dominated the quarter but kicked inaccurately. 2 goals in the time-on period re-established the Raggies lead.

The third quarter was team play at its best as all players became involved and the Raggies won the ball from the centre. Whitey kicked 4 goals for the quarter. The last quarter became a shoot out as Broadview narrowed the margin. After a second magnificent week as sole ruckman, Ben Lomman epitomised today's effort by the Raggies

Achievements - Jarrod Trish 50 games

Round 8	30 May	Athelstone	6.5	7.10	13.14	18.15	(123)
	Pedlar Reserve	<i>Seaton Ramblers</i>	2.5	3.7	6.10	10.15	(75)

Best - A.Blake, R.Cotter, K.Hopper, A.Pokarier, T.White

Goals - T.White 5, B.Miller, A.Blake 3, M.Grossmann, S.Sullivan, J.Trish 2, M.Zillante

Raggies opened the game with their highest scoring quarter of the year. Miller presented himself well to become a strong target and again this week strong tackling gave us the turnovers. The game stagnated in the second quarter as indicated by the scoreboard - one goal each with ours coming in the first 20 seconds. Raggies experienced defenders with Pokarier and Fraser at the front held Seaton out and then in the third and last were responsible for a lot of rebounds as the Raggies began to run again into open forward lines with quick movement.

Round 9	13 June	Payneham NU	6.4	8.7	8.11	9.15	(69)
	Torrens Valley	<i>Athelstone</i>	1.1	1.5	2.8	4.9	(33)

Best - B.Zanker, L.Stewart, S.Fraser, J.Trish, A.Pokarier

Goals - A.Ruggiero, J.Trish, T.White, S.Willment

Photos

Raggies kicked against a strong breeze but were still first to goal when Trish pulled the ball from the ruck and snapped truly. From then on PNU dominated with long kicks forward. Despite Hopper gathering plenty of kick in his 150th game, Raggies could not penetrate through half forward. In the second PNU were again doing all the attacking and Raggies squandered whatever chance we had by not penetrating the 50 and missing what shots we had. The third quarter was our best with our players much more decisive and holding PNU goalless.

Our last line of defence stood strong, worked the ball out with strong team play and only allowed 3 goals after quarter time.

Achievements - Kevin Hopper 150 games

Round 10	20 June	Pembroke OS	5.4	7.6	9.8	12.10	(82)
	Torrens Valley	<i>Athelstone</i>	1.0	8.2	9.5	11.10	(76)

Best - A.Blake, M.Grossmann, B.Lomman, J.Trish, S.Fraser

Goals - J.Maschotta 4, T.White 3, S.Sullivan 2, K.Hopper, S.Harkin

Despite winning the centre clearances 6-1 Raggies were not able to capitalise and allowed Pembroke to add 5 goals in the first 13 minutes of play. On only our second constructive move forward, Whitey snapped truly and from that time Pembroke only went forward once.

In the second Raggiies made the most of the 3 goal wind by adding 7 goals to establish a slim half time lead. With the wind easing the game became a much more even contest with accurate passing setting up goals for the Raggies. Pembroke took full advantage of Raggies playing the last 8 minutes with only 17 men and added 3 goals in that time. Very disappointing loss.

Round 11	28 June	<i>PHOS Camden</i>	3.2	6.7	12.9	18.14 (122)
	Camden Oval	Athelstone	2.2	5.6	5.6	8.7 (55)

Best - A.Ruggiero, A.Blake, J.Trish, J.Sheedy, S.Fraser

Goals - T.White 4, J.Maschotta, B.Skurrie 2

Photos

In the first quarter the Raggies were good - very good. The back line was on top and instigated precise attacks moving the ball quickly through the corridor with instinctive handballs and well directed kicks. 2 goals on the board before PHOS reacted.

In the second we had early scoring opportunities but kicked inaccurately and PHOS blew the lead out to 18 points. Raggies were playing desparately in defence until White and Skurrie added 3 quick goals. At the half time break PHOS knew the Raggies had come to play - or had they?

