



The Early Years

The Osborne Park Football Club has a proud tradition which dates back to the 1920s. The year of establishment for the club is formally recognised as 1922, but there are some indications that the Club existed in some form prior to this date.

The earliest written account of the Club is a set of minutes from the 1922 season, which are held in the Battye Library of Western Australia.

It is interesting to note that the colours of blue and gold were worn during these early years, and it was not until the 1940s that the traditional colours of red and white were adopted.

Perth Suburban Football Association – 1922 to 1924

1922

The Club first took to the field in the 1922 season as one of seven clubs competing in the newly formed Perth Suburban Football Association (PSFA). The inaugural president was John Tyler and the inaugural captain was Reg Johns. The Club played and trained at the Osborne Park Showgrounds (later known as Robinson Reserve). It took six games into the season to register the Club's first win, which was against West Subiaco by 17 points.

1923

The Club goes through the season without a win and finishes on the bottom of the ladder.

1924

The Club continues to compete in the PSFA, but the lack of on-field success and drop in player numbers results in the Club having to withdraw from the association after Round 10.

Social – 1925 to 1946

From 1925 onwards, the Club does not compete in regularly scheduled fixtures, but plays numerous 'social' games against clubs from local metropolitan leagues (including Wanneroo, Wembley and Mt Hawthorn) and nearby country leagues (including Sawyers Valley, Mt Helena, Bindoon and Gin Gin).

West Australian Amateur Football Association – 1947 to 1956

1947

The Club joins the West Australian Amateur Football Association (WAAFA) and commences regular competition in C-Grade. The Club scores just one behind in its first game against Swanbourne (which remains the Club's lowest score of all time). The first victory comes the following week with a 32-point win against Teachers Training College. The Club finishes its first season in 4th position, but is eliminated in the First Semi Final by East Perth – the final scores being East Perth 11.18 (84) to Osborne Park 7.11 (53).

1948

A restructure of the divisions in the WAAFA sees the Club placed in B-Grade East. The Club finishes the season in 5th place.

1949

The club remains in B-Grade East and finishes the season in 7th place.

1950

Another restructure of the divisions in the WAAFA sees the Club compete in B2-Grade. The Club finishes the season in 2nd place on the ladder, but loses the Second Semi Final to Maylands by 12 points and the Preliminary Final to Banks by 12 points.

1951

The Club is promoted to B1-Grade and finishes the season in 6th place. Mick Nanovich wins the Essex Medal for the WAAFA Fairest & Best player in B1-Grade. Mick Nanovich also won his second consecutive club Fairest & Best award (known as the Johns Medal).

1952

The Club makes the finals in B1-Grade, but is eliminated in the First Semi Final by Commonwealth Bank by 24 points.

1953

The Club finishes the B1-Grade season as minor premiers, but loses the Second Semi Final to University by 26 points and the Preliminary Final to West Perth by 3 points. Ray Okely wins the WAAFA B1-Grade Fairest & Best Medal.

1954

The Club wins its first ever premiership competing in B1-Grade. Coached by former West Perth champion, Doug Lind, the Club defeats Claremont-Nedlands by 34 points - the scores being Osborne Park 13.11 (89) to Claremont-Nedlands 7.13 (55). Ray Okely wins the WAAFA B1-Grade Fairest & Best Medal for the second consecutive year.



1955

The Club is promoted to A-Grade, but finds the going tough, winning just two games and finishing in 9th position.

1956

The Club is relegated back to B1-Grade and hits an all-time low, finishing the season without a win in bottom position. Despite the poor showing, Ray Okely defies the odds to win his third WAAFA B1-Grade Fairest & Best Medal in four years.

