

Recollections from the Past

2000

The year 2000 marked the beginning of an exiting couple of years for the Somerset Sharks. The big news for the club over the summer was the signing of Andrew Greenwood as senior coach. Greenwood had coached various junior north-west and state teams in the years leading up to him signing with Somerset and he had deservedly developed a reputation as one of the most astute and professional coaches in the state.

Greenwood would have been thankful for his recent junior coaching experience as he surveyed the players who turned up to the first training run for the year. Aside from a handful of experienced stalwarts, such as Richard Garnett, Simon Good, Sean Jarman and Stevie Wright, the majority of the players pushing for senior selection were barely into their mid-teens. Players such as Casey Eaves, Nathan Palmer, Adam Hoare, Andrew Keygan and Joey Connelley – all turning 17 that year and all previously coached by Greenwood as juniors – would rack up plenty of senior games in 2000. Other players to make an impact in 2000 included senior captain Jarrod Cumming, proven goal scorer Ricki Eaves, classy Dutch import Bram Westrick, Burnie United recruits Andy Wright and Josh Burr and former national league player Adam Conkie.

The first competitive game of the year, a Steve Hudson Cup match against Glenorchy Knights, ended in a 10-1 loss for the Sharks and gave the younger guys in particular an idea of what senior soccer was all about. Things weren't all gloomy however; four more Steve Hudson Cup matches and three tough matches in the Burnie Cup gave the new-look Sharks time to gel and learn the system Andrew wanted his team to play before the season proper got under way.

The Sharks actually got off to a flyer in the league that year, enjoying wins against the Western Knight (3-1), Burnie (4-3) and Ulverstone (3-1) from their first three games.. The Sharks were brought back to earth with a bang however, losing their next game against a very strong Devonport team (2-4). That pattern of stringing several wins together then recording a loss every few rounds continued throughout the rest of the season as the Sharks built a reputation as an exciting and attacking team. Highlights for the season included back-to-back wins against the old enemy Burnie, thumping wins over Georgetown (9-4), Northern Rangers (5-1), Western Knights (5-0) and Launceston (5-1), and two hard-fought draws against a very strong Riverside team (1-1 and 1-1). Lowlights included a couple of big losses in the league to Launceston City (1-6) and Devonport (0-7) and heartbreaking golden goal loss to Devonport (3-4) in the final Night Series in the final game of the year. By season's end, the Sharks found themselves fourth on the league ladder with 11 wins, three draws and six losses, and the club as a whole had very high hopes for the proceeding couple of years

For those who are interested in such things, the 2000 senior best and fairest was won by Ricki Eaves (52 votes) ahead of Casey Eaves (45 votes) and Andrew Keygan and Adam Hoare (both 44 votes). The reserves best and fairest was won by Simon Good ahead of Nick Roper.

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Also for the sake of interest, the line up for the senior team that ran out against Georgetown at Georgetown on 10 June 2000 - a line up that was pretty typical for that year - was as follows:

Ricki Eaves
(striker)

Casey Eaves
(left mid)

Bram Westrick
(centre mid)

Adam Conkie
(centre mid)

Richard Garnett
(right mid)

Andrew Keygan
(left back)

Jarrod Cumming
(centre back)

Simon Good
(centre back)

Joey Connelley
(right back)

Nathan Palmer
(sweeper)

Adam Hoare
(goal keeper)



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