

# Grange Royals 2018 Season Round Up

September 2018



*2018 Season Round Up  
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## Presidents Report

It is with great pleasure that I present this report, as a member of a very proud club with a rich history, many dedicated members supporting the current operations, and a commitment to a strong future on and off the field. In 2018 we fielded 10 Senior teams, from Premier League to Masters, and 7 Junior teams. Our teams this year were:

Premier League Women

Metro 1 Men

Metro 2 Men

Metro 4 Women

Masters Women

Premier League Men

Metro 2 Women

Metro 3 Women

Metro 5 Men

Masters Men

Under 18 Boys

Under 15 Boys

Under 11 Mixed

Under 9 Mixed - Maroon

Under 15 Girls

Under 13 Girls

Under 9 Mixed - White

Seven of these teams made the finals; Premier League Men, M2 Women, Metro 3 Women and the Masters Men, as well as our Under 15 Boys and Girls and Under 13 Girls. In addition to this, our Masters Women finished Runners Up; a great outcome in their first season.

Their finals participation resulted in 1 Premiership.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Metro 2 Women on their premiership.

The last year once again saw a variety of successes on and off the field.

These included:

- The ongoing development of our hockey programs, including further improvement in our Premier League squads and increasing numbers of players selected in state and development programs,
- The continuation of our junior development sessions, though the Hooked in 2 Hockey program, schools' program and holiday sessions, coordinated by Pam Edwards,
- welcoming new members and families to our club, at both junior and senior level,
- the successful management of all that is required to host the SAPSASA District Championships, managed by Kim Pena, with the key support of Kaye Chandler,
- greater success in running our own Fiji Fundraiser Raffle,
- our 5th Cancer Council Fundraising Day, coordinated by Mark and Claire Dedman, focusing on raising awareness and funds to make a difference in honour or memory of the many club members and their family members who have had cancer,
- successfully applying for a grant through the Charles Sturt Council Green Grants program to upgrade our internal lighting and fridges and freezers, and
- the weekly provision of club services, bar and meals, at our clubrooms each Saturday nights.

## Presidents Report

These successes, and our overall operations, are a direct outcome of the commitment of a significant number of club members who undertake leadership and coordination roles, including:

- Lyn Phillips and Dzidra Rogers for their ongoing support in managing the day to day club operations,
- Kim Pena, Mark Dedman, Pam Edwards and Jaki Nanasi for coordinating and managing special events, and all their helpers,
- Our kitchen operations people, in particular Lidia Morizzi, James Clifford, Kim Pena, Cooper Silby, Gary Silby and Robyn Edwards; and those that helped for a night during the year,
- Dave Aird for his coordination of our bar operations,
- Coaches, managers and team captains, and
- all the other members who assisted by working behind the bar, in the kitchen, fixing things, chasing up matters and volunteering in so many ways.

We are fortunate to have such a number of people who are willing to help out. The majority of you are not named personally here but your support was noted and is absolutely appreciated!

Further growth in our hockey program and the development of our club operations and facilities continue to direct the major priorities of our Management Committee. The Committee is currently finalising the completion of a new Strategic Plan to direct the focus of this work for the next 3 years. Key aspects of this plan are:

- Provision of a home ground and training facilities and that are of high standard, local and available at required times,
- Attracting new players to our club, in addition to supporting and providing a quality playing and club experience for our current members,
- Exposure of hockey to a great number of children in schools,
- Maintaining our volunteer numbers, and considering possibilities for further expansion,
- Further development of our coaches for teams and programs,
- Management of the costs of playing hockey; focusing on keeping it as affordable as possible, and
- Enhancement of club governance and operations practices.

In finishing my report, I'd like to thank, again this year, the two groups without who I would not have been able to undertake the role of President.

To my family, I thank you for your support and understanding as I continue to fulfil this role alongside a range of other commitments. It is one that brings a range of challenges and time commitments; however, these are far outweighed by the rewards of being a part in the management of a club of which I am truly proud to be a member.

