

EAST TORRENS BASEBALL CLUB

HISTORY

PRE 1940's



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BASEBALL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In 1888, two American teams visited South Australia, and played three exhibition matches, which attracted interest in the game. Subsequently a baseball league was formed at a meeting in Adelaide held on 19 March 1889, with Mr. T. Gepp (Mayor of Kensington & Norwood) being elected President. The Survey team was one of the first South Australian baseball teams to be established, named for the workers of the Surveyor-General's Department.



EARLY YEARS

Numerous teams, including juniors, competed in summer competitions from the 1889/90 season through to the 1896/97 season.



INTERSTATE COMPETITION

Interstate fixtures against Victoria were played in 1889, 1894 and 1896, culminating with the selection of an Australian side to tour America in 1897.



AMERICAN ADVENTURE

This “adventure” delivered a knockout blow back in this country as the tour was a financial flop, with baseball becoming non-existent in South Australia until 1908.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE

Formed in 1908 where four teams commenced playing in the SABL Winter Competition after a 10-year break. A number of these games were played before league football matches.

STATE TEAM 1914

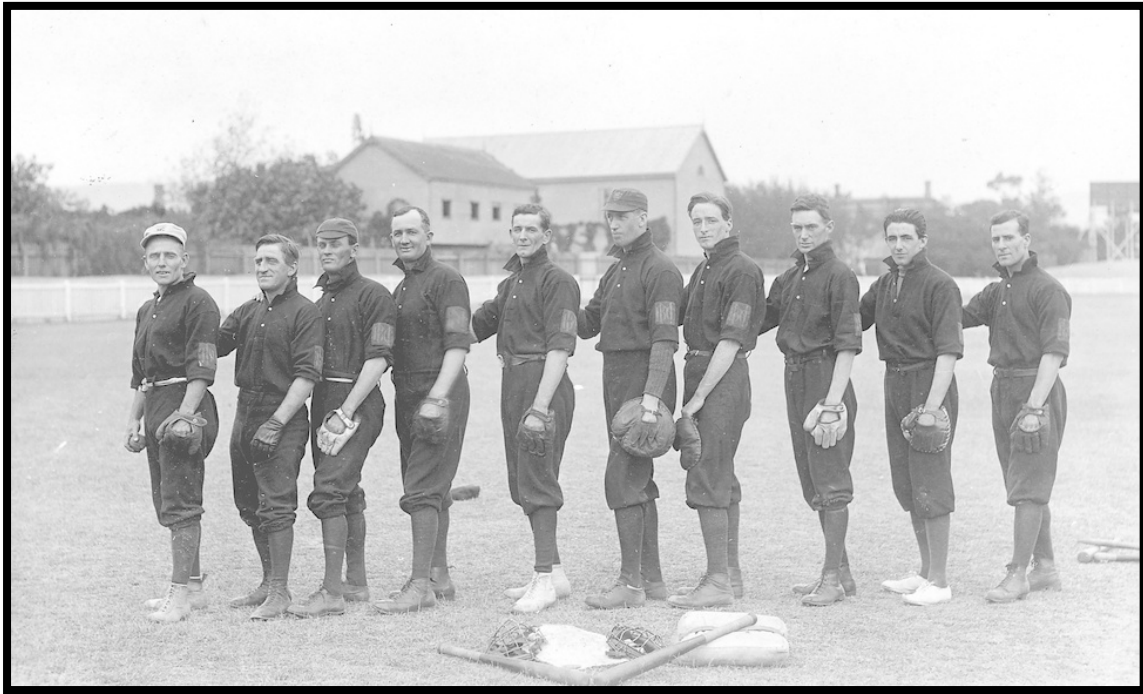


NORWOOD BASEBALL CLUB

The first four teams to play in the SABL were Adelaide, Goodwood, Norwood and Sturt.

None of these original teams remained in their original format, with three of the sides disbanding, and other teams adopting the team name later.

NORWOOD OVAL 1920



The Norwood Baseball Club changed its moniker to East Torrens Baseball Club in 1923.

From 1910 until 1933, South Australia regularly participated in Interstate baseball, mainly against NSW and Victoria, but was generally considered an “easybeat”, and never won any of the carnivals.

Many teams came and went in the leagues’ first 20 years, with a 3-year break for the war from 1916, strangling baseball’s progress in this country. A junior league had started a few years before the war.

After the war, and up to 1930, teams played A grade baseball on an ad hoc basis, with team’s monikers including Freemason Ramblers (a top team of the era), YMCA, Blue Socks, Millswood and Forestville, but also included some district teams. A “B”-grade competition also started in 1924.

DISTRICT BASEBALL

In 1931, the league switched over to a District competition comprising the following teams:

Adelaide, East Torrens, Goodwood, Kensington, Sturt, University & West Torrens being joined by Port Adelaide, Glenelg & Prospect clubs, and teams like the YMCA playing in the B-grade.



GRADES OF BASEBALL

Up until World War 1, the SABL progressed, with more grades forming, and by 1940 there were four senior grades.

References

State Library of South Australia – B-7798-84, PRG-280-1-25-255, PRG-280-1-13-402, PRG-280-1-36-119, PRG-280-1-36-328