

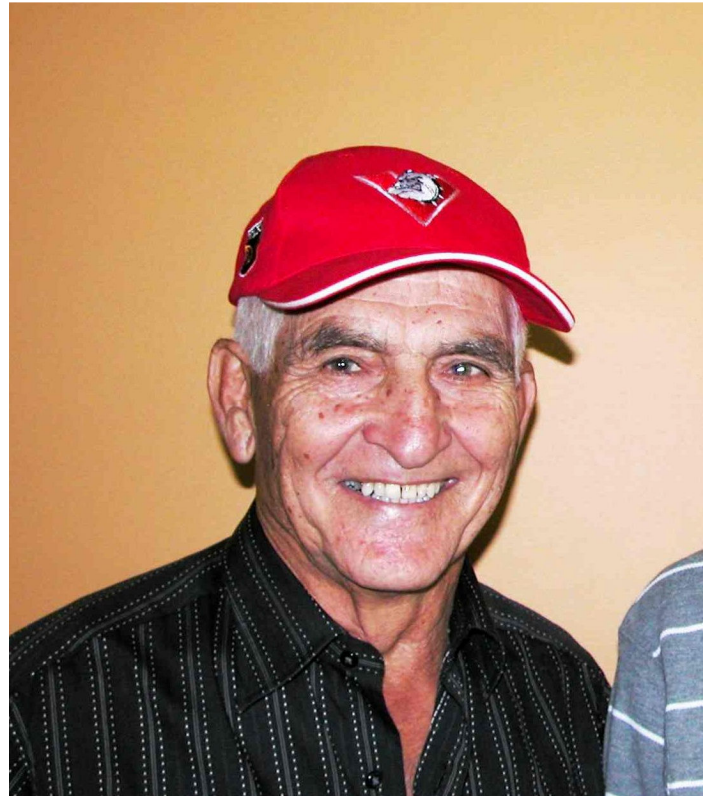
Where Are They Now?

South has been blessed with many talented centremen over the years...Clive Lewington, John Todd, Hassa Mann, Don Haddow, Maurice Rioli, Mark Bairstow, Scott Watters and current club champion Toby McGrath. Colin Beard had the pleasure of talking to another who would make all the above champs work overtime for their kicks.

In this, our fourteenth edition of 'Where Are They Now', we honour a triple premiership centremen who won a State guernsey after just five league matches...

***'When the going
got tough,
Parentich
got going...'***

Tony Parentich proudly wears his No. 744 cap at a recent South function. A triple Premiership player and Walker Medallist he actively continues to support South and is MC at the annual Life Members Dinner



Tony Parentich was a coach's dream. Head down, hard running, consistently skilful, always reliable, courageous and hated conceding kicks to his direct opponent. The old adage 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going' could well have been specially written for Tony Parentich.

Tony played vital roles in the 1952/53 and 54 premierships. In the 1952 Grand Final, South came from five goals down to beat West Perth 12.19 (91) to 10.10 (70). Parentich was one of our best players. Twelve months later he was again outstanding in South's 59 point win in the '53 Grand Final. He followed that up next year with a Premiership against our traditional rival, East Fremantle by 78 points. That was three Flags in his first three years with South.

Tony vividly remembers details of his recruitment to South. "I was studying Chemistry at UWA in 1950, and won the Fairest and Best Medal for the whole amateur competition playing at centre half forward. South approached me to join in 1951 but I declined, mainly because of second year study commitments and the fact that I was promised a trip to Melbourne with the amateur state side," he recalled. "Next year I joined South, played centre, and after about five games was heading back to Victoria with the Western Australian state side. Luck tended to be on my side as Keith Harper (Perth) was injured and I was selected to tour but regrettably didn't make the 20 for the game".

Tony says his most memorable happenings in his long and distinguished career were the three premierships, his first game against Perth at Freo oval and his first run with Western Australia in Adelaide in 1953. He played eight State games during his career and 162 matches for South between 1952-59 and 1961.

In 1956, Tony was adjudged Best and Fairest player in the 1956 Grand Final, a match we lost to East Perth. His Simpson Medal was further proof of Tony's toughness, and ability to try and lift his team against the odds of highly talented opposition.

The following year he won South's Best and Fairest, then known as the A.W. Walker Medal. He was runner-up to two of South's finest, Steve Marsh in 1956 and John Todd in 1958.

Tony coached South Reserves for a couple of years and was earlier coach of Hilton under 16's where Life Member and 169 game South player, Gary Greer, was one of his star players. Life Membership was awarded to Tony in 1963.

Steve Marsh played a major role in the Premierships Tony played in. Tony continued, "He was a little General on the field, a great organiser and had a verbal influence over all players.

"Clive Lewington was also an outstanding coach. Softly spoken, never abusive and encouraged players to play with their own style and flair, provided it fitted team rules and boundaries.

"We also had many outstanding players and a wonderful blend of brilliance, skill, strength and polish. Players like Ray Richards and Cliff Hillier would provide the strength and muscle, Frank Treasure the polish and Bernie Naylor and Steve Marsh the brilliance near goal," he added.

Tony Parentich was also a very talented cricketer and had outstanding success with South Fremantle Footballers Cricket Club and played well into his late 30's. In the early '60's, while studying for his Ph.D., he played a first grade premiership with University, a team that was captained by John Inverarity and included Rod Marsh and Tony Mann.

Today Tony, 77, a retired university chemistry lecturer lives in Attadale. When he's not at Freo Oval following his beloved Bulldogs you'll catch him at Royal Perth Golf Club working to improve his 21 handicap.

Tony Parentich we salute you and thank you for your wonderful contribution to our great club.

Honour for 'Sheepdip', 'Rooster', 'Snoz', 'Strawberry' and 'Stoona' - By Colin Beard

At South's annual Life Members Dinner in March, I was thrilled and excited for a few past team mates of mine who were awarded Lifetime Membership of our great club. These guys also played in the era of today's celebrity Tony Parentich.

Bob 'Sheepdip' Cassidy, Frank 'Rooster' Johnson, Harry 'Snoz' Riseborough, John 'Strawberry' Brindley and Stan 'Stoona' Badham were introduced to Life Members and presented with a certificate for the new category "Lifetime Member" awarded to any player who began his career more than 50 years ago and played in excess of 50 league games.

Each spoke from the heart when mentioning their love for our great club in a very emotional and entertaining acceptance speech.

Apart from their wonderful contribution to the club I felt a great affection when thinking of each past hero's nickname. I wondered 50 years on whether today's players all have nicknames?

Others to receive Lifetime Membership were Bill Elmer, Kevin Kelly, Paul Pearce, John Newton and Tony Ravlich for being 50-year continuous financial members.

Bulldogs runner-up to Gerovich trophy

An excellent team performance saw South past players beat all but West Perth for the John Gerovich Perpetual Trophy at the past players annual golf match held at Mt Yokine Golf Club.

Rowley 'Tilta' Daw had the biggest smile winning \$100 cash for the Ric Hart nearest to pin on the first. The course was in excellent condition and all players had a wonderful day and agreed it is a 'must do' next year.

Team scores were: Colin Beard 38 points, Doug Ingraham 35, Norm Cox and 'Tilta' 33 each, Ric Gloede 26 and Don Haddow 25. The top six scores from each club count and as we only had the bare half dozen we were at a disadvantage.

We intend to recruit more players for the next match in March 2010 and bring the Gerovich trophy back to Freo oval. If you've played League for South and preferably a member of a golf club (not essential) please contact Doug Ingraham or Col Beard.