

FROM PARTY BOYS TO PREMIERS

By Andrew Capel



Chris McDermott said Graham Cornes' arrival as Glenelg coach in 1985 hit the players like a sledgehammer.

"Before Graham arrived Glenelg was very much a party club," ace midfielder McDermott recalled of the start of the most successful era in club history. "We had talented players and won our share of games but we lived the good life too much and we didn't win (grand) finals. We really didn't know what hard work was until Graham turned up, so without doubt his arrival was the biggest transformation for us."

Turn up he did.

Cornes was a legendary figure at Tigerland, having played 317 games for the club from 1967- 82. He famously took the spectacular mark to kick the winning goal in the dying moments of Glenelg's previous premiership win in 1973 – only the club's second flag and first since 1934. But Cornes spent two years as playing-coach of South Adelaide in 1983-84, leading it to fifth spot in both seasons.

Cornes's return to coach the club at which he made his name – following the axing of Graham Campbell – was met with much fanfare. A favourite son had returned home. And Cornes took little time stirring the pot and shaking the players into action.

Trevor Jaques played a key role in Glenelg's back-to-back premierships of 1985-86 as fitness coach. He and coach Graham Cornes sure worked the Tigers hard.

"We didn't know what training hard was until this bloke came in," McDermott said. "In the pre-season of 1985 he made his statement by just flogging us. He'd have us doing 10 x 400m runs followed by 10 x 300m runs back-to-back. Then there were the 8km runs where if you didn't break your previous time it was nothing for him to make us do it all over again.

"Graham's philosophy was we didn't know how hard we could actually work and how much our bodies could take. He was a pioneer in educating footballers that they could go to a level they didn't think they were capable of and he proved to us while we thought we were working hard before he arrived at the club we were wrong.

"He was brutal, he smashed us and he didn't play favourites. Everyone from the most experienced player in Peter Carey to the least-experienced player on the list was treated equally, which was brilliant. If you didn't do the right thing or live up to the standards Graham was trying to set he would eyeball you gun-barrel straight, so it was a massive wake-up call for us as to what was required. He did everything he could to make us more professional and the boys responded."

Bottom: A rhyme and it was right. The Tigers about to burst through a ripper banner before the 1985 grand final.

Below: The crowd of 50,289 is all eyes as Chris Duthy and Michael Murphy make sure North's Mike Parsons and John Brealey can't do any scoreboard damage.





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GLENELG FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

S.A.N.F.L. PREMIERS 1985



Back Row: M. Donovan, D. Kernahan, M. Murphy, J. West, A. Garton, J. Seebohm, C. Duthy, G. Walsh.

Middle Row: R. Kidney, A. McGuinness, R. Gibbs, D. Marshall, C. Woodlands, T. Jaques (Runner), C. McDermott, S. Copping, M. Hewett, P. Maynard.

Front Row: A. Stringer, A. Hall, W. Stringer, S. Kernahan (Vice-Captain), G. Cornes (Coach), P. Carey (Captain), A. Symonds, J. MacFarlane, S. Salisbury.

Absent: W. Henwood.

Photograph by DONALD GEE, A.A.I.P.P.

Cornes had played with many members of the Glenelg side he was now coaching, including in consecutive grand final defeats in 1981 and '82. After he left as a player to join the Panthers, the Tigers slumped to seventh under Campbell in 1983. They rose to third in 1984 but lost their last two finals in disappointing fashion to Port Adelaide and Norwood after captain Carey was infamously suspended for attempting to strike in the qualifying final win against Central District, leading to Campbell's dismissal. McDermott rated Campbell as a coach and person but admitted the players were allowed to have "too much fun" under him.

"Graham (Campbell) had a decent philosophy but not quite the discipline we needed," McDermott said. "He was very passionate and we loved him as a bloke but he was more like an uncle to us. He played a role in our future success by helping to bring some grunt to the club by recruiting Scott Salisbury and the Stringer brothers, Wayne and Alan, but when you look back at it we had a two-year party under him.

"Graham (Cornes) came in and shook that out of us straight away. He was imposing, intimidating, demanding, he could get angry and he made us fear him. But he knew how to get a response from us and it didn't take us long to believe in him and what he was doing ... to trust him. He quickly turned us into hardened professionals."

Wingman Tony Symonds says Cornes "enforced the discipline we needed".