Sunday National Football League – 1957 to 1967

1957

The Club decides to affiliate with the Sunday National Football League (SNFL), which is reputed to be the strongest competition outside of the WAFL. The first Annual General Meeting is held at the Osborne Park Showgrounds on 16 March 1957. Elections are held for the inaugural office bearers, those being successful are Doug Lind (President), J Somers (Vice President), Fred Dans (Secretary), H Grigg (Assistant Secretary/Treasurer), P O'Bryan, Jim Brown, Guido Leuzzi, C Ferguson, Lewis Hasler and Keith Hale (General Committee). Guido Leuzzi is appointed captain-coach. In the first year, the club competes in B-Grade of the SNFL and finishes the season as minor premiers. After advancing through the finals, the club narrowly loses the Grand Final to Postals by 7 points – the final scores being Postals 9.2 (56) to Osborne Park 7.7 (49). Captain-Coach Guido Leuzzi wins the SNFL B-Grade Fairest & Best Medal.

1958

The Club is promoted to A-Grade of the Sunday League and finishes the season strongly in 2nd place. The Club loses the Second Semi Final to Scarborough by 16 points and then narrowly loses the Preliminary Final to Cardinals by 2 points.

1959

The Club finishes the season in 3rd position, but is eliminated by Scarborough in the First Semi Final. Kevin White wins the SNFL A-Grade Fairest & Best Medal.

1960

Under the leadership of former South Fremantle player Tony Parentich, the Club makes the finals and is forced to play Scarborough again in the First Semi Final. The two teams draw the first game but Scarborough wins the replay a week later by 26 points.

1961

The Club appoints former Swan Districts champion, Graham Bruce, as its League coach. The Club also fields a second side for the first time, competing in B-Grade of the SNFL. The League side narrowly misses out on the finals while the Seconds finish their first season in 9th position.

1962

The Club again narrowly misses the finals, finishing one game out of the top four.

1963

The Club finishes the season in 5th place in both A-Grade and B-Grade.

1964

The Club appoints another former Swan Districts champion, Dennis Carrick, to coach its League side. The appointment yields success, as the Club makes the finals for the first time in four years and finishes the season as minor premiers. The Club loses the Second Semi Final to Scarborough by 7 points and the Preliminary Final to Metropolitans by 2 points. The Reserves, who are coached by Ronal Bennett, also reach the Grand Final after finishing the season as minor premiers. However, they are defeated by Cockburn in a very low scoring Grand Final - the final scores being Cockburn 3.6 (24) to Osborne Park 1.4 (10). Former West Perth champion, Ray Schofield, wins the SNFL Leading Goal Kicker award with 77 goals for the season.

1965

The Club has a very successful season with both the League and Reserves sides winning their respective Grand Finals – the first club in the Sunday League to do so. The League side wins their Grand Final against Inglewood by 14 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 12.11 (83) to Inglewood 10.9 (69). Coach Dennis Carrick is awarded the Best on Ground in the Grand Final. The Reserves side, who are coached by League player Norm Smith, wins their Grand Final against East Fremantle by 9 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 10.7 (67) to East Fremantle 8.10 (58).

1966

The League side finishes the season in 4th position, but loses the First Semi Final to Midland by 30 points. The Reserves side wins their second consecutive premiership, this time against Metropolitans - the final scores being Osborne Park 8.8 (56) to Metropolitans 5.8 (38).



1967

After a successful stint with Perth in the WAFL, Guido Leuzzi returns as playing coach the Club's League side. The Club wins their second SNFL League premiership defeating arch rivals and close neighbours Scarborough by 37 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 12.21 (93) to Scarborough 8.8 (56). Norm Smith wins the Best on Ground in the Grand Final. Guido Leuzzi was unfortunately not able to play in the Grand Final due to injury. Frank Smith wins the SNFL Fairest & Best Medal.

