

2015 Annual Report Adelaide University Touch Club

2015 has been an extremely eventful one for the Adelaide University Touch Club. The number of Adelaide University teams entered into both the autumn and winter competitions has grown in the past year which is a positive sign that the club is gathering momentum. No doubt recruiting efforts have been aided by the strong club showings at O'week over the last couple of years. We have won the Most Appealing Stall award two years in a row! The organisation of our teams, trainings and events would not be possible without the hard work of our committee. The committee members this year were:

Secretary: Isobel Angove

Treasurer: Jack King

Social Coordinator: Mel Ralph

General Committee Members: Jo Waugh, Kirby Gerangue, Bec Hogan, Sebastian Amodeo and Lachlan McDonald

Winter End of Season Dinner 2014

This was the first ever AUTC event to be held in the new Graduates Clubhouse. The viewing area was adorned in the club colours; from balloons, to streamers, to the cupcakes served for dessert. Whilst the decorations may have outshone the food, a fantastic night was had by all, and the party continued late into the evening.

The following club prizes were awarded:

Best Coach: Rebecca Harper

Best Club Member: Jack King

Most Promising Female: Isobel Angove

Most Promising Male: Lachlan McAllister

Waite Competition 2014/15

We continue to attract the strongest teams to the A/B division while maintaining the usual mix of family and friends teams in the lower divisions. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, some of which must have trickled through to the Touch SA award nominations as Waite was awarded the Affiliate of the Year in late 2014. Special thanks must go to Jo Waugh for all her work and organisation in running this competition in recent years.

Despite player satisfaction, team registrations were down on the previous years (34 instead of 39). Of the teams that did not return, three of the five cited player age and/or availability as reasons for not being able to fill a team. Of the two other teams, one was not a good cultural fit for the competition and has moved on.

The fifth team lost was an AUTC team. It is concerning to see the decrease in AUTC club member participation in Waite touch, not least because the club administers the competition. Running the competition requires a great deal of organisation, beginning in September with advertising, team nominations and arranging the draw. Administrative tasks continue throughout the season, thus it requires an enormous number of hours for the competition coordinator to ensure each Thursday night runs smoothly.

Additionally, referees are required to keep the competition at a high standard. If AUTC club members made up the bulk of the referee pool the struggle to provide two officials per game would be eased. On this front, Anton van Rensburg has been an invaluable resource to the

competition by serving as Referee Coach. Along with the Referee Coordinator he has been identifying promising referees and developing their skills. This has fostered an enthusiasm for refereeing amongst a core group of juniors.

In future seasons it would be ideal to see more club members playing and refereeing at Waite. It is hoped that in the coming season, the committee will arrange to spread the load of the competition's administration. The university will upgrade the Waite oval in the coming years, providing the opportunity to expand the competition further. If the club continues to build its numbers and find members happy to provide a helping hand behind the scenes, there is no reason why the Waite competition should not continue to thrive.

Competition Participation

City Touch Competitions

We were able to enter six teams in the Autumn Super Series Competition, which is two more than last year! AUTC Splice was competitive in the top division, finishing fourth and AUTC Calippo finished at the top of Pool D.

The strong numbers established in the autumn season carried over into winter, and we again had six teams competing each week at City Touch; five in the mixed competition and one in the women's. It was a tough beginning to the season for many teams, though since re-grading, AUTC has fared much better.

It has been fantastic to see the improvement in all of our teams over the course of the year. Thanks must go to our coaches that run Wednesday night trainings and attend team games, regardless of the miserable conditions throughout July and August. We are incredibly fortunate to have a large number of members willing to volunteer their time as coaches. This year Matt Jacques has been Head Coach and has been assisted by Dave Harris, Tom Ralph, Latch Singh, Tom Lee, Caitlin Randall, Tess Leahy, Sebastian Amodeo, Mel Ralph, Jimmy Ha and Paul Harrold throughout the course of the year.

Southern University Games

SUGs were held in Adelaide this year with the touch football competition taking place at Flinders University. Thanks to the knowledge and organisation of Coaches Matt Jacques and Tom Ralph, as well as the assistance of Coaches Tom Lee and Caitlin Randall, training sessions were well-attended throughout Term 2 ensuring the team was ready for anything at the beginning of July.

AUTC beat Flinders in their first game on Monday, putting everyone into high spirits. Unfortunately, a combination of injuries and unhappy circumstances in the following two games left AUTC with only one win at the end of Day One. Over the next few days the team fought hard to turn this trend around and ended up finishing seventh of fourteen teams.

Australian University Games

AUTC is fortunate to have the opportunity to send a mixed team away to Australian Uni Games this year in the Gold Coast. It will be fantastic for all players involved to experience the standards of touch football played in the Eastern States.

Social Events

The pub crawl was again a popular event, and served as a great way to celebrate the end of the autumn season. Thanks to Mel Ralph for her efforts in organising the t shirts and the venues – it was a sight to be seen, with forty-five people wandering around in hot-pink shirts.

The quiz night was a new event, organised to raise money for the upcoming Australian Uni games. Tables sold out in advance, and full teams had to be turned away to avoid exceeding capacity. \$1222.20 was raised to support the AUTC team that will head to the Gold Coast this month to compete.

What's next?

The winter season will finish in the next couple of weeks and will be followed by the End of Season dinner on October 17. The Waite season will begin on October 29 and we are hoping that the strong interest that has been shown for autumn and winter touch will continue into the summer season.