South Adelaide Past Players & Officials – 2026 Annual Report

It has been another busy and productive year for the South Adelaide Past Players & Officials, with our focus continuing to be on keeping our past players connected with the football club, supporting our current players and programs, and looking after members of the South Adelaide family when they need us.

Throughout 2026 we held a number of successful events, starting with our Baggie Blue cap presentation at the first home game of the season. Our Hut on the Hill days continued to provide a great meeting place for past players and officials throughout the season, while our new initiative this year, the 100 Club fundraiser was a huge success selling out all 100 tickets.

We also celebrated some significant moments in the club's history with the 1979 League and Reserves Grand Final Reunion and the 1991 Reserves Premiership Reunion. These occasions are an important part of what the PP&O is all about—bringing old teammates and friends back together and making sure the history and people of South Adelaide remain connected to the club.

Looking After Our Own

An important part of the PP&O's role continues to be supporting the wellbeing of our past players and officials.

During the year we continued to provide access to our Mental Healthcare Support Program, Pastoral Care Support and Life Coach Mentoring. These programs are there to provide confidential assistance and support to current and past players if required.

Keeping Our History Connected

The development and ongoing management of the Past Players & Officials section of the SAFC website has also continued during 2026.

This gives us an important platform to recognise our past players and officials, communicate what the PP&O is doing and help preserve the history and achievements of the people who have represented South Adelaide.

Supporting Our Junior Players

Our involvement isn't only about looking backwards. We also want the PP&O to play a part in the development of the next generation of South Adelaide players.

Our $250 PP&O '1%er Champion' Award continued for both the Under 16 and Under 18 programs, recognising players selected by the match committee who consistently demonstrate the team-orientated acts that don't always appear on the stats sheet.

Supporting the Senior Program

The PP&O continued to provide meaningful support to our senior football program throughout the year.

This included a $5,000 contribution towards the senior team's pre-season camp, along with continuing the tradition of presenting Baggie Blue caps to League debutants and sending each debutant a congratulatory letter from the PP&O.

At home matches we continued the PP&O 1%er Award, recognising the player whose team-first efforts stood out on the day, with the recipient receiving a PP&O towel and stubby holder.

At the end of the season, the $500 PP&O 1%er Champion Award recognises the League player who has consistently demonstrated those same team-orientated qualities throughout the year.

We also continued our Player Soup Nights after training, which is a simple initiative but another good way for the PP&O to maintain a connection with today's playing group.

Supporting the Panther Zone

Our involvement extended into the Panther Zone, including providing footballs and SAFC merchandise for best-player awards.

We also supported a junior training session at Morphett Vale Football Club, which included the attendance of South Adelaide Past League players that originally played with MVFC as juniors. Initiatives such as these are important in strengthening the relationship between South Adelaide and the junior clubs and players within our zone.

Recognising Our Retiring Players

We have also continued to improve the way we recognise senior players when their playing careers at South Adelaide come to an end.

Recently retired senior players receive a personal retirement letter thanking them for their service, together with a career summary record recognising their contribution to the club.

Most importantly, it provides an introduction to the PP&O and lets retiring players know that while their playing career may have finished, their connection with South Adelaide certainly hasn't.

Fundraising and the Year Ahead

Everything we have been able to achieve throughout 2026 has been supported by the fundraising activities of the PP&O.

Our income has come through PP&O sponsorships, membership fees, the 100 Club, contributions associated with the Hut on the Hill and our various PP&O events and activities.

Rather than simply raising money, our aim has been to put those funds back into areas where they can make a genuine difference—supporting our past players and officials, recognising our history, assisting our junior and senior football programs and strengthening the connection between generations of South Adelaide people.

Special Thanks

Thanks so much to the Hut Bar Crew that work tirelessly at every home game serving drinks to the masses. Cheers to David, Jimmy, Ken, Mark and Bec for doing such a wonderful job.

In Remembrance

We also take a moment to remember those past players and officials who have sadly passed away during the year.

As a group, we will miss you dearly, and our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with your families and loved ones.

To those families, please know that you will always remain part of the South Adelaide family. You are more than welcome to join us at the Hut on the Hill, at the Club, or at any of our Past Players & Officials functions at any time.

Those who have contributed to our Club are never forgotten, and their connection to South Adelaide will always remain.

In Closing

There is always more we can do, but 2026 has been another positive year for the Past Players & Officials.

We have continued to build on what the PP&O represents: looking after our own, recognising our past, supporting the present and helping maintain a strong connection between everyone who has been part of the South Adelaide Football Club.

We look forward to continuing that work in 2027.

Trevor Mitton
President
South Adelaide Past Players & Officials