In the third PHOS stepped up the tempo and cut the Raggies to pieces. Unmarked players inside their 50 were targets as they continually found the loose man wide. Raggies were chasing for the rest of the game.

Round 12	4 July	<i>Athelstone</i>	1.4	3.10	4.12	5.13 (43)
	Torrens Valley	Adelaide Uni	2.1	4.6	5.6	6.7 (43)

Best - A.Ruggiero, B.Zanker, B.Lomman, K.Hopper, J.Sheedy

Goals - T.White 2, S.Sullivan, B.Skurrie, K.Hopper

Photos

Strong tackling and pressure was the feature of today's game by the Raggies. In the first quarter we had 90% of the play and numerous opportunities from turnovers but could not find the big sticks. In contrast, Uni only went inside a50 a few times for 2 goals. The second quarter was a very even affair and in the third Uni were getting numbers back making it difficult for the Raggies to score. The scores were tied at 3 quarter time. In the last, Skurrie took a strong mark and goaled to put the Raggies 7 points in front. There was only 3 minutes remaining and it looked like a Raggies win. Raggies had controlled this quarter and not allowed Uni any scoring opportunities until loose checking allowed Uni in for a goal. In the last minute a well directed snap was going to give the Raggies a fourth straight loss - but wait, what's this? Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it a low flying swallow? No it's a Griffio who dived onto the ball only centimetres from the line, and copped a kick in the head for his troubles. But as was the story all day, there was no free kick, the point counted and it was a draw.

Round 13	11 July	<i>Athelstone</i>	6.6	10.12	19.18	28.21 (189)
	Blair Athol Reserve	<i>Kilburn</i>	0.0	0.1	2.3	2.5 (17)

Best - J.Sheedy, J.Platten, K.Hopper, T.White, B.Miller

Goals - T.White 8, K.Hopper, B.Miller 4, S.Fraser, J.Sheedy 3, A.Blake, M.Grossmann 2, S.Sullivan, S.Willment

Photos

Raggies kicked with the advantage of a stiff, gusty breeze in the first quarter. By not playing in front several scoring opportunities were lost. Raggies applied more pressure in the second quarter and attacked relentlessly into the wind. In the third the Raggies responded to coach Carr's halftime requests. Team play with handballs improved and Kilburn were punished with 9 goals for the quarter. Lets just say the last quarter was clean and decisive as the Raggies won the ball from centre and continually took the short cut fome - straight down the middle.

Round 14	18 July	<i>Eastern Park</i>	5.4	11.8	13.8	17.13 (115)
	Dwight Reserve	Athelstone	3.0	5.4	10.9	13.10 (88)

Best - J.Platten, J.Maschotta, B.Zanker, T.White, B.Lomman

Goals - T.White 5, B.Skurrie 3, K.Hopper 2, B.Miller, S.Sullivan, S.Willment

All the pressure was on the Raggies backline in the first quarter as Eastern Park were finding the loose man in the centre. Athelstone were struggling to get the ball past half forward and were not able to hold the ball in the scoring zone. The first half of the second quarter was extremely costly as Athelstone were doing all the attacking but missed four set shots. Turnovers from defence proved costly as Eastern Park dominated the second half of the quarter with 4 goals.

The third quarter was our best with a much more determined effort all over and the backline standing firm to minimise Eastern Park's scoring chances. A feature of this quarter were the long kicks from centre and defence which isolated Whitey enabling him to take several strong marks. The revival continued early in the last quarter but EP added 3 goals to snuff out our chance of a come from behind victory.

Achievements - Scott Sullivan 100 games

Round 15	25 July	<i>Athelstone</i>	5.1	9.6	13.8	19.11 (125)
	Torrens Valley	Flinders Park	5.5	6.9	6.11	8.15 (63)

Best - J.Platten, J.Trish, B.Lomman, A.Blake, S.Willment

Goals - T.White 4, J.Trish 3, S.Willment, S.Sullivan, B.Skurrie, J.Platten 2, A.Blake, K.Hopper, A.Ruggiero, C.McPeake

Photos

At the twenty-minute mark of the first quarter the Raggies were down and out. Flinders Park had loose players everywhere and had complete control where the game starts – at the centre bounce. They had three goals on the board before Raggies went inside 50 for the first time and five on the board at the start of time on when Raggies went on a goal-scoring splurge. The mid field lifted and suddenly quick entries were rewarded albeit one goal will embarrass a clumsy footed Flinders Park defender for many a day. With a goal after the siren the Raggies were only four points down.

