The History of the South Fremantle Football Club

South Fremantle Football Club, nicknamed **The Bulldogs**, is a semi-professional Australian Rules Football Club and one of nine clubs that compete in the West Australian Football League (WAFL). It was formed in 1900 and has its training, administration and home games at Fremantle Oval.

History

The Fremantle Football Club (*originally known as Unions and unrelated to either an earlier club which actually played rugby as well, or the current AFL club of the same name*) had won ten premierships in the fourteen years that they were in the WA Football Association (now known as the West Australian Football League). By 1899, however, the club suffered from financial problems that caused the club to disband. The **South Fremantle Football Club** was formed to take their place following an application to the league by Griff John, who would be appointed secretary of the new club, with Tom O'Beirne the inaugural president. Most players, however, were from the defunct Fremantle club.

The new club did well in its first year, finishing runners-up. However, over the next three seasons the performance fell away badly and, in April 1904 a Fremantle newspaper confidently reported that South Fremantle would not appear again. However, the club decided to carry on and centreman Harry Hodge took over as skipper, but the season was a disaster. The club won only one game.

They won their first premiership in 1916 and went back-to-back in 1917, both times defeating their local rivals, East Fremantle in the final and challenge final. The 1930s were not as successful, marred by the death of the 23-year-old captain-coach Ron Doig as a result of injuries sustained in a match. After World War II, South experienced their greatest era, with the arrival of future Hall of Fame members Steve Marsh, Bernie Naylor, John Todd and Clive Lewington. Between 1945 and 1956 they would win six premierships, be runners-up three times and make the finals in every season. Since then, however, they have won five more premierships, in 1970, 1980, 1997, 2005 and 2009.

South Fremantle was the first WAFL club to have won 10 grand finals since World-War II. Four of their 13 premierships were won against the club's traditional rivals, East Fremantle.

In 2009 South Fremantle's League and Reserves sides won their respective Grand Finals. This was the first time the club had taken the Premiership double since 1954.

Fremantle Derby

The Fremantle Derby is the biggest game of the year on the WAFL calendar. Every year since 1990 the two Fremantle sides have clashed in the match which until the advent of the AFL was one of the big Sporting rivalries in Australian Sport. The Derby's still have a great following but are now considered minor as the Western Derby, the match between WA's two AFL teams takes centre stage.

The Foundation Day (Western Australia) derby on the first Monday in June (a public holiday to mark the Foundation of Western Australia in 1829) is commonly the highest attended game of the home and away season. To the end of the 2006 season the two clubs had met 344 times with South Fremantle winning 156 to East Fremantle's 184 wins, 4 Draws have occurred between the two sides.

The Club

Club Guernsey & Colours

South Fremantle's Guernsey (shown right) used for all WAFL matches is all white with a red V in the centre of the Guernsey. During the 1990s they also introduced the reverse of the traditional Guernsey with a white V on a red jumper. The South Fremantle colours of red & white stem from the first Fremantle based team who wore red and white in the mid 1880s.

Supporters

South Fremantle is one of the most supported clubs in the WAFL.

South hold three notable WAFL Grand Final attendance records, 1979 v East Fremantle, 52,781, the highest ever attendance at a WAFL Grand Final, 1975 v West Perth, 52,322, the second highest ever Grand Final attendance and 1989 v Claremont, 38,198, the highest ever Grand Final attendance in the post AFL period.

On Foundation Day v East Fremantle at East Fremantle Oval, South played in front of the biggest crowd of the 2009 WAFL home and away season 11,300.

South Fremantle's average attendance at home and away fixtures is 3000, which is amongst the highest for the WAFL.

Club Song

We're the Bulldogs is the theme song of the South Fremantle Football Club, played as the league team comes to the field at home and away games, and after a victory.