The committee, Purdy Lynch, Sophie Common, Jane Kaesler, Kaye Chandler, Mark Dedman, Jaki Nanasi, Chris Fisher, Gail Ruediger and Gary Silby. Each of them was a great support. Our club is fortunate to have this number of people willing to commit to support the club through their role. Their diverse range of skills and commitment to undertake tasks to the best of their ability is what underpinned the various successes that were achieved.

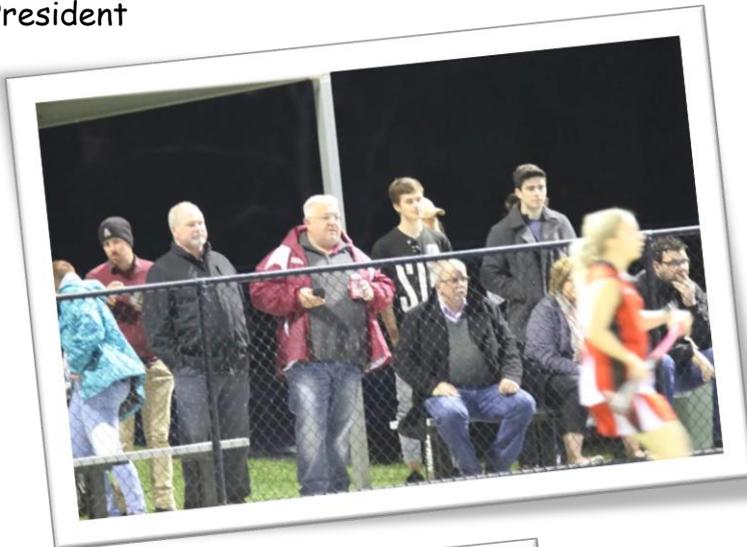
# Presidents Report

In addition to these people I would like to share a particular note of thanks to Lyn Philips who has supported the club through her generosity in sharing her expertise and time over a significant number of years. Lyn will conclude the variety of financial operational and management responsibilities and club organisational and management roles at the end of this season. Most of you will not have seen the quality support and significant work Lyn has undertaken over a long period of time; since the early 2000s. On so many occasions she has stepped in when there has been a particular financial or organisational demand. The awarding of Life membership to Lyn a few years ago is symbolic of her commitment to and support of our club. Thank You!

I would like to finish with a sincere 'Thank you' to all in the club who assisted in Grange Royals having such a successful year.

As I finish off with every year - may 2019 bring further success and enjoyment for all those playing, and supporting those, in Maroon and White (& a bit of grey) for the Grange Royals Sea Eagles.

Dave Edwards  
President



## Editor's Note

A huge thank you again goes to Claire Dedman for the supply of photos for our annual Round Up. Without her time behind the camera lens and the countless hours editing, our special club moments would be lost forever. Claire has again put together a year book which captures our special moments of 2018. Due to an early presentation dinner and a few grand finals, we were unable to have it printed in time for tonight. Stay tuned.

# Premier League Men

## 2018 Premier League Men Season Report

Our key aim in starting the year was to improve on the foundation laid by previous coach Mark Dedman and play finals. The team had been close before, especially in 2016 however dropped 1, maybe 2 key games in that year to deny them a finals spot. The top 5 to 6 teams in the PL are very tightly contested and it only takes one bad performance or an unexpected loss to cost a finals position. With that in mind we went about mapping out the season to position ourselves to realise the goal.