Unbelievably 5 minutes into the second quarter the Raggies were in front. Now the game was opening up, particularly in Athelstone's forward lines and gaps were appearing in the Flinders Park defence.

Athelstone were now finding it much easier to move the ball through the centre and with the forward lines playing their best team football of the season ten players were to share the goal scoring.

Importantly a couple of Raggies are finding lost form.

Round 16	1 August	<i>Athelstone</i>	4.1	8.4	9.7	12.10 (82)
	Broadview Oval	<i>Broadview</i>	5.1	7.4	8.7	11.11 (77)

Best - J.Platten, B.Zanker, S.Willment, J.Bennett, J.Trish

Goals - T.White, S.Sullivan 3, B.Skurrie, J.Maschotta 2, A.Ruggiero, J.Trish

Photos

Raggies opened the scoring against the breeze with Platten running through the centre and setting up Skurrie who was freed. Broadview responded with a scrambled goal. Athelstone were rebounding on the Broadview kickouts from defence and strong marking from the Raggies forwards returned goals from Skurrie and Maschotta. Broadview responded with a long goal and immediately won the ball from centre for another. Great thinking by Sullivan to play on after Skurrie was freed tied the score but Broadview had a set shot after the siren to go into the first break with a 6 point lead.

A Grossmann intercept set up White for a goal from 30 metres. A snap by White for his second gave Raggies the lead and when Ruggiero kicked on the run the Raggies were looking good. Carr's zone was forcing the turnovers and Broadview was starting to wilt under the tackling pressure applied by the Raggies. A 2 goal lead was reduced when Broadview had another set shot after the siren. Both sides missed easy opportunities in the third. Raggies backlines were under pressure with Broadview using the wind to advantage and getting numbers back, double teaming Trish and making it difficult to get through half forward. To make matters worse Athelstone lost Sheedy and Waldon this quarter.

Athelstone scored first in the last quarter when Maschotta goaled as a result of great teamplay from the back pocket and through the centre corridor. The Raggies were under pressure when two easy shots were missed and Broadview looked like taking the advantage feeding out off the packs. Raggies were let off the hook when Broadview missed shots. With 5 minutes to go Broadview goaled and hit the front but Sullivan won back the lead when he was freed and kicked truly from tight on the boundary line.

Again Broadview goaled and with 3 minutes left the Raggies were 2 points down. Trish won the hard ball and did everything right except kick the goal from 5 metres out. The Raggies were a point down with Broadview attacking. With under 30 seconds left Griffin marked strongly on the line to save a certain goal and then the Raggies did everything right to take the ball the length of the oval to have Sullivan freed deep in the pocket as the siren sounded. For the second time in four minutes Sullivan kicked truly to give the Raggies victory over the premierships leaders and to keep their finals dream alive. The Raggies earned this win by applying strong body pressure for four quarters and by utilizing the big oval to their own advantage.

Round 17	8 August	<i>Athelstone</i>	4.2	6.5	7.11	11.15 (81)
	Torrens Valley	Seaton Ramblers	2.1	5.9	5.14	9.17 (71)

Best - A.Westergreen, K.Griffin, S.Willment, J.Bennett, A.Blake

Goals - T.White 4, B.Skurrie 3, J.Platten, A.Blake, S.Harkin, J.Maschotta

Photos

Seaton won the opening bounce and went straight into attack for a goal. Hopper to the square and Skurrie kicked off the ground for our first. Despite numerous inside 50s, Raggies were not finding the man and Seaton were spoiling effectively. It took a series of handballs from Sullivan and White for Skurrie to score our second and off hands to score our third.