We are the mighty bulldogs

Always fighting on

With victory and flag our goal

With guts and determination

We put the rest to shame

Because our fighting spirit wins the game

We're the bulldogs (yes we are)

And we're the greatest (yes we are)

The mighty red 'v' which stands for victory

The rough tough bulldogs (yes we are)

South Fremantle (yes we are)

The southerners for ever more

Down by the port of Fremantle

We hit them really hard

With true grit and courage we win

So come on South's let's show them

How to play the game to win

South Fremantle for ever more

We're the bulldogs (yes we are)

And we're the greatest (yes we are)

The mighty red 'v' which stands for victory

The rough tough bulldogs (yes we are)

South Fremantle (yes we are)

The Southerners for ever more!

South Fremantle	
Names	
Full name	South Fremantle Football Club
Nickname(s)	Bulldogs
2011 season	
Premiership	4th
Home and away season	4th
Leading goalkicker	Adam Reece (21 goals)
Best and fairest	Ryan Cook
Club details	
Founded	1900
Colours	Red and White
Competition	West Australian Football League
Chairman	Haydn Raitt
Coach	John Dimmer
Captain(s)	Jaymie Graham
Premierships	13
Ground(s)	Fremantle Oval (capacity: 18000)
Other information	
Official website	http://www.southfremantlefc.com.au

Guernsey:

Honours

Club Honours

WAFL Premierships:	(13 total)	1916, 1917, 1947, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1970, 1980, 1997, 2005, 2009
Reserves Premierships:	(10 total)	1936, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1985, 1986, 1991, 1992, 2004, 2009,
Colts Premierships:	(8 total)	1970, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 2002, 2003, 2011
Rodriguez Shield:	(6 total)	1983, 1984, 1992, 2001, 2004, 2009
WAFL Wooden Spoons:	(12 total)	1904, 1920, 1925, 1936, 1943, 1944, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1987

Individual Honours

Sandover Medallists:	(10 total)	1928 - Jack Rocchi; 1937 - Frank Jenkins; 1947 - Clive Lewington; 1952 - Steve Marsh; 1955 - John Todd; 1980 - Stephen Michael; 1981 - Stephen Michael; 1986 - Mark Bairstow; 1989 - Craig Edwards; 2005 - Toby McGrath;
Tassie Medallists:	(3 total)	1983 - Stephen Michael, 1984 & 1986 - Brad Hardie
All Australians:	(6 total)	1953 - Steve Marsh, 1956 - John Gerovich & Cliff Hillier, 1961 - John Todd, 1972 - Brian Ciccotosto, 1983 - Stephen Michael
Bernie Naylor Medallists:	(20 total)	H. Kelly (50) 1905; G. Thomas (31) 1910; H. Campbell (47) 1922; S. Lawn (75) 1928 & (96) 1929; B.Naylor (131) 1946, (108) 1947, 91 (1948), (147) 1952, (167) 1953, (133) 1954; J. Gerovich (74) 1956, (101) 1960 & (74) 1961; R. Bauskis (108) 1977 & (82) 1978; C. Edwards (54) 1992; J. Dorotich (88) 1996 & (114) 1997; Z. Parsons (65) 2002;

Records

Highest Score:	Round 21, 1981 - 40.18 (258) vs. West Perth at Fremantle Oval
Lowest Score:	Round 5, 1904 - 0.4 (4) vs. East Fremantle at Fremantle Oval
Greatest Winning Margin:	Round 3, 1999 - 195 points vs. Peel at Fremantle Oval
Greatest Losing Margin:	Round 1, 1944 - 256 points vs. East Perth at Perth Oval
Most Games:	Marty Atkins 266
Most Goals:	Bernie Naylor 1,023 (1941, 1946-1954)
Longest winning streak (league):	17 games from Round 2, 1953 to Round 18, 1953
Longest losing streak (league):	18 games from Round 4, 1987 to Round 21, 1987
Most goals in a season:	167 by Bernie Naylor in 1953
Most goals in a game:	23 by Bernie Naylor vs. Subiaco in 1953
Record Home Attendance:	Round 10, 1979 - 23,109 vs. East Fremantle
Record Finals Attendance:	1979 Grand Final - 52,781 vs. East Fremantle at Subiaco Oval [Highest Ever WAFL Game Attendance Record]