In planning for the 2018 season we identified a few key areas of improvement that would be required if we were to play finals namely: 1. Improve the fitness of the group 2. Increasing the number of goals scored by key members of the forward line and 3. Increasing our Attacking Penalty Corner conversion rate. In addition to these areas of focus we put a number of key steps in place to achieve our goal including:

- After we were appointed as coaches in December we approached Alec Buttfield, who is a club member and highly regarded Sports Bio mechanist, to plan out a pre-season program. The program designed by Alec includes 3 sessions a week as part of the training program during January, February and March. We would like to acknowledge and thank Alec for his time and effort in putting together the program with us! It was a key part of the foundation we formed to be successful during the year.
- In December we also met with our nominated co-captains Dan Pena and Cameron White to outline our plan for the season.
- Kerri & Phil Prider were appointed as managers of the PL team. The aim was for them to take on all of the important managerial tasks to allow us to focus on the hockey side of coaching. Kerri and Phil have done an amazing job in this role this year. They will both be slightly embarrassed by the thanks but that is a measure of their selfless attitude to serving others. A trait that is the definition of leadership and teamwork and a really good example to others around the team.
- We started pre-season on 16 Jan which included a meeting with the full playing group to outline the season plan and expectations for the team.
- There were some key inclusions to the playing group including Thomas Jordan who was a huge in to the defensive midfield and Brad Sofia who stepped into the GK position to replace Oscar Keating. These two inclusions were a significant part of the reason why we played finals.
- Nathan Burgess was appointed M1 Men's coach around March 2018 which was a massive relief and support to us as coaches. Nathan who was a former PL GK at Grange Royals HC spent a number of years cutting his teeth coaching in Ballarat.

# Premier League Men

It became increasingly clear through our interactions with Nathan that his knowledge and the way he communicates that knowledge is excellent and we were lucky to have him included in the coaching panel this year. Thank you Natty for your efforts and great collaboration this year! Looking forward to what you bring to the club next year!

When the season got underway we had a team that was fit and firing. We identified that we wanted to be at least 4 wins from our first 5 games. After our 6th game we were sitting 4th with 3 wins (vs Woodville, Adelaide Uni & Forestville) 1 draw vs Burnside which was potential costly and a 0-2 loss to Port. Going forward the team needs to set themselves for games like the Burnside game and focus as we were 0-3 down before we even got started.

Up to round 10 we then had a midweek game v Seacliff at Seacliff in horrendous weather to match the 1 - 6 score line; followed by a 4 - 0 win vs Adelaide Uni and 3-0 win vs Woodville. Round 10 saw us draw 3-3 against North East meaning we maintained our 4th place on the ladder. Rounds 11 - 15 turned out to be a crucial period for the season and included the game that really gave the team increased belief that playing in the finals was highly achievable. Despite losses to Adelaide and Port (1st and 2nd respectively) the team beat Seacliff 2-1 at Seacliff for the first time in at least a decade - it was a very deserving win and actually if we put our chances away could have been a bigger margin. This was followed by a win against Burnside which meant we were still comfortably in 4th, 8 points clear of Forestville.

Round 16 - 21 started with a disappointing 3 - 4 loss to Forestville; the team who were closest to us on points for 4th position. We bounced back with a strong 7 - 2 win v Adelaide Uni and an ordinary 6-1 win vs Woodville. We lost 1 - 5 to Port on a Wednesday night where we played 15 players and had only 1 available interchange by the end of the match. However, a 4 - 0 win against North East secured us a finals berth for the first time in 15 years with two minor rounds to go. This game vs North East represents a significant evolution in the maturity of the team. The confidence and belief that was shown at half time where the score was 0-0, led by senior players, to trust our style resulted in us running away 4 nil. This result demonstrates that the group has matured significantly this year.

The last two minor rounds provided us with a perfect scenario leading into the finals by playing against Adelaide and Seacliff. Unfortunately, Adelaide beat us comprehensively on their sandpit 2 - 7 with the game being effectively sealed when we went down 0 - 4 in first 20 minutes. In the final round before our round 23 bye we were beaten 0 - 3 by Seacliff in a dead rubber albeit a good opportunity for us to learn ahead of our final. Unfortunately, despite playing a significantly better game in the final we weren't able to score and lost 0 - 3 (0-2 until we took our GK off in the final 2 minutes).

