



2024 YPFL & YPNA SEASON PREVIEW

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*"Let's
play"*



Jayson Manners, Kadina, and Felicity Kemp, CMS Crows — Yorke Peninsula Football League and YP Netball Association 2023 A grade premiership players, respectively. Both say their teams will welcome all-comers as they defend their crowns in 2024.

PHOTO: Rod Penna



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Local footy returns with hopes of an even season

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

The goal for the Yorke Peninsula Football League hierarchy is to see the evenest competition as is possible in 2024, with last year's lower ranked sides encouraged to chase down the leaders of the pack.

Last season hailed the crowning of new champions, Kadina, who sensationally dispatched the fancied Moonta by 36 points on grand final day in front of a near-record crowd at Ardrossan.

YPFL president Brad Haylock said, although any one of the five teams who qualified for A grade finals last year could've taken it out, measures have been taken to make it a greater challenge to claim the ultimate prize in 2024.

"In the end it was a great season and the grand final was a magnificent day, it probably wasn't what many people would've expected but Kadina played the better footy on the day," Haylock said.

"The major thing for us as a league now is to see if we can have the lesser sides from last year be more competitive in season 2024.

"Three of those sides have got extra player points this year, to use as they see fit in attracting more players, and you think if they recruit properly, they would improve and become more competitive.

"Wallaroo now has 18 points, Bute 20 and Paskeville 17, and Ardrossan didn't ask for any, but had they, they

probably would've got some.

"You'll get better numbers (at games), for a start, because people will go along to watch more competitive football; if you've got competitive teams across the nine clubs, it'll help everything."

The league has no major rule changes to be implemented this year, but all club trainers and water runners will be required to wear pink vests, provided to the clubs, to fulfil their duties.

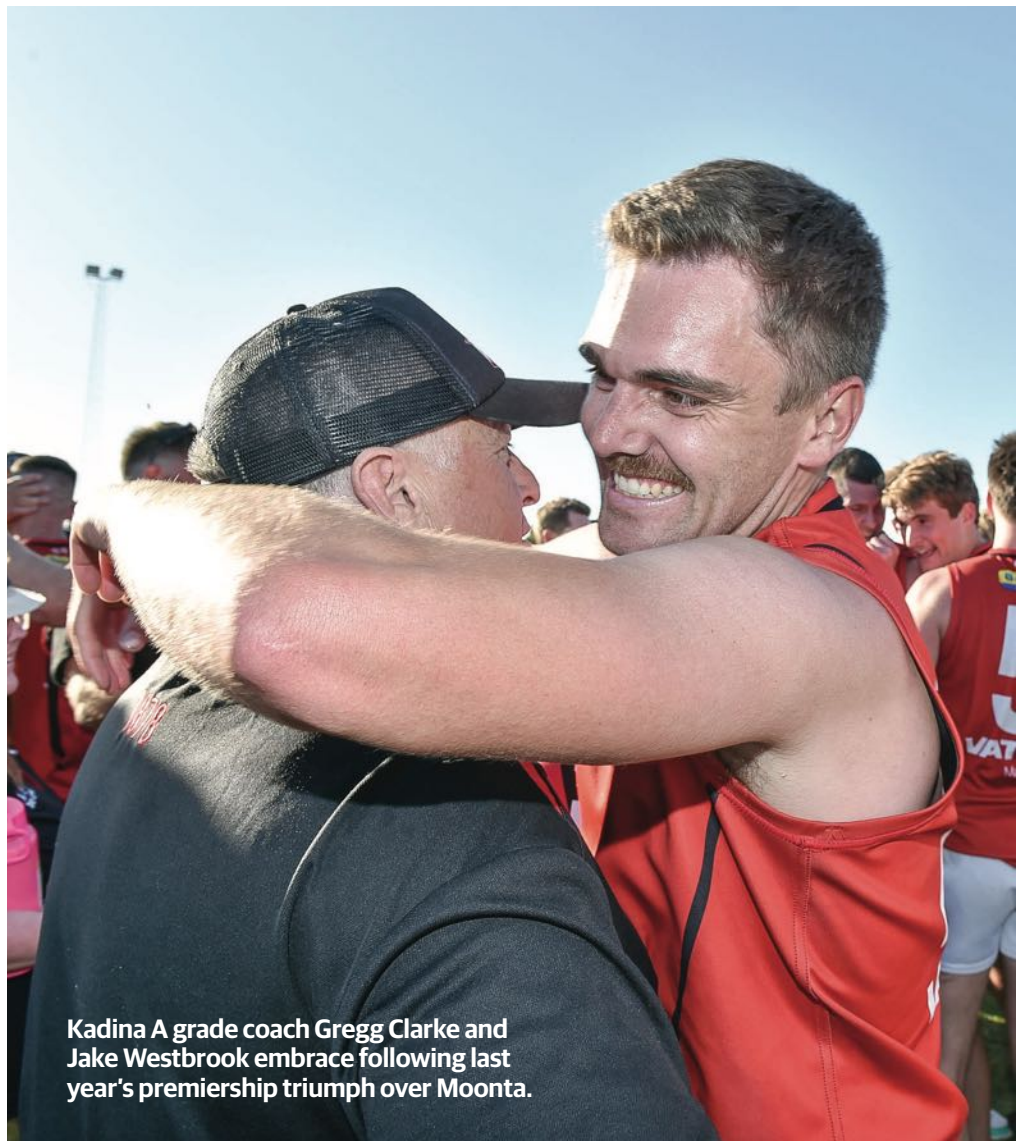
Following a review by the SANFL, player payment regulations have changed, with the total weekly spend increasing to \$3275 for each club, a new per-player amount (excluding travel) of a maximum \$650 a week, and 85c per kilometre to a maximum of \$500 for player travel.

The YPFL's special rounds will kick off with Pink Round in round 5, round 7 is THINK! Road Safety round, First Nations Round will align with Sir Doug Nicholls round in the AFL, in round 8, and CMS Crows and Southern Eagles will reignite the rivalry in the league's traditional Anzac Round encounter at Curramulka in round 3.

"You'll have to put the sides who were around the mark last year up there again; Kadina and Moonta," Haylock said.

"Crows are always around the mark, Eagles and Cougars won't go backwards either, so it's now about whether the other sides can improve enough to get up there as well.

"We'll watch it all unfold from week one."



Kadina A grade coach Gregg Clarke and Jake Westbrook embrace following last year's premiership triumph over Moonta.

Reaching new heights, new grades in netball

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

Following the successful introduction of a new grade for the Yorke Peninsula Netball Association in 2023, the association's aim this season is to further consolidate netball's position as the premier sport for females on the peninsula.

There's also been the introduction of a fresh face at the head of the YPNA committee, with Bute's Meagan Daniel taking over as president from stalwart Sue Brown, during the off-season.

Already knee-deep in local netball, Daniel said the end to last season gave

more than enough hope for another strong year in 2024.

"When you look at grand final day last year, we had all but one club participating which was amazing," she said.

"I think in previous years we'd had the top four or five carrying the load across all grades, so it was great to see almost everyone involved.

"It makes me think hopefully anything can happen this year too, which is an exciting way to be entering the season."

CMS Crows etched themselves into the history books last year, with a one-point win over Paskeville in the grand final, but it was the Southern

Eagles who laid claim to the first ever D2 grade premiership.

"Having the fifth senior grade (D2) in the association last year, was a huge success too; the feedback from a lot of the clubs was they were happy with it," Daniel said.

"It was great to see a lot of those extra people taking to the court each week, so we will be doing the same again this year; we've got enough clubs with enough players to do it again."

Some rule changes will hit the competition, with Daniel expecting one in particular to take some getting used to.

"I think one of the main ones is going to be the rolling substitution," she said.

"It's a lot more like basketball and

football – you can change players after a goal, which might have the biggest impact on our competitions.

"Not only do we have to upskill our umpires, but we also need to upskill the coaches and players, so we're putting a lot of energy into that now, and making sure it's a smooth transition."

As always, the focus come round 1 is another strong year of netball.

"Everyone knows the Crows are strong and are likely to do well, but there seems to be a lot of movement of players this year," Daniel said.

"I know a lot of teams are trialling and getting their team lists together, but I think there are quite a few teams who could be in contention, which is great."



YORKE PENINSULA FOOTBALL & NETBALL 2024 SEASON PREVIEW



Roosters, Crows harvest exciting new partnership

Patrick Goldsmith

REPORT BY

Bute Football Club has been boosted for season 2024 through an exciting new partnership with the Adelaide Crows and grain handler Viterra.

Bute is one of just three clubs in the state to benefit from the initiative, which will include past and present Crows AFL and AFLW players travelling to participate off-field on a Bute match day, and host a junior coaching clinic.

As the Crows' regional partner, Viterra will work with the AFL club to add value to regional communities through a range of events and initiatives across the next two years.

Bute president Josh Gill said the club will host Crows players in round 8 of the YPFL season, coinciding with sponsors' day and its clash with Wallaroo, on Saturday, June 1.

"We've got a strong relationship with the Viterra team through grain sales and a few local connections, and they really want to give back to grassroots footy clubs," he said.

"The free clinic is the really exciting part of it for us as a club, league and wider region; it'll be held from 10am to 12pm on Sunday, June 2.

"It's open to the first 150 registered participants from Auskick through to anyone under 18, but they do have to be registered."

The club has already reaped the rewards of the partnership, hosting a junior clinic with Crows players Ned McHenry and Nick Murray — who own and regularly tend to livestock nearby — in March.