West Australian Football Association – 1968 to 1983

1968

The Sunday National Football League is renamed as the West Australian Football Association (WAFA). The Club makes the Grand Final from 4th position, but is defeated by Scarborough by 30 points - the final scores being Scarborough 8.11 (59) to Osborne Park 3.11 (29). The Reserves side also makes the Grand Final from 3rd position and wins their third premiership by narrowly defeating Metropolitans – the final scores being Osborne Park 7.4 (46) to Metropolitans 6.8 (44). Ross Ayre wins the WAFA League Leading Goal Kicker award with 74 goals for the season, and Frank Franceschini wins the Best on Ground in the Reserves Grand Final.

1969

After making their 3rd consecutive Grand Final under captain-coach Guido Leuzzi, inaccurate kicking results in a narrow loss to arch rivals Wanneroo by 6 points - the final scores being Wanneroo 11.8 (74) to Osborne Park 8.20 (68). The Reserves side also make the finals but are eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Wanneroo. Graham Sertorio wins the WAFA Reserves Fairest & Best Medal. Late in 1968, planning started on a mammoth project which was the proposed trip to Singapore in 1969. Led by trip co-ordinator Norm Smith and his committee, fund raising was undertaken in various guises, such as bottle collecting, cleaning building sites, general odd jobs and gambling nights. Attendance at these fund raisers was rewarded with points towards their targets. After narrowly losing the Grand Final to Wanneroo, 39 players, officials and supporters left on 2 October on board the "Centaur" en route to Singapore and Malay – the first non-WAFL club to go overseas at that time.

1970

The Club misses out on the finals for the first time in seven years, finishing the season in 6th place. Despite missing out on the finals, the Club scores one of its highest scores of all time in Round 1 against Bayswater - the final scores being Osborne Park 44.35 (299) to Bayswater 3.8 (26). The Reserves side makes the Grand Final but is defeated by Metropolitans.

1971

Both League and Reserves finish the regular season in 4th position. The Reserves side loses their First Semi Final to South Perth, while the League side is eventually eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Belmont-Victoria Park. Len John wins the WAFA Reserves Fairest & Best Medal.

1972

The Club finishes the season in 2nd position, but loses the 2nd Semi Final to eventual premiers South Perth by 55 points and then the Preliminary Final to Cockburn-East Fremantle by 59 points. Ivan Ukich wins the WAFA Reserves goalkicking award with 38 goals for the season.

1973

Mal McCrae and Trevor Clarey are coaches of the League and Reserves respectively, while Jack Friend is in his eleventh consecutive year as Club President. The League sneaks into the finals on the last game of the season, but loses the First Semi Final to eventual premiers Inglewood-Bayswater. Graham Sertorio wins the WAFA League Fairest & Best Medal. One of the more significant decisions of the time was the establishment of a Colts side, competing in the B-Colts grade of the West Australian Amateur Football League (WAAFL). Bob Mitchell is appointed coach, but unfortunately leaves during the season to go interstate with work. His job is taken over by Bruce Arlow, who eventually coaches the side to a well deserved premiership. As an added bonus, Geoff Millar wins the WAAFL B-Colts Fairest & Best Medal.

1974

The Club fields a Thirds side for the first time, competing in in F-Grade of the WAAFL. The League side misses out on the finals and the Reserves are knocked out in the Preliminary Final by Midland. Malcolm Gooch wins the WAFA Reserves Fairest & Best Medal. Despite winning the premiership the previous year, the Club is not able to field a Colts side.

1975

The League wins through to the Grand Final from 3rd position on the ladder, but loses to arch rivals Wanneroo by 17 points. The Reserves lose the First Semi Final to South Perth.

1976

After a barren eight seasons, the Club again wins a coveted double in League and Reserves, coached by John Hill and Geoff Wade respectively. The League side defeats arch rivals Wanneroo by 13 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 13.9 (87) to Wanneroo 11.8 (74). Ruckman Ben Jager wins the Best on Ground in the Grand Final. The Reserves side defeats Midland in their Grand Final by 53 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 14.14 (98) to Midland 6.9 (45). Garry Smit wins the WAFA League Fairest & Best Medal, while John Marinovich wins the WAFA Reserves Leading Goal Kicker award with 60 goals for the season (including 18 goals in the last qualifying game of the season).