Season Key Stats:

- 21 games, 10 wins, 9 losses, and 2 draws (including the Semi Final loss)
- 69 goals scored, and 57 against
- Leading scorers were Cameron White 16, Dan Pena 15, Will Abbott 11, Isaac Whittaker 8, Paxton Silby 5, Ryan Muirhead 5, Josh Whittaker 3, Jonah Williams 3,

# Premier League Men

Cameron Hope 2, Harry Prider 1

There are some huge positives and learnings that the team can take from the season that has built on the foundation we started the season with, including:

- The team has a significant core of players that are emerging who are under 21 years old including Will Abbott and Isaac Whittaker who both finished in the top 10 of the Hockey SA Player of the Year award - a huge milestone for the club! Include in this the further development of Bryley Dedman, Paxton Silby, Harry Prider as well as Jordan Chandler and Harry Abbott who are at U15 and U18 level respectively there is an outstanding foundation of youth to build the team around.
- Cameron White finished 2nd in the Hockey SA Player of the Year award. Cuffy is the best player in the competition in our opinion and has emerged as a true leader for our club.
- The core of more senior players including Cameron Hope, Dan Pena, Thomas Jordan, Matthew Broun, Brad Sofia, Callan Summers, Josh Whittaker, Ryan Muirhead are all reaching a stage where they are at their peak over the next 2-3 years. Combine that with youthful injections into the team and it becomes a combination that will prove successful in future finals campaigns.
- A key learning for the team is around commitment and training expectations. There needs to be an investment from the team to be at training both Tuesday and Thursday night. This will allow for the next level strategic planning that is required to take the team to the next level and be a real premiership contender.

We would like to sincerely thank the playing and support team for their efforts during the year. Yes, we did play finals for the first time in 15 years, yes that is something to celebrate, however we would grade that as an on-par result. The team should be playing and winning finals...that was our expectation at the start of the year. The question to the group is how badly they want to work for it and realise the value of dedication, team work and effort. The future looks very positive too and with the further inclusion of some young talent coming in the years ahead our club is on a successful trajectory!

Ben Edwards & Gavin Buttle  
Co-coaches

# Premier League Men



# Premier League Women

## 2018 Premier League Women's Report

Finished 8th - 4 Wins - 14 Goals

Goal Scorers - Kayla Pena 6, Abbey Mitton 4, Annie Abbott 1, Jami Weinel 1, Georgia Whittaker 1, Amy Wilsdon 1.

It would be simple to look at the ladder at the end of the year to measure improvement. Compared to last year, we won 1 extra game, doubled our goals scored and conceded less, but there were so many more positives from the season. We were very competitive, created a lot of scoring opportunities, introduced some exciting juniors and played a style of hockey that was good to watch.

Our very first game gave me a lot optimism for the year. Even though we lost 1 nil, we moved the ball fluently from defence to attack, pressured well and took the opposition on at every opportunity. This style was on show again in our next game against Woodville where we enjoyed a 3-nil victory. I couldn't remember the last time I've seen the girls score 3 goals in a game, and we certainly enjoyed the Razzle Dazzle after. The signs were there that we had a style of play that can still be strong defensively while creating attacking opportunities.

As I reviewed our results for the year, out of our 20 games there were 6 that I would consider poor, with a score of 5 goals or greater against us. These were against the clubs who occupied the top three positions on the ladder. In the remaining 14 games we were definitely in each contest, and I really believe we can continue to develop and reduce the gap to the teams in the top 4.

We have good mix of young and experienced players and the support and encouragement they provide each other makes me extremely proud to be a part of it. This team is fantastically led by Kelly Whittaker, and her support and care for her team mates is why she is respected among her peers. There were times throughout the year, where a young player might feel over whelmed or under pressure, and before I need to ask if they are OK, one of our senior players already has an arm around them. That is something that is special to this group and this club.

Throughout the year we used 23 players, including bringing Claire Dedman out of retirement. We had two of our U15 junior stars, Annie Abbott and Tia Dedman, make their debut along with a new player Maya Standish from Tanunda. (A big thanks goes to Robby Ebert for recruiting her, keep up the good work!). This was Maya's first year in Adelaide Premier League, but showed great fight and improved with every game. Another country junior from Waikerie, Justice Ebert, from Waikerie, in only her second year, was outstanding and has become an integral part of the team. Amy Wilsdon, from Nuriootpa but with Grange Royals blood lines, after a full year in premier league is showing great promise.