"We had a lot of good young players but we were a bit undisciplined off the field," Symonds said. "There's no doubt we partied pretty hard and Graham was able to harness the egos, get us to pull our heads in a bit and concentrate more on our football to get the best out of us. Until Graham took over as coach we were probably running our own race a fair bit and he was able to show us the value of hard work, teach us to get more sleep, to eat better and to pay more attention to detail in our preparation for matches. Suddenly we started seeing the benefits of that and everything came together."

Opposite: Peter Maynard probably wasn't sure which way was up as North's David Robertson tackled him and Peter Carey and Roosters Tony Antrobus and Mike Redden awaited the outcome.



Glenelg started the season with a bang, winning five of its first six matches. But with Trevor Jaques running the gruelling fitness program Cornes demanded, the Tigers hit a hurdle. They lost four consecutive games from rounds seven to 10. However, by Round 15 Glenelg started to roll again, reeling off seven straight victories before being upset by Sturt in Round 22.

The Bays finished third at the end of the minor round but beat Norwood by five goals in the qualifying final and flag favourite and minor premier North by 14 points in the second semi-final before again meeting the Roosters in the grand final. Glenelg was staring down the barrel of a sixth grand final defeat without a premiership since its 1973 triumph when Michael Nunan's classy North outfit charged to a 29-point lead midway through the second quarter.

But, in a stunning twist, dashing Roosters midfielder David Robertson lost control of a running bounce on the outer wing at Football Park, the Tigers swooped on the loose ball and Peter Maynard goaled. It triggered a five-goal blitz in six devastating minutes, Glenelg went into half-time with a two-goal lead and by the last change it had extended its advantage to six goals and the game was effectively over. Cornes' inspired outfit – led by superstar Stephen Kernahan's seven goals – romped home by 57 points, leading to joyous scenes among the Tigers faithful after a series of heartbreaking grand final outs.

Top: Adam Garton, Robin Kidney, Stephen Copping – and the flag.

Bottom: There's no feeling like it as Alan Stringer and David Marshall discover.

Middle: Glenelg may not have been able to complete a lap of honour on Adelaide Oval in 1973 because it was packed with fans but Robin Kidney and David Marshall enjoyed the chance in 1985.

Sport

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ADELAIDE, October 6, 1985

Tigers king

We've done it, mate

YEAR OF THE TIGER

It's official... 1985 is the Year of the Tiger.

By Gordon Campbell

A courageous Glenelg yesterday swamped disappointing North Adelaide by 57 points to win the SA National Football League premiership—the Tigers' first in 12 years.

And the sweet victory ended a tormenting run of five grand final losses for the Tigers.

Joint heroes were tiny back pocket boss Giles and seven-goal forward Stephen Kernahan who won the Jack Carey Medal for best on ground.

Ultimate victory in his first season as Glenelg coach. The Tigers almost miraculously turned a 20-point deficit early in the second quarter into a 12-point lead by half-time in the most devastating goal spree in a grand final.

He said after the game: "I didn't think we had it won until the 30-minute mark."

Up to late in the second term our discipline and movement of the ball was poor but then it just seemed to click... congratulations to North.

Tiger captain Peter Carey said: "It was a tremendous effort by our players... everyone has worked so hard during the year."



North defender David Wildy lays motionless after clash with Glenelg's Stephen Kernahan. Peter Hayward (left), Kernahan and...

Fears for Wildy's eye

NORTH Adelaide defender David Wildy may have suffered a serious eye injury during yesterday's grand final against Glenelg at Football Park.

Club doctors feared last night he may have damaged the retina in his left eye.

Wildy said after the game he could not see out of the eye. He will see a specialist today.

He suffered the injury after clashing with Glenelg's Stephen Kernahan in the 18-minute mark of the first half.



Tigeriffic!

By SCOTT MOORE

HOW SWEET it is — the taste of grand final victory!

And all the sweeter for 12 years of waiting. Saturday, October 5, will live long in the memories of Bay fans as the day Graham Cornes' champions fulfilled a dream.

In a blistering display of courage, determination and football skill, the Tigers "burned" North Adelaide in the Football Park turf to notch a 57-point grand final victory.

It was a master demolition job by the Bays. Graham Cornes was the architect, and the crew which crushed the Roosters' hopes had many willing workers.

Foreman was captain Peter Carey, who, true to his nickname "Super", was a tower of strength.

