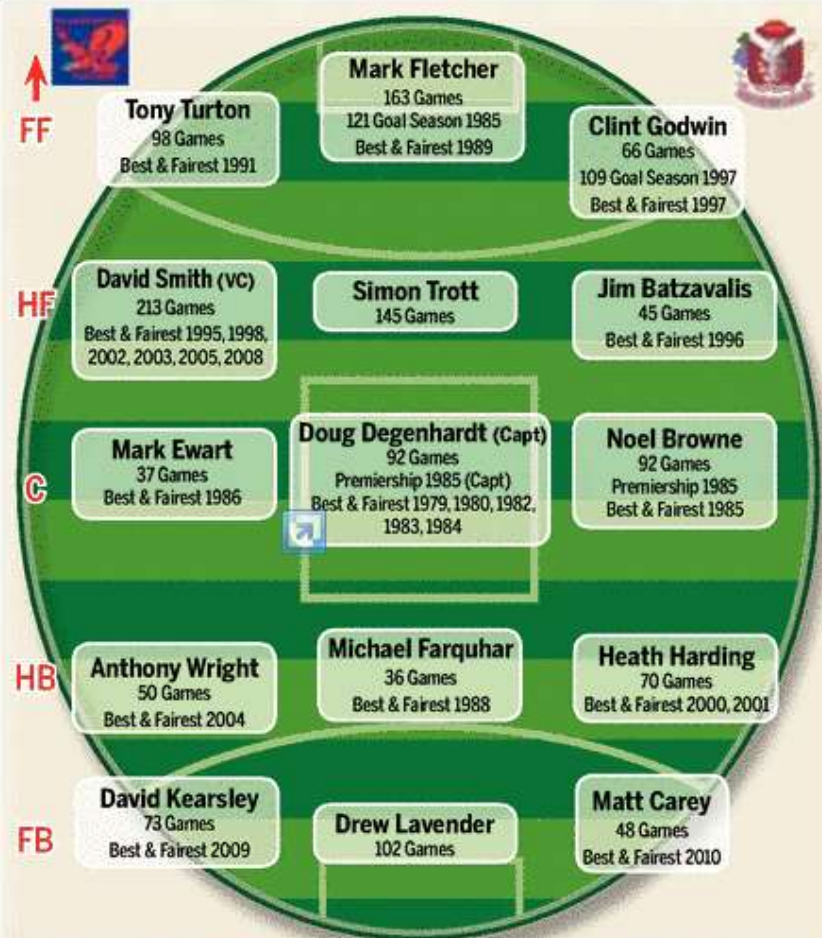


Falcons reflect on early days

Flagstaff Hill Football Club Greatest Team 1985-2010



COACH: Glen Todman 4 Years - 1985 Premiership

1ST RUCK: Scott Mannion, 39 Games, Best & Fairest 1994 **Michael Koerner**, 73 Games, Best & Fairest 1990 **Andrew Chigwidden**, 19 Games, Best & Fairest 1987 **2ND RUCK:** Steve Horrocks, Heath Harding, Matt Carey, **INTERCHANGE:** Steve Horrocks, 118 Games **Craig Bradley**, 150 Games **Cameron Beer**, 82 Games, Best & Fairest 1993 **Wade Stone**, 159 Games **FORMED:** 1963, joined SFL 1985 **PREMIERSHIPS:** SFL D2-1 (1985), United Churches FL D2-1 (1974) **PREVIOUS NAMES:** Brighton Methodist FC (1963-76), Brighton Tigers FC (1977-78) Bush Pigs 1985-1993, Tigers 1963-1984 - now known as the Falcons

SFL | JANE WHITFORD

WHEN Flagstaff Hill arrived on the scene in 1985, it was the new kid on the block and keen to make an impression.

And what an impression it made, with the club winning the Division 2 premiership in its first season in the Southern Football League.

"That was a fantastic day," former player **Doug Degenhardt** says of the 22.19 (151) to 8.4 (52) win over Meadows.

"We went through the whole season undefeated and just won the grand final so convincingly.

"I think we gained respect very quickly after we also got into the (Division 1) grand final in '87 - we were no longer the new kids and were instead a strong force."

Flagstaff Hill made the switch to the SFL from the Glenelg South West Football Association and was originally known as the Bush Pigs before converting to the Falcons in 1994.

"Bush Pigs was a bit of an unfortunate name," Degenhardt laughs.

"But in that day, we considered ourselves a club outside of the city because Flagstaff Hill as an area was only just really being established."

Degenhardt and **David Smith** have been named captain and vice-captain respectively in Flagstaff Hill's greatest SFL team to mark the league's 125th anniversary.

And while the club has not topped the table in recent years, they both



GREATEST: Dave Smith, of Belair (former player), Doug Degenhardt, of Seacliff (former player), and David Kearsley, of Reynella East (current A-Grade player). H0344463

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS
1886-2011



agree it is a great club to be involved with.

"It's always been a really good social and family club and just a great place to play with mates," Smith, who played from 1994 to 2008, says.

"My eight-year-old son **Tristan** now plays and it's just great to see him running around in a Flaggies jumper.

"They've got some great juniors coming through now so I hope success is just around the corner."

That future rests with Falcons youngsters such as **David Kearsley**, who at just 22 has also been named in the club's best ever side. "I think the feeling from a lot of people at the club is that our juniors have really been up there in the last three to four years and there's no reason why we won't be up there and tasting success soon," Kearsley says.