Gill said it is a win-win for everyone involved in the partnership, and is proud to have his club selected as a debut participant.

He said the club is still working through which current or former Crows players will be coming along to the day.

"On the Saturday we're going to have two players from the men's team and one from the women's... to be used however we choose, so they could be running water for the B grade or working behind the canteen," Gill said.

"They'll be there for a Q and A in the evening, and then on the Sunday they'll be there for the clinic,

and Viterra will be there for both events as well.

"They're still working out the finer details behind the scenes, which we'll advise everyone of as we become aware of them."

Crows CEO Tim Silvers said the club is proud to be working with Viterra to strengthen and grow local footy.

South Australia's biggest sporting club has a long affinity with the peninsula, with former players Sam Jacobs, Bernie Vince, Hayden Skipworth, Andrew Crowell and Hannah Button and current players Rachelle Martin, Chelsea Biddell and Jaimi Tabb starting their careers locally.

"Regional towns and local clubs are part of the fabric of our game, they are incredibly important to our club, and we're excited to be working with Viterra," Silvers said.

"My family moved around while I was growing up and I fondly remember local footy clubs as places I gravitated towards to make new friends and feel a sense of community."

Silvers said all three of the Crows' teams receive great support from country South Australia, a debt they're passionate about repaying.

"This way everyone who wants to play or watch footy can do so, and experience the health, social and wellbeing benefits that come with being part of it," he said.

"The events and initiatives planned with Viterra will also bring us even closer to our fans outside the metro area and provide another opportunity for our players to inspire the next generation."

Viterra Australia and New Zealand CEO Philip Hughes said the company is excited to be supporting an initiative aimed at positively contributing to communities across South Australia.

"Regional communities are the backbone of Viterra's network and we recognise the power of sport in connecting people," Hughes said.

"We are proud to facilitate this exciting program of regional clinics, which will provide a fantastic platform for junior footballers to connect and learn from elite AFL and AFLW players.

"As well as the coaching clinics, these regional visits will provide a great opportunity to unite the community behind an exciting feature event."



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Ned McHenry signs an autograph for Bute junior Josh Ivens. BELOW: Adelaide Crows players Nick Murray and Ned McHenry (middle), alongside Bute A graders James Schilling and Jack Harris at the foot of the town's Viterra site.



Ardrossan's Sauce takes Eagles helm

Peter Argent
REPORT BY

Ardrossan's favourite son Sam Jacobs has returned to his former SANFL club Woodville-West Torrens as coach of its league side.

While Jacobs had a season as the playing-coach of Ardrossan in 2021, this will be his initial year as a senior coach on the sidelines at any level.

"The main reason I got this job was my people management skills," Jacobs said.

"That's a big part of the role in the current climate.

"While I had 15 years in the AFL system, which also gave me an understanding of the game, the position of senior coach at SANFL level also includes roles in recruiting, welfare, organising leadership programs and some commercial aspects.

"It has been a great learning curve which was an appealing part of the job, immersing myself in the various different aspects of the running of the club."

The Eagles finished eighth last year, but won back-to-back premierships under then coach Jade Sheedy in 2020-21.

When quizzed about his game style, Jacobs suggested he'd prefer his side to win in a high-scoring affair over a low-scoring defensive slugfest.

"I believe we have a responsibility as coaches to make the game watchable and engage future generations of players," he said.

"I'm also pretty big on self-reflection and the romance of coming back to coach my SANFL club is something I've thought about.

"I'm also lucky enough to have a fellow Yorke Peninsula lad Matthew Goldsworthy to work with as my football manager.



One of Yorke Peninsula's greatest football exports, Sam Jacobs, is taking on his first SANFL coaching challenge at the helm of his junior club, Woodville-West Torrens, in 2024.

"I have got a number of wonderful mentors to lean on; they include Andrew Jarman, who is a great friend.

"Phil Smyth is another, while Michael Godden and David Teague are also people I can chat to about the role.

"I also have great family support from my wife Isabelle, along with both her and my parents as well."

The Jacobs clan includes Sam and Isabelle's three daughters Imogen (5 years old), Alba (3) and Willow (1).

He is the ninth league coach of the club since foundation teams Woodville and West Torrens amalgamated in 1991, following in the footsteps on Neil Balme, Bruce Winter, Mark Mickan, Paul Hamilton, Ron Fuller, Michael Godden, Sam Lonigan and Jade Sheedy.

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YORKE PENINSULA FOOTBALL & NETBALL 2024 SEASON PREVIEW



Family ties line the courts

Patrick Goldsmith

REPORT BY

Playing netball on Yorke Peninsula means there's a lot to be grateful for, but for some, the biggest privilege is playing alongside family.

Family connections run deep across all YPNA clubs, which, according to association president Meagan Daniel, is what makes it special and keeps all clubs alive.

"There's not a single club where that's not a huge part of how they work, it just so vital," she said.

"I couldn't fathom that I could've possibly played with my mum... to play alongside your family members, must be amazing; creating memories you'll carry with you forever."

Premiership winning twins Bronwyn and Georgina Farrow have played together for more than a decade, most of which has been spent at local powerhouse CMS Crows.

The duo was at opposite ends of the court as their A grade side won the 2022 premiership, while their younger sister Jessica had already played her part in winning the B grade flag; Jessica and Georgina won the 2023 A grade premiership together.

"I've played with Georgina a lot, because we've been in the same age groups, and the past few years we've both been lucky enough to be picked in the A grade," Bronwyn said.

"The car rides home are always fun, though; there's positive feedback and constructive criticism and we're certainly each other's biggest supporters, but also

each other's biggest critics."

The twins have had the opportunity to play alongside Jessica in the A grade a few times, albeit the timelines haven't always matched, with Bronwyn playing in Jamestown last year, and Jessica set to spend 2024 on the sidelines.

Bronwyn said having three siblings take to the court together isn't necessarily something you'd see in a lot of places.

"Being in the country, you have more of an opportunity to play together, but it's also not a given because lots of people move away and never get the chance," she said.

"Obviously, you know them (siblings) pretty well, so there's almost the feeling of instinctively knowing what they're going to do (on the court), which can help at times."

Georgina agreed, and said having sisters with you on the court is a different feeling.

She said her best memory on court together was 2022, when all three walked away with premierships, or when Bronwyn shot the winning goal to win the flag the year prior.

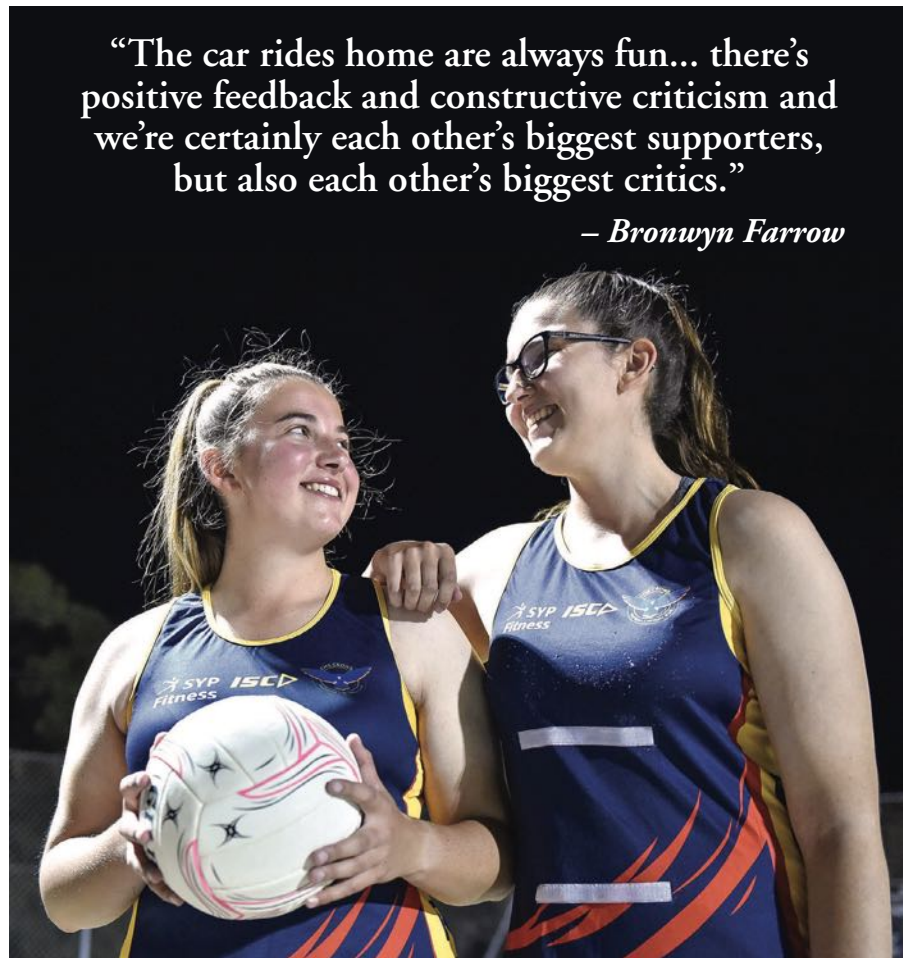
"Bronny and Jess, they both play shooting, while I'm at the opposite end, and it's hard to describe, but it's just a different feeling," Georgina said.

"She's (Bronwyn) not afraid to tell it how it is... people might be afraid to say to one another, 'oh you're playing really bad, you need to do this', but no, we tell it how it is.

"Our grandparents come and watch us whenever they can, especially if it's a home game; it makes them proud, they enjoy watching and telling everyone about us."

