

A crowd of 160 guests attended the Port Football Club Past Players & Officials Association 41st Annual Dinner at the Club on the 23rd July 2011.

The 1951 Premiership team was represented by the last two surviving members in Ken Madigan and Laurie McMahon. Ken spoke very well on behalf of the 1951 side. This was the second premiership under the Port name. Sollies were going for three in a row but Port under the guidance of one of the Clubs greatest players in Captain Coach George Jobson Port won by 19 points. Jobson won the Clubs Best & Fairest in this Premiership season.

Port 10.13 73 defeated Solomontown 8.6 54

Goals Pat Roads 3, Mick Pollard 3, Laurie McMahon 2, Frank Audoss, Max Goodwin
Best Max Goodwin, John Connelly, George Jobson, Max Baker, Laurie McMahon,
Wally Schapel, John Condon

Other players from 1951 were Ken Madigan, Jack Clark, Martin Connelly, Ted Doyle, Ray Finn, Ray Kennedy, John Lemm, Biff Martin, Pat McBride & Mori Minervini.

The 1961 team was represented by Peter Murphy, Kevin Connor, Tom Keain, Vic Pisani, and Mick Tattoli.

Leon Conder – Seconds Coach and Selector

Mascot - Anthony Murphy

Time Keeper - Len Wolter

Head Trainer – John Capurso

Trainer – Laurie McMahon

Hugh Murphy missed the game with a broken jaw.

Also in attendance were two members of the losing South Whyalla side in Brian O'Loughlin and David Boath.

Tom Keain and Peter Murphy both spoke on the 1961 side and the general theme from both was the quality and confidence of the side.

The 1961 side won the first Spencer Gulf Football League Premiership.

The SGL was formed with amalgamation of the Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla football Leagues. This premiership was the fourth in a row for Port. In a great achievement against the might of Whyalla, Port Captain Coached by Hall of Fame Legend John Connelly lost only one game for the season in round 8 to South Whyalla by 1 point.

In a controversial Preliminary Final South Whyalla beat North Whyalla by a point after North had thought they had won by a point but the scoreboard was wrong. South Whyalla after losing the second semi final to Port were no match for Port in the Grand Final.

This side is regarded as one of the great Port sides.

Scores Port 11.9 75 defeated South Whyalla 7.12 54.

Goals: Wally Schapel 3, Wayne McGuinness 3, Mick Tattoli 2, Des Lemm, Tom Keain, Denis Wolter

Best: Peter Murphy, Wayne McGuinness, Mick Tattoli, Shorty Mezzino, Kevin Connor, Denis Wolter

Four of legends of the Hall of Fame were involved in 1961

John Connelly Captain Coach,
Peter Murphy Vice Captain,
Laurance Sheridan Secretary
Kevin Brady Treasurer

Other players involved in this side were Barry Lemm, Neville Markey, George Pepe, Simon Pisani, Don Rafanelli, Stan Steele, Paul Fitzgerald, Biff Martin, Norm Pisani, George Pollard & Vic Pisani.

Special Recognition to Head Trainer John Capurso, Time Keeper Len Wolter, Mascot Anthony Murphy and Seconds Coach Leon Conder.

Guests of honour were Club stalwarts John Pasculli & Ernie Rafanelli and both spoke of their passion for the Club.

John Pasculli

Highly regarded by his team mates and opponents as a very committed and hard at the ball rover. Inspired those around him, he was the third Port player to play 200 league games which was an outstanding effort.

John was dedicated to the club both on and off the field. Like his playing style he was never frightened to 'roll up his sleeves' and attended many working bees. John has remained an outstanding club person since moving to Adelaide.

League Best & Fairest 1974

League Premierships 1967, 1970

Ernie Rafanelli

A very tough and highly respected back pocket player. He may have been small in stature, but he was never frightened to go in incredibly hard for the ball against players much bigger. Like his brothers he was highly rated by all his coaches especially Bob Hammond. Ernie continues to be an outstanding and valued worker in the kitchen continues the great Rafanelli family involvement as volunteer cooks. Ernie has always been admired as a great club man and setting a fine example for others to follow.

League Premierships 1966, 1967, 1970.

Seconds Premiership 1976

Umpired in the PPFL for many years having only recently retired.

Guest speaker Gary Metcalf, President Glenelg Football Club spoke on his involvement in football from his days at West Whyalla, to West Torrens and Glenelg. He touched on the sacking of Mark Mickan and how Glenleg is run. His talk was well received.