1977

To prove the previous year was no fluke, the Club follows up with another double, with Graham Sertorio at the helm of the League side and Geoff Wade again coaching the Reserves. The League side defeats Wanneroo by 2 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 11.10 (76) to Wanneroo 10.14 (74). The Reserves side go through the season undefeated, including a 61-point win in the Grand Final against Wanneroo - the final scores being Osborne Park 15.14 (104) to Midland 7.1 (43). The Thirds side, competing in F-Grade of the WAAFL, also win the Grand Final under the leadership of captain coach Gary Murphy, making it a trifecta in 1977. Kevin Robertson wins the WFA Reserves Leading Goal Kicker award with 51 goals for the season.

1978

Former West Perth player Dennis Cometti is appointed captain-coach of the League side and leads the club to its fourth successive Grand Final against old enemies Wanneroo. In a reversal from the previous year, both the League and Reserves are defeated in their respective Grand Finals by Wanneroo. Wanneroo are victorious in the League by 31 points, while the Reserves lose their Grand Final by 20 points. During the season, the Reserves extend their remarkable run of consecutive victories to 29 wins, stretching back to late 1976. The Thirds side, who are promoted to D-Grade following their 1977 premiership, unfortunately complete the treble by losing their Grand Final to Commonwealth Bank by 21 points.

1979

The League side miss out on the finals for the first time in five years, however the Reserves reach the Preliminary Final before being eliminated by South Perth. The club re-introduces a Colts side in the WAAFL with immediate success. With Roger Truscott at the helm, the colts side wins the WAAFL D-Colts Grand Final against Mt Hawthorn-West Perth by 47 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 10.15 (75) to MHWP 3.10 (28).

1980

The green light is given to the first stage of development for the Club's new premises at Delawney Street in Balcatta. The League side has a disappointing year, finishing in 7th position. The Colts make the WAAFL D-Colts Grand Final again from 4th position, but go down to the undefeated Forrestfield in the Grand Final. The Club has sufficient player numbers to enter a Fourths side, competing in WAAFL K-Grade. Under the leadership of captain-coach Ron Francesconi, the Fourths win the Grand Final by defeating Melville by 9 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 5.11 (41) to Melville 4.8 (32).

1981

The League side finishes the season in 2nd position, but lose the Second Semi Final and Preliminary Finals to Wanneroo and South Perth respectively. The Club wins another premiership in the Thirds by defeating Commonwealth Bank in the Grand Final by 32 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 14.20 (104) to Commonwealth Bank 10.12 (72). The Colts leave the Amateurs and join the newly formed Colts competition organised by the WFA. Despite finishing on top of the ladder, the Colts are eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Southern Port.

1982

The League side finish in 3rd position and despite a First Semi Final defeat of Applecross, the Club is defeated by arch rivals and eventual premiers Wanneroo in the Preliminary Final. The Reserves, coached by Lou De Cinque, defeat South Perth in the Grand Final by 44 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 22.16 (148) to South Perth 16.8 (104). The Colts also make the Grand Final, but are defeated by Southern Port by 21 points. An increase in the number of young players allows the Club to field a second Colts side, competing in the C-Colts grade of the WAAFL. Ken McCabe wins the WFA Reserves Leading Goal Kicker award with 85 goals for the season.

1983

The Club's new premises at Balcatta Reserve in Delawney Street are officially opened by City of Stirling councillor Graham Burkett on Sunday 27 February 1983. The League, Reserves and Colts all make the WFA Grand Finals, but only the Reserves and Colts are successful on the day. The League side lose to Wanneroo by 42 points. Lou De Cinque leads the Reserves to their second successive premiership by defeating Wanneroo by 46 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 18.16 (124) to Wanneroo 11.12 (78). Captain-coach Gerard McNeill wins the WFA League Fairest & Best Medal. The Colts side, coached by Peter White, defeats Melville in their Grand Final by 17 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 14.14 (98) to Melville 12.9 (81). The second colts side also make the finals of the WAAFL C-Colts Grade, but are eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Whitford.