"The car rides home are always fun... there's positive feedback and constructive criticism and we're certainly each other's biggest supporters, but also each other's biggest critics."

– Bronwyn Farrow



Twins Bronwyn and Georgina Farrow have won two A grade netball premierships alongside one another at the CMS Crows.

Wishing all YPFL & YPNA teams the very best for season 2024



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JUNIORS FLOCK TO THE MAGPIES' NEST



Patrick Papps, Alec Loveridge, Sam Pridham and Hamish Fisher are a part of the exciting junior colts program at Paskeville in 2024.

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

It was only four years ago Paskeville Football Club had to join with nearby rival Bute to field teams in Yorke Peninsula Football League's junior grades.

Now, both clubs have their own junior programs, with sets of good people as coaches, guiding the next generation of senior footballers.

Simultaneously, the SANFL is continuing its push to have local kids play footy, with the introduction of an under 9s competition in 2023 creating a clear pathway from Auskick all the way through.

Last year was the first time a junior team brandishing the Paskeville name had made a colts grand final since 2018, this time going down to Moonta by 27 points.

Pasky has strong numbers in junior and senior colts, the aspect of the club which president Brendan Ramsey described as its heart and soul.

"It's about providing an environment the kids want to be a part of," Ramsey said.

"Having juniors out there training during the week and playing on Saturday, gives anyone involved in the club a good feeling, I think.

"It's exciting, because if you don't have a junior program, then it's almost like well, what's the point, because that's why we do it, really."

Ramsey said some new initiatives paved the way for stronger numbers.

"We started running buses out to training, putting on meals for kids, and things have turned around, and it's just growing," he said.

"I think some clubs have 30-odd players come out for each grade, so the message from us is, 'hey, if you're not going to get a game where you are, you're guaranteed a game out our way.'"

The club is most passionate about the people its juniors get to learn from this year, including junior colts coach Hamish Price and assistant Shannon Garland, and senior colts coach Tyson Wait and assistant Alistair Price.

"Those guys have been in all the big programs, and have learned from some of the best coaches in the state, which allows them to pick and choose what they do in developing the players here," Ramsey said.

"It's great having people who don't have much football experience sticking their hands up to coach, but when you've

got people with such great experience put their hands up, it's massive."

SANFL game development coordinator Will Schultz said, overall, there had been an increase in junior players across the peninsula in the under 9 to junior colts age bracket.

"Last year the league decided to bring in an under 9s competition to build up the pathway, so now kids can go from Auskick to under 9s, to under 11s, to junior colts and then senior colts, which brings with it appropriate development," he said.

"The challenge for us with our clubs is providing a set-up which best suits engaging as many kids as possible, and creating a fun, user-friendly environment for everyone.

"One of the benefits of the football and netball relationship which exists on the peninsula is the idea of the whole family day out, where everyone can go along, whether you're younger or older, playing or working behind the canteen.

"Credit needs to go to a lot of the smaller clubs as well, like Paskeville or Bute, where they don't have a school or town with a larger population, so the work their volunteers do to bring players out is enormous."

SILLY SEASON

Four big footy recruits

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

The conclusion of each football season brings with it the hope of better performances throughout the next and, to chase that goal, clubs seek the best possible recruits.

With only a certain amount of salary space and player points available, clubs must choose wisely and, this year, some have gone bigger than others.

From former SANFL players to Mail Medallists, here are four new players expected to have a big impact on this year's Yorke Peninsula Football League season.

Josh Koster — Bute

A former SANFL player and son of Adelaide Crows premiership player Kym Koster, Josh played 11 league games at West Adelaide and 30 at Glenelg across seven years in their senior programs.

Spending 2023 at South Mildura in the Sunraysia Football League, the silky midfielder was named in the best players on nine occasions.

Finn Betterman — CMS Crows

With strong running ability and goal scoring capability, Betterman joins the CMS Crows with state under 18 experience and 19 SANFL league games at Glenelg under his belt.

He was best and fairest at Yankalilla, playing just 13 games in 2021, and was runner-up in the same award at PHOS Camden last year.

Tom Schott — CMS Crows

A known entity at the Crows following 12 games in 2022, Schott played SANFL league at West Adelaide and Glenelg from 2013 to 2021, amassing 38 games.

The midfielder has most recently played for PINT in the Northern Territory, performing well enough to earn a spot in the NTFLL representative team.

Henry Trenorden — Central Yorke Cougars

The cousin of last year's YPFL Mail Medallist and his new playing-coach Luke Trenorden, Henry is himself a winner of the award, playing for Bute in the Adelaide Plains Football League in 2020.

Spending two years at the club, the strong contested-ball winner spent 2022 at the Henley Sharks where he was named in the best players four times.

Each club's complete comings and goings for season 2024 feature in the following pages.



YORKE PENINSULA FOOTBALL & NETBALL 2024 SEASON PREVIEW



Volunteering your dedication

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

Volunteers provide an invaluable resource for all football and netball clubs, and at the Wallaroo Netball Club, you can find the perfect example in Lyndall Neill.

Playing her first game at the club exactly 40 years ago, Lyndall has gone on to serve as president for five years, on the committee for longer, been coach and umpire, in charge of sponsorships, worked behind the canteen, fundraised, and in her own words, simply "organised stuff".

She joined the committee officially in 2012 and described the club as her second home.

"I love the camaraderie, and just being competitive with every other town," she said.

"I want to be proud of what we accomplish, and this is my club, I've never been anywhere else and would never want to be.

"We're (volunteers) a dying breed, if clubs didn't have them, we just wouldn't be here and everyone wouldn't have the chance to play or be social."

Neill said she's most proud of playing a significant role in the relocation of the club's courts, a momentous occasion.

"We had dealt with a lot of flooding where we were and we had a small canteen and changerooms, and we wanted to improve them," Lyndall said.

"To be over with the football club was ideal and then getting it finished, that was without a doubt our biggest achievement in my time at the club, and I was very happy to be a part of it."

YPNA president Meagan Daniel said volunteers make everything possible.

"Every single club couldn't survive without their volunteers," she said.

"It is hard because we're all busy, we've got a lot going on in our lives, but you'll often find that there are so many people wearing different hats across any one day.

"They might play a game, umpire a game, coach a game, and then do a shift at the canteen or run teas at night following training.

"Our clubs are full of amazing people, and we need to keep finding them."



Lyndall Neill first represented Wallaroo Netball Club on the court 40 years ago, but has performed many volunteer-based roles in the decades since.

Juniors suit up for Thunderbirds

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

Three rising Yorke Peninsula Netball Association stars – Stella Hewett, Hallie Koch and Jada Pedler – have been selected for the 2024 Adelaide Thunderbirds' Jamestown Talent Academy.

Representing Bute, Moonta and Central Yorke Cougars locally, the trio will now

participate in a program designed to elevate the pathway from grassroots competitions to state-level teams.

Stella Hewett was voted last year's YPNA F grade best and fairest, while Jada Pedler took home the E grade runner-up best and fairest.

"It's a really great opportunity, because Netball SA has just changed the way they're running regional academies," YPNA

president Meagan Daniel said.

"They used to have one they ran every year for our region, and they ceased doing that a couple of years ago, so they haven't had a lot of stuff up for the local girls.

"It's really fantastic that not only do our girls have an avenue to further their netball careers and get their skills and development up, but that we've actually got three girls in the squad."

Following a successful pilot program in 2022, feedback highlighted the desire from communities to strengthen the pathway while Netball SA maintains a strong presence in regional South Australia.

The structure now consists of one Emerging Academy and six Development Academies based in locations across the state, with trials recently being run in each town, including Jamestown.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES...

1994: The old and the new claim premierships

Patrick Goldsmith
REPORT BY

It was a year of beginnings and near-final hurrahs in the Yorke Valley Football League in 1994, with new clubs and those soon to be wound up, claiming premierships.

Both the Southern Eagles and CMS Crows had both been admitted to the competition following the disbanding of the Southern Yorke Peninsula Football League the previous year, and both took home premierships.

But it was Maitland – which would amalgamate with Arthurton at the end of 1996 – which won its third and final A grade football premierships, defeating Wallaroo by 73 points.

The Lions never looked like being defeated on the day, extending their lead at every change, after weathering an early Bulldogs storm.

A 21-point halftime lead was blown wide open in the third quarter, with nine goals setting up a win which confined a 13-year premiership drought to the history books.

Yorke Peninsula Country Times reporter Les Pittaway named

Maitland captain Mark Kirby as best on ground, describing his performance as “perhaps the most individually brilliant performance from any footballer” throughout the season.

Demonstrating the power of their squads in their early days, five out of the six teams playing in the other three grades represented either the CMS Crows or Southern Eagles.

The Eagles narrowly edged out the Crows in the B grade, winning by 13 points on the back of a seven-goal-to-one second quarter.

However, the Crows won the under 17s and under 14s, beating Ardrossan by 77 points in the former, and the Eagles by just two points in the latter.

In the netball, Arthurton won its first A grade premiership since 1985, defeating Wallaroo by three points, 38-35; it also won the next two

premierships in 1995-96, before also combining with Maitland to form the Central Yorke Cougars.

Its side was spurred on by a best on court performance from Rachael McCarthy, with the club also claiming B and C grade flags on the day.



The Maitland Football Club 1994 premiership team embellishes the front page of the Yorke Peninsula Country Times. Above right: Fiona-Lee Colliver, of Arthurton, receives a pass from a teammate on grand final day, 1994.