## Premier League Women

We had other country-based girls play with us this year and I can't be more grateful for the effort to get to games. Thanks to Danica Manfield from Pirie, her experience and skill made an impact every game she could play. The Whittaker's, Kelly and, Georgia and Chloe, making the trip from Ardrossan every week for training and matches is outstanding.

Our leading goal scorer this year was Kayla Pena. Kayla has a knack at being in the right place at the right time and can hit a nice ball no matter what foot she chooses to hit off. Abbey Mitton has had another great year. Second in goals scored but worked tirelessly forward and back and displayed skill with killer tomahawks and timely overheads. Both these girls are only just out of junior ranks but are integral to our team progress.

I am very lucky to have a group of leaders that can handle their hockey work load with their regular jobs. These girls will run out every game and never complained, well not to me anyway. Abby Docking, Abbey Mitton, Laura "3 votes" Germein, Caitlin Abbott, Kelly and Georgia Whittaker, were my engine room as they played just about every game and in nearly all cases without a sub. They all troubled the opposition when we had the ball, with speed and skill. This group is topped off having Amy Hammond in the net. Her experience and leadership from the back made our defence a tough one to crack. I am in awe of their endurance and the standards they set for our group, certainly developing a fantastic team culture.

I was very fortunate to have players that would play 2 games in a weekend to support the M2's. Thanks Sophie, Jesse, Lorraine (Randy), Rachel, Sonia, Tia and Annie, fantastic to have a little depth to call on when needed. Even better to see these girls assist the M2's to a premiership. Special thanks to Annie Davies for filling in as goal keeper when Amy was away with state duties. Unfortunately, she always seems to come up against the top 2 sides, but she never lets us down and I know the girls appreciate having her there. Also special thanks to Bec and Chloe Whittaker for helping out when we really needed it. To be able to call on you two quality girls is very much appreciated.

I have to thank Judith Branford for manning the tech bench for our home games. I am always grateful when I see her at the ground as I have always forgotten to check if she will be there. I also have to thank Robby Ebert, Mark and Claire Dedman for all the fantastic photos that get posted every week. I have no idea of the time it must take, but I know everyone enjoys the photos. Great promotion for our club too. Last but not least I have to thank my wife Christine for taking on the manager's duties, putting up with my antics on the side line dodging sunglasses and water bottles, and for giving me the time to coach by looking after everything else.

It has been a good year of improvement, with plenty to work with for next year. This group has enough talent to push further and I hope all players can see that too. I have so much support from people within the club, parents and friends, always positive and encouraging and most importantly enjoying watching the progress.

Greg Abbott.

# Premier League Women



# Metro 1 Men

## METRO 1 MEN YEARLY REPORT - SEASON 2018

For the Metro 1 Men, 2018 has been a year of mixed results but as we discussed all year, success is measured in more ways than points on a scoreboard or final positions on a ladder. For the team this year, we have seen huge success in many different ways as a team.

This year the M1M have developed a successful style of hockey that proved challenging to many top teams and certainly made us more than competitive within our league. We also developed a trust in each other and a discipline across all aspects of our game.

The team also provided excellent learning opportunities, which saw members regularly playing up in our Premiere League team and has allowed many of our younger club players to experience a high level of Men's hockey.

While we didn't find the back of the net as much as we would have liked, and while some of our wins ended up draws, the M1M succeeded in bonding as a team, improving in our team game and strategy and most importantly strove to improve and enjoy playing together.

Finally, huge thanks should go to all the players who committed to the team throughout the year and those who stepped up from the M2M to cover when numbers were short. A further huge thank you goes to Jessica Mensforth for managing through the year, and the multitude of people who stepped in to assist and cover different positions throughout the year what was, in our own way, a very successful year!