Sunday Football League – 1984 to 1997

1984

The Osborne Park Football Club takes another important decision in its football future. Along with other ex-WFA clubs Wanneroo, South Perth and Applecross, they joined thirteen clubs from the South Suburban Murray Football League to form the new seventeen club Sunday Football League (SFL) of WA. Success in the new league would have to wait, with the League, Reserves and Colts all missing the finals in the first year.



1985

Geoff Wade again distinguished himself as a coach by leading the Reserves to the Club's first premiership in the new league. The Reserves defeated Willetton in the Grand Final by 12 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 10.8 (68) to Willetton 7.14 (56). The League side also made the finals and was able to reach the Preliminary Final from 5th position on the ladder. This year saw the advent of Saturday Amateurs division in the SFL. Gary Murphy leads the inaugural side to victory by defeating Willetton in the Grand Final - the final scores being Osborne Park 12.11 (83) to Willetton 10.5 (65). Osborne Park was the main instigator of this competition, fielding two sides in 1985 and 1986 - known as Osborne Park Red and Osborne Park White. Paul Stephenson wins the Reynolds Medal for the SFL Reserves Fairest & Best award.

1986

Success in the Sunday League finally came after the appointment of ex-Sydney Swans and Claremont big man Barry Beecroft as coach. Under Beecroft, the Club defeats Kalamunda in the Grand Final by 39 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 16.15 (111) to Kalamunda 11.6 (72). The Reserves made the Grand Final again, but lost to Maddington by 38 points. The Thirds side also reach their second consecutive Grand Final in the SFL Saturday Amateurs competition, but are defeated by Wanneroo. Due to a decrease in player numbers, the Fourths (playing as Osborne Park White in the SFL Saturday Amateurs competition) are forced to withdraw with three rounds remaining. Another overseas trip was organised for the end of the 1986 season. A travelling party of 30 players and supporters left for the balmy shores of Bali.

1987

With Barry Beecroft again at the helm, the League side wins its second successive premiership, defeating Maddington by 58 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 21.19 (145) to Maddington 12.15 (87). Clint Roberts is awarded Best on Ground in the Grand Final. The premiership was made more meritorious by the way the Club had to survive the year with the state of the oval. The ground was closed for the entire season and all games are played on the adjacent baseball ground. Losing only one game for the year shows what a good side this was. A club stalwart in Rob Hedley lead the Saturday Amateurs (Thirds) side to another Grand Final with a 63 point win over Maddington - the final scores being Osborne Park 15.17 (107) to Maddington 7.2 (44).

1988

The League side does not make the finals, but the Thirds reaches their fourth successive Grand Final appearance. Unfortunately, Wanneroo are victorious on the day by 60 points. As a consolation, Brad Cova wins the SFL Saturday Amateurs Fairest & Best Medal.

1989

Life Member Steve Sertorio coaches the Reserves side to a well deserved 32-point Grand Final win against Gosnells - the final scores being Osborne Park 17.15 (117) to Gosnells 12.13 (85). The Thirds also makes the Grand Final (their fifth Grand Final in succession), but are beaten by Maddington by 50 points. The League side, under new coach and former WAFL player Cam Shepherd, reaches the finals but are knocked out in straight sets by Wanneroo (in the Qualifying Final) and Canning (in the First Semi Final).

1990

Former Swan Districts champion Ed Blackaby is appointed to coach the League side. His professional attitude and hard discipline approach brings immediate success, winning his first flag for the Club by defeating Kelmscott in the Grand Final by 22 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 13.17 (95) to Kelmscott 11.7 (73). The Reserves side also reaches the Grand Final, but are narrowly beaten by Armadale by 10 points. For the first time since joining the SFL, the Colts side reaches the finals. However, they are eliminated early after losing the Qualifying Final (to Armadale) and First Semi Final (to Thornlie).