Coaches' crystal ball

We asked each club's A grade coach to predict what they think season 2024 has in store. Here's what they said...

FOOTBALL

Which club will you face in this year's A grade grand final?

Moonta – 5
CMS Crows – 2
CY Cougars – 1
Kadina – 1

Which player (not from your club) will win the Mail Medal?

Luke Trenorden – 5
Jackson Hooper – 2
Ash Williams – 1
Ryley Maitland – 1

Which club is the dark horse for this year's premiership?

CMS Crows – 5
Southern Eagles – 2
CY Cougars – 1
Bute – 1

NETBALL

Which club will you face in this year's A grade grand final?

Paskeville – 5
CMS Crows – 3

Which player (not from your club) will win the best and fairest award?

Kate Pfeiffer – 2
Tegan Goldsworthy – 2
Georgina Farrow – 1
Lauren McSkimming – 1
Talia Nadich – 1
Monique Smith – 1

Which club is the dark horse for this year's premiership?

Wallaroo – 2
Ardrossan – 2
Paskeville – 2
Bute – 1
Moonta – 1

*No responses from CMS Crows Netball Club

Attention local football and netball clubs – scribes

Please start thinking about your scribes for season 2024. The Yorke Peninsula Country Times kindly requests clubs provide reports for your YPFL A grade home game.

YPCT will continue to follow the YPNA netball roster this season, with all away sides to submit an A grade write up each week.

All reports should be sent to editorial@ypct.com.au by 10am Mondays at the latest.

How to write your report

Do...

- ✓ Include interesting passages of play – great goals, amazing defensive efforts, et cetera
- ✓ Tell the readers how the game flowed – did one team start well and then the other make a comeback, for example?
- ✓ Include players' names to acknowledge noteworthy contributions
- ✓ Feel free to provide your own best players, even if you saw it differently to those who were officially chosen

Don't...

- ✗ Include quarter-by-quarter scores for the football (we already have those)
- ✗ Go too far overboard criticising anyone – including the umpires!
- ✗ Worry if you are not a brilliant writer – the important thing is that you tell us how the game went, so we can tell our readers, we can 'tidy up' your spelling and grammar if required

Defence the Roos' best offence

It's not won an A grade premiership in 20 years, but Ardrossan is buoyed by a new coach and some handy off-season signings ahead of season 2024.

Going into his fourth year at the club, Sam Pfeiffer has taken over the reins as playing-coach for the first time, and will be attempting to lift his side from an eighth-place finish last year.

The Kangaroos managed just two wins which bookended 2023; a round 1 win against Wallaroo and a round 18 win over Paskeville.

Pfeiffer said making finals was the goal this year, something he believes is achievable.

"Everyone at this time of year is flying, so every club is going to be the same and they're going to be wanting to do the same," he said.

"We've got Wallaroo and Bute first couple of games, so they're two chances to get a couple wins.

"That's not going to be easy, but I'm hopeful."

The way to do that, according to Pfeiffer, is a particular focus on one end of the ground.

"We need to tighten up our defence, really; our structure hasn't been the greatest for the past few years," he said.

"That's something we've been working on over the preseason, because obviously the successful teams are always strong defensively, so if we can tighten that up and hold teams to 10 goals or less, it'll go a long way.

"I think the offensive aspect looks after itself, largely."

Pfeiffer said he has been impressed by what he's seen of new recruits Charlie Dowling and Charlie Kirchner.

"Dowling played at Mypolonga last year, and Kirchner was at St Peter's Old Collegians in the city, and they're both really fit guys and great ball users," he said.

"Dowling is pretty versatile, tall but can run all day, play in the midfield or up forward, and Kirchner is a good ball user through the guts.

"We've added a bit of midfield depth which we haven't had in the past; we've had to rely on guys going through there all day and they'd just be getting exhausted because the top teams were swapping off the bench with fresh legs, which we haven't had the luxury of doing."

New Ardrossan playing-coach Sam Pfeiffer looks to break away from the Cougars' pressure last season.



SNAPSHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1989, 2004

2023 RECORD

Finished – eighth

Home and away – 2 wins, 14 losses

Biggest win – round 1, Wallaroo, 19.17 (131) to 8.10 (58)

Best and fairest – Jaden Grosser

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Charlie Dowling, SPOC; Charlie Kirchner, Mypolonga; Sam Bruce, SPOC; Sam Potter, SPOC; Charlie Gibson, Elliston; Tom Gibson, Elliston; Hugo Gibson, Mount Lofty; Steven Wellington, Salisbury North.

Farewell – Jaden Grosser, Millicent; Tyler Harris, Barossa Districts; Tom Dickeson, Ports; Jack Dickeson, Walkerville; Frankie Wanganeen, West Croydon; Tom Ferguson, overseas; Matthew Goodes, Salisbury.

OUR TIP

Ninth



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Best wishes to all clubs for a successful season

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email narungga@parliament.sa.gov.au



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Roos growing on the court

To continue growing as a team is the Ardrossan Kangaroos' goal in season 2024.

The A grade team showed green shoots last season, with strong wins against the Southern Eagles, Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo, but failed to make inroads when facing those who placed above them on the ladder.

A fifth-placed finish meant they weren't given the opportunity to compete in the major round, and get closer to a premiership which has eluded the club for more than five decades.

"The team grew so much in 2023 as well as the year before, finishing fifth and just outside finals gave us a taste that we are close," a club spokesperson said.

"There were some really close games in the year that, going the other way, we might have got there.

"But (that's) just something to strive for in 2024."

Being so close yet so far from finals netball, the sentiment at the club is it's a real possibility this year.

The club is also excited to be unveiling talented youngsters coming through its senior sides.

"I think we can make finals, and really give teams a push," the spokesperson said.

"2023 E graders Alexa Simmons and Matilda Teakle will be joining our senior teams full time this year and we're excited to see them grow in these full-time spots.

"We also see the return of Georgia Kuhndt which is great, not only as a player, but for the club as a whole.

"Kate Pfeiffer is always a thrill to watch, but we're looking forward to also seeing what our girls from juniors can achieve this upcoming year.

"The goal is to grow as teams while remembering it is a team game and you win and lose as a team not an individual, you will continue to grow if you do it together and keep the encouragement high across the whole club."



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
1967, 1970

2023 RECORD

Finished – fifth
Home and away – 7 wins, 9 losses
Biggest win – round 11, Kadina, 55 to 26
Best and fairest – Kate Pfeiffer

OUR TIP

Seventh



Ebony Wheare reaches for the ball and looks for a pass in 2023.

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Bute bolsters stocks for September shove

They may have lost their captain Jack Trenorden and best and fairest Ethan Brownlie, but the Bute Roosters have gone on a recruiting spree, particularly at one Adelaide club, in a bid to replace lost talent.

Bute has attracted six players from Adelaide Footy League division 1 side Broadview, and a host of others from elsewhere, to attempt a charge up the ladder.

The Roosters were just one win behind CMS Crows inside the top five heading into a crucial round 17 clash last year, but conceding eight goals in a sloppy second quarter all but consigned them to another year without finals.

Playing-coach Sam Trengove said 2023 was a learning year for the squad.

"We were pretty optimistic at the midway point of the year and then injuries, and our lack of form in the second half of the year, where disappointing," he said.

"Overall, we've got to take the positives out of it and the improvement the group showed in different areas as well.

"Improvement came from our young group learning more about themselves, maturing in their own footy and I think some of those boys will continue to do that this year."

Trengove said the club has worked hard to add quality to its squad, and to fill a few holes across the ground.

"Josh Koster comes from South Mildura, and he's going to add significantly to the midfield mix, he's got a good motor and uses the footy well," he said.

"Ryan Falcione is going to provide us something good up forward, and give us the opportunity to kick a few more scores."

Trengove said he felt as though his side will hopefully be in the mix for finals footy.

"Once you give yourselves that opportunity, anything can happen come September, but we're just going to take it one step at a time early on; it's all about getting that process right early on," he said.



Bute's Ryan Phillips wraps up Southern Eagles' Luke McMahon during 2023.



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1969, 1973, 1978, 1991, 1993

2023 RECORD

Finished – sixth

Home and away – 5 wins, 11 losses

Biggest win – round 6, Wallaroo, 22.12 (144) to 9.11 (65)

Best and fairest – Ethan Brownlie

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Jack Sausse, Broadview; Lachlan Smith, Broadview; Rhys Arriola, PHOS Camden; Josh Koster, South Mildura; Jesse Box, Broadview; Josh Box, Broadview; Liam Bastian, Adelaide University; Ryan Falcione, Central Augusta; Christian Iannella, Broadview; Callum George, Broadview; Michael Morse, Renmark; Jake Doyle, Paskeville.

Farewell – Jack Trenorden, PACOC; Trent McCauley, PACOC; Ethan Brownlie, Balaklava; Tom Price, Broughton-Mundoora; Isaac Wilksch, Norwood; Fraser McCracken, Paskeville; Sam Rose, overseas.

OUR TIP

Fifth

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Bute looks to grow on strong season

Following two years sitting just inside the top four and getting a taste of finals netball, Bute wants to continue to grow and go further up the ladder.

The club also has the claims of runners-up in the D and D2 grades last year, indicating a strong depth of playing stocks to choose from.

"2023 was a successful year for us, seeing almost all of our senior teams making it into finals," a club spokesperson said.

"We had great numbers and, with some wins on the board, it certainly made for an exciting season.

"We hope to continue the momentum of 2023, into this season."