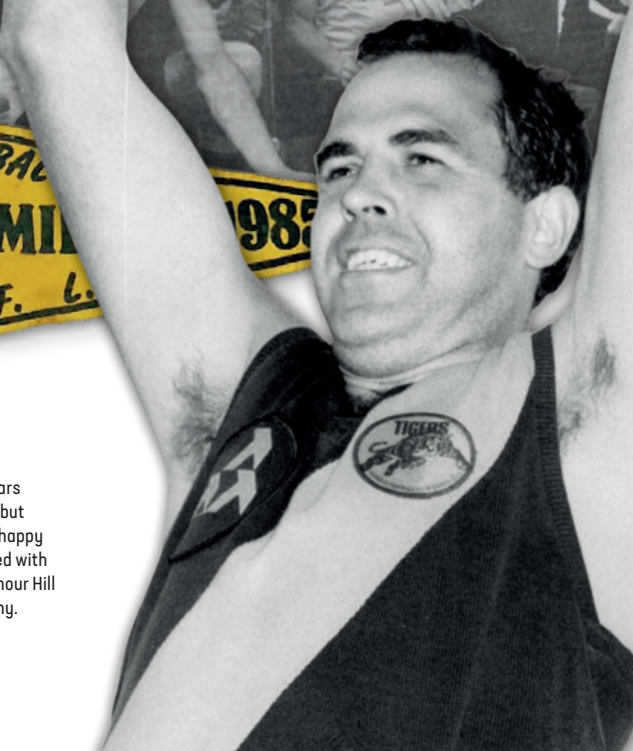
Leading hand was Stephen Kernahan, who was superb, even by his own standards.

But it was a magnificent job by the Bays. The performer was Wayne McGuinness, who was superb, even by his own standards.

Trailing in the second half, the Bays were nurtured at the feet of the Roosters.

Every play was a masterpiece. No one was catching. No one was supporting.

Today's champions are the Bay...



It had been 12 years since he'd held it but Peter Carey was happy to be reacquainted with the Thomas Seymour Hill premiership trophy.

GLENELG SUPREME IN



1985

Sunday Mail

PREMIERS



Tony McGuinness and Stephen Kernahan enjoy that premiership feeling before heading to the VFL.



“It was just a great feeling to win one,” said McDermott, who had progressed through Glenelg’s junior ranks and at the time was 22. “I knew we had a pretty good playing group but North was pretty good too. We’d experienced the pain of losing grand finals in 1981 and 1982, the disaster of 1983 and bowing out badly in the 1984 finals series so there was a bit of a thought among the players that maybe this (winning a premiership) was never going to happen, that we would be bridesmaids again and would go down as a good side that didn’t win anything. That’s what made the win so special.”

Symonds still vividly remembers the jubilant scenes in the changerooms after the game.

“The rooms were chockablock with people,” he said. “There were players, players’ partners, coaches, support staff and the Glenelg faithful all jammed in and there was grog everywhere. We were singing, it was just euphoric and the feeling was almost surreal. To achieve something so special with a group of blokes who were so close is something I will cherish forever.”



1985 GRAND FINAL

GLENELG

2.5 9.7 15.10 21.15

141

NORTH ADELAIDE

4.4 7.7 9.10 12.12

84

BEST: S. Kernahan, McDermott, Gibbs, McGuinness, Marshall, Maynard, Symonds

SCORERS: S. Kernahan 7.3, Garton 4.1, Copping 3.1, McGuinness 2.3, McDermott 1.1, Maynard, Symonds, Hall, Henwood 1.0, W. Stringer, Kidney, Marshall 0.1, rushed 0.3

BEST: Robertson, S. Riley, Campbell, Antrobus, Phillips, Jarman

SCORERS: Parsons, Hart 2.2, Robertson 2.1, Brealey, Sanders 2.0, Antrobus 1.1, Tiller 1.0, A. Jarman 0.4, rushed 0.2

UMPIRES: R. Kinnear, L. Argent

CROWD: 50,289 at Football Park on October 5, 1985

JACK OATEY MEDALLIST: Stephen Kernahan (Glenelg)

THE WINNING TEAM

- F:** Peter Carey, Adam Garton, Tony McGuinness
HF: Stephen Copping, Stephen Kernahan, David Marshall
C: David Kernahan, Alan Stringer, Tony Symonds
HB: Wayne Stringer, John Seebohm, Tony Hall
B: Michael Murphy, Chris Duthy, Ross Gibbs
IR: Wayne Henwood, Peter Maynard, Chris McDermott
Inter: Robin Kidney, Scott Salisbury

Left: The day after the night - and day - before. Glenelg’s 1985 premiership winners at Channel 10 where they made one of many television appearances.

Below: It was just like old times as Glenelg’s 1985-86 premiership winners got together at the club for a reunion in 2015.