1991

The League side finishes the season in 4th position, but are knocked out in the Elimination Final by South Perth. The Thirds, who are coached by Dom De Cinque, reach their sixth Saturday Amateurs Grand Final in seven years and defeat Gosnells by 52 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 15.11 (101) to Gosnells 7.7 (49). Craig Todd wins the SFL Colts Leading Goal Kicker award with 63 goals for the season.

1992

The League side finishes the season as minor premiers and reach their second Grand Final under coach Ed Blackaby. Inaccurate kicking lets the side down and they are beaten by arch rivals Wanneroo in the Grand Final by 24 points. Grand Final day was not a happy one for the Club, with the Reserves also losing to Kelmscott by only 3 points. During the season, the Reserves side scores its highest ever score of 48.22 (310) against Maddington, who are kept scoreless for the game. The Colts and Thirds sides both reach the Preliminary Final, but are beaten by Canning and Kelmscott respectively. Club veteran Tony Mirco wins the Reynolds Medal for the SFL Reserves Fairest & Best player. In a rare double, Patrick Erdelyi wins the SFL Saturday Amateurs Fairest & Best Medal and Leading Goal Kicker award with 41 goals for the season. Ray Ewen wins the SFL League Leading Goal Kicker award with 80 goals for the season. Players from the Club's Saturday Amateurs (Thirds) side held a Back to Mt Helena trip, celebrating a visit by the club in 1932.



1993

After the departure of Ed Blackaby, the coaching reins are handed to captain Greg Carpenter, formerly of East Perth and Subiaco. While the League side finishes the season in 6th place, the Reserves side, coached by Mick Daff, defeats Applecross in the Grand Final by 26 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 14.14 (98) to Applecross 9.18 (72). Tony Mirco wins his second consecutive Reynolds Medal for SFL Reserves Fairest & Best player. The Colts side also reach their first SFL Grand Final and, in a hard fought battle, lose to Willetton by 3 points.

1994

For the first time since joining the Sunday League, the League, Reserves and Colts all reach the Grand Finals. Unfortunately only the Colts are successful. The League side loses their Grand Final to Canning by 10 points. The Reserves, who are playing in their sixth consecutive Grand Final, wins every game of the season except the Grand Final, losing to Willetton by 30 points. The Colts side, coached by Dave Hicks, breaks an 11-year drought and win their one and only SFL Colts premiership by defeating Kenwick by 14 points - the final scores being Osborne Park 8.13 (61) to Kenwick 7.5 (47). During the season, the League side scores its highest ever score 49.28 (322) against Gosnells. In another milestone, Victorian recruit Vince Lazzaro becomes the first and only Osborne Park player to win the Bowden Medal for the SFL League Fairest & Best award. Also, Graeme Pratt wins the SFL Colts Leading Goal Kicker award with 67 goals for the season.

1995

In a disappointing turnaround from the previous year, the League, Reserves and Colts all miss the finals. After sneaking into the Finals in the last round of the season, the Thirds side reach the Preliminary Final from 5th position, but are eliminated by Gosnells.

1996

Former East Perth player Ray Ewen re-joins the Club from Thornlie and takes over the League coaching position made vacant by Greg Carpenter's departure interstate with work. The League side finishes the season in 5th position, but loses the Elimination Final to Thornlie by only 2 points.

1997

The Club reaches its lowest point since joining the Sunday League and for the first time in 41 years, the League side finishes the season as wooden spooners. The Thirds team finish the season in 5th spot but are knocked out by Kelmscott in the Elimination Final.

Despite the disappointing finish in the last couple of years in the Sunday League, the Club has enjoyed enormous on-field success – playing in 21 Grand Finals and winning ten of these. The people whose names appear on the Honour Rolls of the Club can be justifiably proud of their achievements.