The spokesperson said the club has been excited by strong numbers coming out to preseason trials.

"Our goals this season will be to work hard on and off the court, to have good team spirit and to be confident and

competitive," they said.

"Whilst our goal is always to give 100 per cent on the court, we also want the girls to be enjoying their games.

"With determination and dedication, we can definitely achieve success."

With new faces to join the A and B grade squads, the spokesperson said the club is excited to see what the season will bring.

They said there is no doubt it will be another tough year of netball between all clubs.

"We look forward to seeing the strength within the competition this year, and have no doubt there will be some strong teams again," they said.



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
1966, 1988, 1993, 2007

2023 RECORD

Finished – fourth
Home and away – 11 wins, 4 losses, 1 draw
Biggest win – round 9, Southern Eagles, 66 to 43
Best and fairest – Montana Briggs

OUR TIP

Fourth



Bute's 2023 best and fairest Montana Briggs competes for the ball in mid-air.

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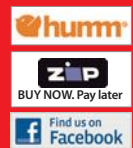
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2024 YORKE PENINSULA SEASON P

ROUND 1 13th April

Central Yorke v CMS Crows
Southern Eagles (W) v Paskeville
Bute v Kadina
Wallaroo v Ardrossan
Moonta bye

ROUND 2 20th April

Ardrossan v Bute
Kadina v Southern Eagles
Paskeville v Central Yorke (Night)
CMS Crows (C) v Moonta
Wallaroo bye

ANZAC ROUND 3 27th April

Kadina v Wallaroo
Paskeville v Bute
CMS Crows (C) v Southern Eagles
Moonta v Central Yorke
Ardrossan bye

ROUND 4 4th May

Southern Eagles (W) v Moonta
Bute v CMS Crows
Wallaroo v Paskeville
Ardrossan v Kadina
Central Yorke bye

PINK ROUND 5 11th May

Paskeville v Ardrossan
CMS Crows (S) v Wallaroo
Moonta v Bute
Central Yorke v Southern Eagles
Kadina bye



ROUND 6 18th May

Bute v Central Yorke
Wallaroo v Moonta
Ardrossan v CMS Crows
Kadina v Paskeville
Southern Eagles bye

THINK ROUND 7 25th May

CMS Crows (S) v Kadina
Moonta v Ardrossan
Central Yorke v Wallaroo
Southern Eagles (W) v Bute
Paskeville bye

U15 CARNIVAL @ BALAKLAVA 26th May

FIRST NATIONS ROUND 8 1st June

Moonta v Paskeville
Central Yorke v Kadina
Southern Eagles (Y) v Ardrossan
Bute v Wallaroo
CMS Crows bye

NUTRIEN CUP @ NEFL CLARE 8th June

ROUND 9 15th June

Wallaroo v Southern Eagles
Ardrossan v Central Yorke
Kadina v Moonta
Paskeville v CMS Crows
Bute bye



ROUND 10 22nd June

Bute v Ardrossan
Southern Eagles (C) v Wallaroo
Central Yorke v Paskeville
Moonta v CMS Crows
Wallaroo bye

ROUND 11 29th June

CMS Crows (S) v Wallaroo
Paskeville v Southern Eagles
Kadina v Bute
Ardrossan v Wallaroo
Moonta bye

ROUND 12 6th July

Wallaroo v Kadina
Bute v Paskeville
Southern Eagles (C) v Wallaroo
Central Yorke v Moonta
Ardrossan bye

COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP @ VICTORIA 13-14th July

ROUND 13 20th July

Moonta v Southern Eagles
CMS Crows (M) v Wallaroo
Paskeville v Wallaroo
Kadina v Ardrossan
Central Yorke bye



A FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROGRAM



End June

(Y) v Kadina
Paskeville
Crows

ch June

Central Yorke
Southern Eagles

Walloo

n July

(W) v CMS Crows
Moonta

AMPSHIPS R HARBOR h July

th July

rn Eagles
Bute
roo
an

ROUND 14 27th July

Ardrossan v Paskeville
Walloo v CMS Crows
Bute v Moonta
Southern Eagles (E) v Central Yorke
Kadina bye

ROUND 15 3rd August

Central Yorke v Bute
Moonta v Wallaroo
CMS Crows (M) v Ardrossan
Paskeville v Kadina
Southern Eagles bye

U13 CARNIVAL @ JAMESTOWN 4th August

ROUND 16 10th August

Kadina v CMS Crows
Ardrossan v Moonta
Walloo v Central Yorke
Bute v Southern Eagles
Paskeville bye

ROUND 17 17th August

Paskeville v Moonta
Kadina v Central Yorke
Ardrossan v Southern Eagles
Walloo v Bute
CMS Crows bye

ROUND 18 24th August

Southern Eagles (E) v Wallaroo
Central Yorke v Ardrossan
Moonta v Kadina
CMS Crows v Paskeville
Bute bye

FINALS SERIES

Qualifying Final
31st August @ Edithburgh
Elimination Final
1st September @ Bute
2nd Semifinal
7th September @ Kadina
1st Semifinal
8th September @ Minlaton
Preliminary Final
14th September @ Paskeville
Grand Final
21st September @ Moonta

LEGEND: Curramulka (C), Minlaton (M), Stansbury (S), Edithburgh (E), Warooka (W), Yorketown (Y)
CLUB COLOURS: Ardrossan: Sky Blue and White (Blue Shorts); Bute: Red and White (Red Shorts); CMS Crows: Navy Blue, Red and Gold (Navy Shorts); CY Cougars: Carlton Blue and White (Blue Shorts); Kadina: Red and Black (Black Shorts); Moonta: Blue and Red (Navy Blue Shorts); Paskeville: Black and White (Black Shorts with White Stripe); Southern Eagles: Royal Blue, Green and Gold (Royal Blue Shorts, Green/Gold Stripe); Wallaroo: Blue, Red and White (Royal Blue Shorts).

YPFL STARTING TIMES

U9s & U11s	9am
Junior colts	10am
Senior colts	11.20am
B grade	12.55pm
A grade	2.40pm

YPNA STARTING TIMES

F & H GRADE	9am
E & G GRADE	10.15am
D GRADE	11.30am
D2 GRADE	12.45pm
A, B & C GRADE (rotating)	12.45pm, 2pm, 3.15pm





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Back to the future for Crows

It's not every day you get the luxury of bringing a four-time A grade premiership player and two-time A grade premiership coach back into the fold, but with Jamie Kemp, the CMS Crows have done just that.

Following a 63-point loss to CY Cougars in the elimination final last year, the club has brought back a host of former players to make amends this season, including Tom Schott, Harry Aldenhoven and Callum Saunders.

"I've been the runner at the club for the past couple of years, and I just thought it was probably time to come back (as coach)," Kemp said.

"They haven't had a local coach for a while, so I think the boys have loved that change and we've seen a lot more numbers out which has been good."

Kemp said there won't be huge expectations for his side, but would be pleased with a finals finish.

"If we could go a little bit better than that, it would be a bonus, I think," he said.

The club won an A grade premiership in 2021, defeating Moonta by a point, before the Demons turned the tables and convincingly beat the Crows in the 2022 decider.

Kemp said the side will focus on creating more consistency in performances, and instilling a greater sense of toughness in the players.

He said it was fantastic new recruits and former players alike could be attracted to the club.

"Finn Betterman is probably our number one recruit, he was under 18 state captain, (and has) played league footy for Glenelg," he said.

"He and Tom Schott, who is a former player of ours but has been up in the Northern Territory, were probably our biggest targets."

Kemp said he expects an even season across the competition.

"A lot of people have recruited very well and they've got the right coaches to attract players, so I reckon it'll be very competitive between all sides," he said.

"There won't be an easy game, I don't think."



SNAPSHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1999, 2003, 2006, 2012, 2013, 2021

2023 RECORD

Finished – fifth

Home and away – 7 wins, 9 losses

Biggest win – round 3, Ardrossan, 23.14 (152) to 6.4 (40)

Best and fairest – Lachlan Pointon

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Tom Schott, PINT/returned; Brad Robinson, Central Yorke Cougars; Jett Baum, Flinders Park; Jimmy Redden, Henley; Harry Aldenhoven, Hummocks Watchman/returned; Henry Facy, PHOS Camden; Callum Saunders, PINT/PHOS Camden/returned; Brett Baille, returned; Finn Betterman, PHOS Camden; Tom Babidge, Hahndorf.

Farewell: Lachlan Varricchio, Hectorville; Ethan Dortmund-Sansbury, CY Cougars.

OUR TIP

Runners-up

CMS Crows' Jacob Hickman bursts away from a Wallaroo opponent in 2023.

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CMS Crows

Netball Club



Crows' flock keeps on flying



CMS Crows' Tegan Goldsworthy defends during last year's grand final.



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
2001, 2011, 2012, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023

2023 RECORD
Finished – premiers
Home and away – 14 wins, 1 loss, 1 draw
Biggest win – round 10, Moonta, 76 to 20
Best and fairest – Georgina Farrow

OUR TIP Runners-up

Is this a juggernaut which will ever be stopped?

A largely flawless 2023 season for the CMS Crows was capped off with the jewel in the crown: a third consecutive premiership, and a fourth is in their sights.

"Our expectation is to play a consistent, quality brand of netball," a club spokesperson said.

"If we do that, the sky is the limit.

"We'll be striving to build a netball community from within our club environment, improving the relationships and culture across the senior and junior netball programs and to enjoy playing netball.

"It is important to us our players, volunteers and supporters enjoy the benefits of being part of a strong club culture.