Seaton were doing all the attacking in the first half of the second quarter before taking the lead with two quick goals at the midway point. Raggies first score (a behind) came at the 15 minute mark and Skurrie's third entering time on. Seaton finished the quarter with a flurry of shots but were off line. A great run by Blake set White up for his second and a 1 point lead. Raggies were playing their best football for the quarter as the siren sounded.

Raggies were strong in the first half of a rough and tumble third quarter but could only manage the one goal from the opening centre bounce. A string of behinds was matched by Seaton who finished the quarter strongly. Seaton scored immediately from the centre bounce before the Raggies played their best forward moves of the game to score 3 unanswered goals through Blake, Maschotta and White. Seaton then went on a 3 goal scoring spree to get within 2 points and could have hit the front if not for a very poor shot at goal. Harkin goaled shortly after to steady the team.

Achievements - Kyle Griffin 50 games

Round 18

15 August
Payneham Oval

Payneham NU
Athelstone

5.5 6.11 9.13 11.15 (81)
0.2 2.9 3.10 9.14 (68)

Best - J.Platten, K.Griffin, B.Zanker, J.Trish, B.Skurrie
Goals - J.Trish 3, T.White 2, K.Hopper, B.Skurrie, S.Willment, B.Zanker

Photos

PNU used the wind to advantage in the first quarter. They gained first use of the ball by winning off-centre bounces, and were able to create the loose man across half forward creating scoring opportunities. Our forward line entries were continually repelled by the PNU defenders who double teamed Whitey effectively.

Raggies first goal came from a great pack mark in the square by Trishy as Raggies were continually on the attack in the early part of the quarter. Opportunities were going begging as the Raggies forwards could not find the space between the sticks.

PNU began the third with 2 goals before the Raggies scored their first against the wind when Zanker marked a long kick from Trish. A late goal from PNU spoilt a strong quarter from the Raggies.

With the breeze no longer an advantage the last term was surrendered early with 2 early PNU goals.

With Raggies playing desperate attacking football the gap was reduced to 3 goals entering time on.

With Whitey's last goal we were within reach but time was against the Raggies. PNU's strong defence in the first half was the matchwinner.

Premiership Table

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	%
Payneham NU	14	1	3	2020	1360	29	59.8
Broadview	13	0	5	1880	1251	26	60.0
Eastern Park	12	1	5	2097	1624	25	56.4
PHOS Camden	12	0	6	1900	1315	24	59.1
Adelaide University	10	1	7	1517	1308	21	53.7
Athelstone	9	1	8	1609	1408	19	53.3
Flinders Park	7	0	11	1462	1585	14	48.0
Pembroke OS	6	0	12	1394	1680	12	45.3
Seaton Ramblers	5	0	13	1499	1933	10	43.7
Kilburn	0	0	18	865	2779	0	23.7

Qualifying Final Broadview 19.12 (126) d Eastern Park 11.10 (76)

22nd August

Broadview Oval

Elimination Final PHOS Camden 17.12 (114) d Adelaide University 8.5 (53)

22nd August

Camden Oval

2nd Semi Final Broadview 10.5 (65) d Payneham NU 9.5 (59)

29th August

Payneham Oval

1st Semi Final Eastern Park 12.11 (83) d PHOS Camden 11.8 (74)

29th August

Dwight Reserve

Preliminary Final Payneham NU 17.9 (111) d Eastern Park 12.17 (89)

5th September

Payneham Oval

Grand Final Broadview 16.14 (110) d Payneham NU 8.14 (62)

12th September

Thebarton Oval

Goalkickers

T.White	80
S.Sullivan	27
B.Skurrie	22
K.Hopper	16
J.Trish	14
J.Maschotta	13
M.Grossmann	11
B.Miller	8
A.Blake	8
S.Willment	8
S.Harkin	5
M.Caudle	3
J.Sheedy	3
S.Fraser	3
A.Ruggiero	3
J.Platten	3
J.Orlando	2
R.Cotter	1
A.Westergreen	1
J.Duigan	1
M.Zillante	1
C.McPeake	1
B.Zanker	1

Club Best and Fairest Votes