Nathan Burgess



# Metro 1 Men



# Metro 2 Men

## 2018 Metro 2 Men Season Report

The Metro 2 men's season began with high expectations. The previous three years have resulted in three premierships and a grade promotion. An outstanding achievement from the players and the outgoing coach Gavin Buttle. A fourth premiership is what we were aiming for this year, unfortunately it was not to be.

There was a healthy amount of players available at the start of the year. A core group from the premiership years decided to go again with a few additions. Ryan Bowden was a welcome return to the club and we were introduced to the newcomer Matt Hodgman. Numbers at training were good enough to have game simulations and large competitive drills. It was the ideal situation for coaching a team that was pushing for a flag. The pressures of work, family, and other commitments meant that the healthy numbers we were seeing dropped dramatically. Fewer numbers at training was manageable, but when fewer people became available for games it made things difficult. One reason for the decrease in numbers was positive for the individuals it involved. Phil Donnelly was promoted to the Metro 1 team in the first few weeks of the season. After a best on ground performance against Woodville early in the year, Harry Abbott was picked up by the Metro 1s and the Metro 2s did not see him again. It was a similar story for Will Hargrave after he returned to hockey midway through the year. Matt Rutgers was in charge of getting eleven players each week and considering the circumstances, he did an admirable job. To supplement numbers, players from the Metro 5s were asked to fill in when they could. Matt Hodgman and David Billows stepped up on multiple occasions and played their role as good as we could have asked for.

The makeup of the team changed every week and with that came a change of positions. When we needed players to take on a role that they were not use to or comfortable with, they did so without hesitation. How quickly the players were able to adapt was impressive and without this the team would not have been able to function. It was not just playing in new positions, but also playing in positions more physically demanding than their bodies could handle. After our regular centre-half was out injured, Brenton Perkins played the demanding position. This was vital to the team, but it took a toll on Perky which saw him miss the rest of the season. The centre-half who was injured for that game was Michael Fraser. Michael's commitment was unparalleled, and this is shown by his goal against Adelaide late in the season. We were looking at playing with only nine players when Fraser showed up to the ground to watch while nursing his hamstring injury. After finding out we were short, he retrieved his playing gear from the car to play as a high striker. In the first five minutes he got the ball on the wing, passed four players with ease, dragged the goalie and put the ball in the goal.

## Metro 2 Men

While scoring, the injured hamstring was torn even more, and the season was over again for Fraser. This early goal threw off Adelaide who struggled with the pressure of being a goal down. Both Perky and Fraser are just two examples of countless efforts of players putting the team first. This year we could not fault the on-field effort. It was one aspect of coaching I did not need to push for or work on, it was always there.

Along with the on-field effort was both improvement and good hockey. James Cushway went from a reliable striker/midfielder to a half back, and late in the year to a fullback. His versatility was coupled with improvement in the different positions. A defender needs to be relied on under pressure and James became that player. The player that improved most during the year was the goalie, Willem Daniel. At the begging of the year Willem's saving ability was at a high level, but there was room for improvement in calling and running out to shut-down players. Throughout the year the calling improved, and Willem became confident leaving the goals to cover a quick break.

Our season did not end in the way we had planned. The lack of numbers took its toll and results did not go our way. Despite this, we were close in every game. There was only one game that we were out played in for the year. Every other round we dominated the play for at least large amounts of the game. We were not able to convert our chances, and this resulted in many frustrating close loses. Before the final two rounds our goal difference for the year was only minus three. For a team that only had a handful of wins this is a good representation of our team defence and effort working back.

The final two rounds resulted in forfeits. Through unavailability and injury, we had only four players available. A bleak end to the season.

This season would not have happened at all if it were not for Matt Rutgers. He co-coached, managed the team, and organised player numbers. A stressful job at the best of times, let alone under difficult circumstances.

Jesse Pattison-White

Best & Fairest - Michael Fraser

Leading Goal scorer - Michael Fraser (10)

# Metro 2 Men