"We would be hoping for a more settled year with fewer injuries."

The A grade side was challenged most on the court by Paskeville in 2023, who beat the Crows twice, before falling to them in the grand final.

"After a difficult start to the season with two significant injuries in the first couple of rounds, it was testament to the depth of our club that we were able to have players seamlessly step up into the A grade side and maintain a consistently

high level of play to allow us to gain our third premiership in a row," the spokesperson said.

"Of course, this placed pressure on our other grades, and our team structures continued to change, on a sometimes-weekly basis, as further injuries beset the club.

"As a club, we have high expectations of our players both on the court and as members of the club.

"We look for a high level of commitment toward continuous improvement in our teamwork, individual skills and fitness."

Success often comes in groups for the club, as it won the B grade premiership in 2022, as well as back-to-back flags more than a decade ago in 2011-12.

It also has the reigning association best and fairest Georgina Farrow, and best-on-court in last year's grand final Tegan Goldsworthy, in its arsenal.

"The competition on Yorke Peninsula is always strong and on any given day, any team can be a winner," the spokesperson said.

"Several sides used 2023 to bring some youth into their sides, and after a year's experience, we expect these young guns to come out firing."

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Cougars' heartbreak taken into new season



SNAPSHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS 2007

2023 RECORD

Finished – fourth
Home and away – 11 wins, five losses
Biggest win – round 5, Wallaroo
 10.19 (139) to 2.8 (20)
Best and fairest – Luke Trenorden

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Henry Trenorden, Henley Sharks; Nigel Kleinig, Southern Flinders; Henry Hollams, Mundulla/returning; Jacob Davies, returning; Reuben Park, returning; Ethan Dortmund-Sansbury, CMS Crows.
Farewell – Charlie Hay, Queensland; Steven Clark Jnr, Central District; Jackson Bruce, Western Australia.

OUR TIP

Premiers

Reigning Mail Medallist and Cougars playing-coach Luke Trenorden wins a ruck tap against Moonta last year.

Central Yorke Cougars' season ended in heartbreak for the second time in a row, this time bowing out in a four-point loss at the hands of the Southern Eagles in the first semifinal.

However, fresh off an impressive individual feat in taking home the 2023 Mail Medal as the best player in the competition, playing-coach Luke Trenorden is hoping the feeling can drive success in 2024.

"There was a lot of frustration and definitely disappointment, with how we lost that game; things just didn't really fall our way, and didn't have a lot of luck in the end either," Trenorden said.

"It's been two years in a row we've missed out by basically less than a kick.

"The positive we can take out of that is the understanding that we're right up there and that's our belief moving forward, let's finally try and make the most of our opportunity to get there again."

The club's preparation for the new season has also been defined by much more real heartbreak, following the death of beloved player Zac Clasohm, late last year.

Trenorden said Clasohm's presence will always be felt throughout the group in everything it does during the season.

"Some boys will probably

use it as a motivation, I think it's probably going to hit a lot of players without them even realising it," he said.

"I hope everyone is thinking about how he's still here with us, and we'll use his charisma and attitude we'd see at the footy club as a motivating point for playing good footy.

"We had more of an individual-based preseason, giving the boys a little bit of time, and letting them go about their business the way they want to, and heal in the best way possible.

"Making sure we get around each other has been the biggest focus for us, and seeing a lot of numbers out there has shown me, that's the right mindset; we're all in this together."

Having finished fourth for the past two seasons, Trenorden said the Cougars' goal this year is to secure the double chance.

"It probably has inhibited us a little bit, playing in the Sunday finals, and it's a slightly longer road, of course you can win the flag from fourth or fifth, but it's a greater challenge we'd rather do without," he said.

Although losing perennial standout Charlie Hay, who has moved away, the club has been boosted by the addition of 2020 Adelaide Plains Football League Mail Medallist Henry Trenorden, Luke's cousin.



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Tempo the key at CY Cougars

It's been almost 10 years since the Central Yorke Cougars claimed an A grade premiership, but after a solid year in 2023, coach Lana Bagshaw is hopeful finding the right tempo in 2024 might seal the deal.

Her side went from a fourth-place minor round finish to being edged out by the CMS Crows in a tight preliminary final, last year.

"Overall, we felt pretty positive (about 2023), we always knew the top four teams were going to be tough and there'd be close games," she said.

"There is limited room for error and you simply can't give good sides a big lead early in the game.

"It was such a tight competition last year across the board with any team able to beat another.

"Previously we have had a split between top four and bottom four teams; however, 2023 showed all teams are really raising the bar and I saw some great netball from all clubs.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to make it to the big dance, but Pasky and Crows were two quality sides, and this was proven in a cracking grand final."

Bagshaw said, while winning is a high priority, it is always the goal to make netball a fun environment throughout the season.


"The goals are to embrace our new players to the club and hopefully keep them, grinding through the tough games and making it difficult for the teams we come up against," she said.

"And of course making the finals, as once you get there anything can happen.

"Timing and tempo will be our key this year – we are focusing on playing the game on our terms and not getting swept up in the defensive pressure other teams provide.

"When we play 'our game', valuing the ball, we play our best netball.

"It is about looking for moments in games when we just need to take control of and calm the tempo, or really take the game on and build pressure and intensity."



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2015

2023 RECORD
Finished – third
Home and away – 11 wins, 5 losses
Biggest win – round 18, Moonta, 68 to 32
Best and fairest – Laura Trenorden

OUR TIP
Third



CY Cougars' star 2023 recruit Indilee Pedler takes the ball during a contest with Ardrossan last year.



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Bloods dealt blows in title defence



2023 premiership-winning co-captain Jayson Manners lays a tackle against CMS Crows during a Saturday night fixture.

Attempting to win back-to-back premierships is never going to be easy, especially as you're the club every opponent is undoubtedly targeting, but Kadina premiership coach Gregg Clarke is hopeful his troops can continue sit atop the mountain.

His side has been dealt some hefty blows in the off-season, losing SANFL and local heroes Jake von Bertouch and Angus Poole, amongst others.

But pleasingly for Clarke, he now has a group at his disposal which almost entirely knows how great it feels to win a premiership.

"There was always inner belief, but there wasn't a lot outside of our group that we could do it, so naturally there was a real sense of happiness and euphoria at the end of last year," Clarke said.

"I've been in both positions, and sometimes when you're expected to win, it's almost relief rather than genuine excitement, and for us it's been around the whole club too, which is fantastic."

Despite losing last year's minor premiership, as well as the second semifinal (by 72 points) to Moonta, the Bloods sensationally turned it around to win the grand final by 36 points.

Clarke said the goal was to finish with the same result again this year.

"That's always the goal; if you say you're not trying to win the premiership, then I don't think you're being genuine, especially if you've been playing finals in previous years," he said.

"Usually in our league, between the top three or four sides, it's pretty even, so it comes down to playing well at the right time of year.

"Sometimes it's not necessarily about having good luck, it's about avoiding the bad luck."

Although Clarke concedes losing a

handful of premiership players is never ideal, he can see the silver lining.

"The way country footy is designed, the more consistent you are, the fewer points you have to recruit players so, you lose a few, you get a few, you just don't know what they're like until the season's underway," he said.

"Having said that, we've lost two blokes (Poole and von Bertouch) who have won SANFL premierships as well as our reigning best and fairest winner (Henry Bruce), so they're big shoes to fill.

"But, every time an older bloke passes through, there's someone 23, 24 or 25 years old who's going to keep improving."



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1984, 2002, 2010, 2011, 2017, 2023

2023 RECORD

Finished — premiers

Home and away — 14 wins, 2 losses

Biggest win — round 15, Wallaroo, 24.9 (153) to 5.5 (35)

Best and fairest — Henry Bruce

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome — Jameson Kelly, Nairne Bremer; Jake Medhurst, Blanchetown/Swan Reach.

Farewell — Angus Poole, Lockleys; Lachlan Glazbrook, Colonel Light Gardens; Henry Bruce, Langhorne Creek; Jake von Bertouch, work; Fin Hansen, overseas.

OUR TIP

Sixth

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Kadina to keep moving forward



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
1975, 1976, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1990, 2014

2023 RECORD
Finished – eighth
Home and away – 4 wins, 12 losses
Biggest win – round 5, Southern Eagles, 45 to 34
Best and fairest – Monique Manners

OUR TIP
Eighth

Now 10 years since it won its last A grade premiership, Kadina is hoping more consistency in its performances will help it improve in 2024.

Following an eighth-place finish last year with wins registered against Southern Eagles (two), Wallaroo and Central Yorke Cougars, the challenge for the Bloods is to add a few more to the tally.

A grade coach Amanda Schultz said building the side's defence is a focus heading into the new year.

"We definitely developed throughout the season with a mix of experienced and younger players and there were a few games where we did not remain consistent for four quarters," she said.

"With new players, and continuing to develop our current players, we have a lot of potential to build on our strengths.

"I see us as always being very strong in defence, we need to continue to work on using the space well in our attack."

Having won last year's C grade

premiership, the club has faith in the overall senior squad coming through, and the youth at its disposal.

Schultz said the A grade side will have its sights set on playing finals.

"We definitely need to focus on one game at a time, but with a longer-term goal to finish in the top four," she said.

"With a positive mindset, we will back ourselves and our teammates to work together.

"We're seeing more and more in recent seasons that no outcome is guaranteed.

"A lot of games were close and/or unexpected results which is fantastic to be a part of; all teams are more and more competitive each year."

To that end, Schultz said the YPNA is a strong competition, and the netball will be fierce in 2024.

"I know a few clubs have picked up partners of new football players and some clubs are turning players away due to the big numbers and the high level of talent," she said.

Kadina captain Monique Manners looks for a long pass on a wet day in Edithburgh last year.

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Developing young Demons



Moonta's Sam Watson kicks through the middle of the ground during season 2023.



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1963, 2005, 2016, 2018, 2022

2023 RECORD

Finished – runners-up

Home and away – 15 wins, 1 loss

Biggest win – round 11, Paskeville, 30.18 (198) to 9.4 (58)

Best and fairest – Ryley Maitland

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Seth Gregory, Kimba.

Farewell – Kieran Yakas, interstate; Jack Cooper, Victor Harbor; Lachlan Everett, Adelaide; Miller Carter, Port Districts.

OUR TIP Fourth

Renewal is the key word around Moonta Football Club this year, with returning coach Gavin Adams' number one focus for the upcoming season making sure the Demons' junior players are being developed properly.

After winning the minor premiership but failing to capture the flag last year, 2022 premiership coach Luke Pridham stepped aside, opening the door for Adams.

The club largely hasn't recruited in the off-season, instead putting the onus on its kids to be the next generation of Moonta A graders.

"The biggest thing for me coming back in is developing our local lads; we've got a great bunch of kids coming through," Adams said.

"There's no doubt a big part of our group departs over the coming years, so the question is who takes their spots, and there are some boys in the B grade who I think will really start to step up in the next 12 months.

"We've lost four of our recruits from last year, but

gained one outside player who moved to the area, but then also half a dozen, or more, in the B grade who can step up.

"Don't get me wrong, if one or two players pop up, we'll look at recruiting them, but it's really about our local lads this year."

Adams said renewal is also the intention for his side's game plan.

"The boys are pretty keen, they're doing the work outside of the footy club, which is what I wanted, they've got step up themselves," he said.

"Some of those younger kids are starting to go to the gym, and I'm seeing them run the streets.

"I had a chat with all of them before preseason started to say I hadn't seen any of them running, and now I have people coming up to me and letting me know they've seen certain players out."

While this year's greater goal is to develop the players on hand, Adams said his side has its sights set on another deep run into finals, having contested the past three grand finals.

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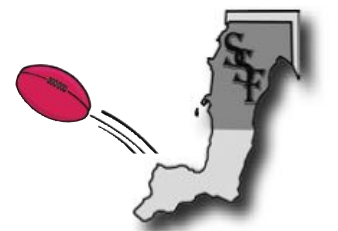
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Eyeing off a finals finish

It took the Demons until round 6 to register a win in 2023, but a strong showing in the second half of the year, due in part to the return of injured players, provided a positive end to the season.

One of the most successful teams in local A grade history, Moonta will be looking to bounce back into the top four in 2024, according to coach Kara Rendell.

Rendell said there is plenty of upside in her squad, particularly with the talented youth at her disposal.

"I think everyone was pretty happy considering we had so many injuries; we had four of our starting nine exit the team at the start of the year," she said.

"We pulled up some young girls and they really stepped into a huge role and our B grade was obviously going well, so it was hard for me to disrupt them, knowing they had a pretty good chance of making the grand final."

Rendell said the side will move away from forced erratic positioning changes which occurred last year

when top-end talent in one position was forced to play in another.

"We've actually for the first time ever potentially got a good number of goalies," she said.

"We've got some really talented girls, but we'll still be quite disadvantaged when it comes to height inside the circle, that's probably the biggest challenge for us."

"I think it's the strongest our defensive end has been in a very long time."

She said a fourth-place finish would be a target for her side.

"There's some really good top-end players who are retiring down the bottom end, but then you've got these young kids now who seem to be getting better and better," Rendell said.

"I think it'll be pretty even again, even last year, the games which you thought would be easy, weren't necessarily easy, and the games you got comprehensively beaten, you didn't feel like you were."

"I think the competition is in a really good place."



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1974, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1991, 1997, 2008, 2009, 2019

2023 RECORD

Finished – sixth
Home and away – 6 wins, 10 losses
Biggest win – round 6, Kadina, 48 to 20
Best and fairest – Simone Hewett

OUR TIP

Sixth

Moonta's Carlin Macro looks for a pass down court.



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Consistency Magpies' key

A change at the helm in Paskeville is hoped to bring a renewed focus, enthusiasm and consistency to the Magpies this season.

Two years of top three placings were followed by two years of missing September completely, but having installed Cohen Mattner as its new coach, the club hopes it can make the move up again.

Mattner said he had been impressed by what he has seen throughout the pre-season.

"So far so good, I've been happy with the standards which are being set on the track, and we just keep moving forward," he said.

"I'm not saying to the lads 'we want to set the world alight'; we just want to play consistent footy to end up being around the mark.

"We want to improve our consistency in execution and skills, and at the end of the day, we want to be in more games than we're not."

For Mattner, it's a case of seeing improvement week-by-week as the season goes on, hopefully resulting in a higher ladder position than last year.

"If we improve a little bit from last year, then that's a step forward, going in the right direction, which is

all I can ask of the group," he said.

"I haven't been speaking about finals or anything like that (to the players), we just want to make an improvement on last year."

He said the club didn't go on a big recruiting spree in the off-season, exactly as he wanted.

"I'm not about that, we haven't gone after any mercenaries, but a few guys have come back to the club, which has been rewarding," Mattner said.

"There's now further depth there, especially with leadership and guys who have had A grade stints elsewhere.

"I'm happy to build in-house with what we've got already in the building."

Mattner played for the club in 2013, amassing 61 goals across 17 games for the year, but having been away since, said he wasn't sure what to expect from the competition.

"I obviously haven't seen the league for a few years, but you look at some of the names which played last year and they're quality footballers who could probably still play SANFL footy," he said.

"The standard is up there."



Paskeville's Jack Davies tussles for the ball against Bute last year.



A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1962, 1964, 1985, 1987, 2001, 2014, 2015

2023 RECORD

Finished – seventh

Home and away – 4 wins, 12 losses

Biggest win – round 13, Bute, 16.11 (107) d 11.10 (76)

Best and fairest – Brodie Paige

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Jarrad O'Donahue, Broughton-Mundoora; Sam Holman, Gaza; Ben Pater, Ports; Alby Price, returning/ Broughton-Mundoora.
Farewell – Dale Franklin; Kynan Adams; Elliot Wegener.

OUR TIP Seventh

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Onwards and upwards for Magpies

It's been a case of so close, yet so far, for Paskeville Magpies, with preliminary and grand final losses in the past two seasons, respectively.

However, perhaps it's always been a mission one step at a time, breaking down a new milestone in the season each year, meaning a premiership could be due this season.

Experienced coach Fiona Bussenschutt said the team learned a lot from the heartbreak of a one-point loss in last year's final game.

"Whilst we were obviously very disappointed in losing such an intense grand final last season, we were also super proud of the achievements of what was effectively a new team," she said.

"We didn't have one established combination of players on court from the previous season, so the girls had worked super hard to get there and had a heap of fun along the way."

Bussenschutt said this year will be a continuation of everything the club has been working on, hopefully in an upward trajectory.

She said it is always pleasing when the club has all five senior grades excelling, like last year.

"Luckily, I don't see any major changes being needed – as a club we had all five senior sides playing in the final series, this shows as a club, our focus on skills, drills and attitudes must be on the right path," Bussenschutt said.

"As always, there will be new players with new strengths to utilise, and a few little tweaks here and there should hopefully put us in good standing for the year."

However, she said time will tell whether they will continue their successful march during finals.

"With the depth of our competition there are no guarantees, but I believe our best will be right amongst it again," Bussenschutt said.

"Our focus is to maximise the performance and enjoyment of each and every individual, to continue to have a strong team first attitude and to hopefully have many teams pushing deep in finals again."

"As always, we've seen people come and go over the summer; however, we are excited to welcome many new faces including Taylah Wurfel and Eliza Kitschke, and happily welcome back Lauren Maxwell after her ACL reconstruction."



Paskeville's Courtney Stone passes to teammate Chloe Cook in the goal circle against CMS Crows during last year's A grade second semifinal.



SNAP SHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

2004, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017

2023 RECORD

Finished – runners-up

Home and away – 13 wins, 3 losses

Biggest win – round 10, Southern Eagles, 63 to 28

Best and fairest – Chloe Cook

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Eagles back last year's approach

With a third-place finish to build on, there are only a couple of better results a team can achieve, but for the Southern Eagles, the goal is to go one or two places better in 2024.

With the largely unchanged squad and former AFL player Jared Poulton now into their second year together, the club is well placed to make a proper push for premiership glory.

The Eagles were last year undone in a remarkable preliminary final in which they kicked five goals to one in the second quarter, before watching six unanswered majors sail over their heads the following term.

"It was disappointing to let it slip away in that preliminary final, but credit to Kadina for being a very well drilled side and showing us if you keep to your plan, it holds up against any side," Poulton said.

"Definitely the senior players who have been around a while realised what they missed out on, and have been putting in a bit more effort.

"Because we won the reserves (premiership), there's still been a lot of happy people around the club."

Poulton said his side has

spent preseason focusing a lot more on skill, rather than an over-emphasis on fitness.

"We're going to stick to what we did last year; try to take the game on, play exciting footy, but work on reading the situation of the game, which we didn't quite do in the preliminary final," he said.

"We could see what we were doing worked, but it's a case of cleaning up around the edges.

"That was our goal last year, to win the flag, and we fell short, so it's certainly our focus going into this year."

He said, after a year off, SANFL premiership player and local Jarred Redden is returning to Woodville-West Torrens in a mentoring role but expects him to be available to play on the peninsula most weeks.

The club hasn't made bulk recruiting moves in the summer, instead investing in locals.

"We had a big influx last year, so I didn't want to just go and chase more people," Poulton said.

"We've got such a good group of young locals, through both the A and B grades, and I'd rather see it stay with them, and focus on developing them as our teams."



SNAPSHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1995, 2008, 2009, 2019

2023 RECORD

Finished – third

Home and away – 12 wins, 4 losses

Biggest win – round 13, CMS Crows,
23.13 (151) to 5.4 (34)

Best and fairest – Jackson Hooper

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Matthew Allen, South Clare.

Farewell – Brodie Kitto, work.

OUR TIP

Third

Last season's Mail Medal runner-up, Jackson Hooper bursts through the middle of the ground during last year's preliminary final against Kadina.

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Make the Eagles competitive again

The Southern Eagles struggled on the court last year, failing to win a single game in the A grade, but there are positives for the club as it embarks on a new season.

The first of those positives arrived on grand final day, as the club became the inaugural premier of the newly created D2 grade, with Charlize Bunney, who the club has identified as a potential rising star to breakthrough this year, winning the best on court award.

The other new factor for the club is a completely new A grade squad – bar one player – set to take to the court in 2024, including Laura Daniell, Sarah Ramsay, Jessie East and Alicia Miller.

“There has been lots of positivity amongst the group, even though they didn’t win any games for the year, they did come within a couple of goals against some sides,” a club spokesperson said.

“Keeping the positivity within the team (has been a focus), we only have one remaining A grade player from last year so it will be a whole new group which is exciting.”

The goal for the club, which won its only A grade premiership in 2006, is to make its A grade side competitive in 2024.

“I think just getting one A grade win would be a massive achievement for our netball club,” the spokesperson said.

“A grade is always a strong competition and I don’t see that standard changing which is great for the association.”



SNAPSHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
2006

2023 RECORD

Finished – ninth
Home and away – 0 wins, 16 losses
Biggest win – N/A
Best and fairest – Chelsea Giles

OUR TIP Ninth

Southern Eagles’ Laura Daniel looks down the court for a pass.

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New recruits bolster Dogs' midfield

There's no reason for Wallaroo not to feel bullish heading into the new season, with significant playing stocks brought in to rectify the problems of last year.

The club finished 2023 as wooden spooners, but with plans to add further depth to its midfield for 2024.

Second-year coach Corey Smelt is pleased with the calibre of player the club has lured this year, including a trio from Adelaide Footy League side Unley Mercedes Jets – Jacob Tidswell, George Manuell and Zac Fairlie.

"We believe we've got a pretty powerful forward line, but we almost had to rob Peter to pay Paul last year in that regard, with guys who should've been playing forward having to go down back," he said.

"We've got three or four good midfielders from town now, so hopefully that gives us more high-quality feed into the forward line.

"Going forward, we know we're strong, we've just got to get it in there, so we basically went for midfielders only.

"We've definitely got a

better list than last year in totality; it just comes down to whether everyone else has got better or stayed the same."

Smelt said there is still a significant challenge ahead of his side to make inroads into the season, not too dissimilar to last year.

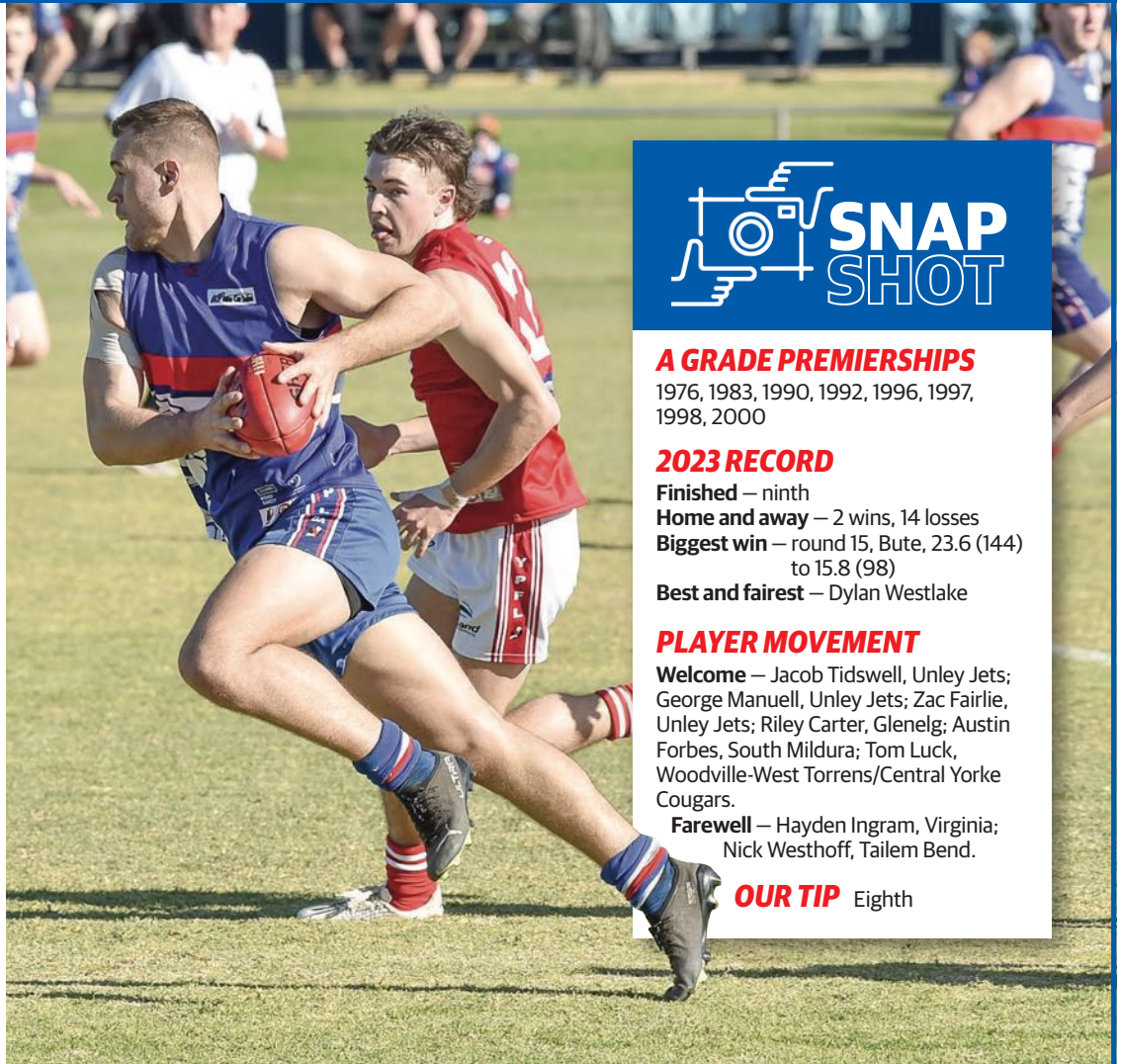
"We knew right from the start when I took over, the list we had, how young we were, the objective was to beat Ardrossan, Paskeville and Bute twice, to make finals," he said.

"We got off the bottom, and then in the last round, which we had a bye in, results didn't go in our favour and we were back there.

"We've got a great culture, the fanbase is unreal and we all know what path we're on.

"If you can win those games against those around you, and then snare a win against one of the other teams around the top, I think you've had a pretty good year."

Wallaroo's Josef Rack runs into space during last season.



SNAPSHOT

A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS

1976, 1983, 1990, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000

2023 RECORD

Finished – ninth

Home and away – 2 wins, 14 losses

Biggest win – round 15, Bute, 23.6 (144) to 15.8 (98)

Best and fairest – Dylan Westlake

PLAYER MOVEMENT

Welcome – Jacob Tidswell, Unley Jets; George Manuell, Unley Jets; Zac Fairlie, Unley Jets; Riley Carter, Glenelg; Austin Forbes, South Mildura; Tom Luck, Woodville-West Torrens/Central Yorke Cougars.

Farewell – Hayden Ingram, Virginia; Nick Westhoff, Tailem Bend.

OUR TIP Eighth



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A GRADE PREMIERSHIPS
1968, 1969, 1971, 1987, 1992

2023 RECORD
Finished – seventh
Home and away – 5 wins, 11 losses
Biggest win – round 4, Kadina, 56 to 29
Best and fairest – Demi Jenner

OUR TIP Fifth

Wallaroo's Macayla Marner passes the ball to a teammate.

Fresh off a victory in the D grade grand final last year, Wallaroo is looking to continue growing across every grade, with new coaches at the helm and greater depth in the squad.

Club president Lynelle Bodie said the sum result of last year was an improvement for the A grade, which jumped up one position on the ladder.

"Season 2023 was a great improvement for our A grade side with a few more wins on the board than the previous year," she said.

"With a new A grade coach, Samantha Williams, who has just moved to town, it's great to have a different view on new and old players."

With Williams at the helm, the outlook for the year ahead is blue sky.

The club last tasted premiership glory at A grade level more than 30 years ago, in 1992.

"With a new coach and new players anything is possible; we have six or seven new players to our A and B squad, and around seven or eight to our C, D and D2 squad," Bodie said.

"Every year our goal is to improve on the previous year while having fun, and this year we're happy to have the numbers to fill a D2 team."

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