Adelaide Oval: A timeline

1871 CRICKET The South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) formed on 31 May. Twelve acres were leased from the Adelaide City Council for a ground and an Adelaide Oval Act was passed to formalise the lease for 'cricketing purposes'.

1874 CRICKET First major match played by an All England XI (captained by WG Grace) and a South Australian XXII. Grace's team won by seven wickets.

1877 FOOTBALL The first match contested at the ground was an intercolonial club match between Adelaide and St Kilda on 18 August.

1878 TENNIS Adelaide Lawn Tennis Club formed and matches played on the Oval surface.

1891 CRICKET George Giffen records the greatest all-round performance in the history of first-class cricket by scoring 271 runs and taking 16 wickets for 166 runs

1892 CRICKET The inaugural Sheffield Shield match played against New South Wales was won by South Australia by 57 runs.

against Victoria.

1895 LADIES' & SMOKERS' STANDS

Female members and smokers were accommodated in separate small structures on the northern side of the Members' Stand.

1910 TENNIS The first of two men's Australasian tennis championships (forerunner of the Australian Open) was played at the Adelaide Oval courts in 1910 and won by Ron Heath, while Pat O'Hara Wood won the second Australasia championships held there in 1920.

1911 FOOTBALL Australasian Football Council Carnival was won by South Australia after a victory by 11.11 to 5.4 against Victoria in the final match.

1911 SCOREBOARD The Adelaide Oval scoreboard, designed by architect Kenneth Milne, was first used in November, 1911.

1915 ANZAC DAY The trade union movement combined the spirit of Anzac with Eight Hours Day on 13 October. After a parade, celebrations moved to Adelaide Oval where entertainment comprised a range of sports, with the highlight for the day a choreographed crash involving two tramcars which collided head-on before bursting into flames.

1919 FOOTBALL The most exciting football final series occurred the first year after the First World War, involving two ties before Sturt defeated North Adelaide by five points in the challenge final replay.

1932 CRICKET Don Bradman made 299 not out and Clarrie Grimmett took 14 wickets for 199 runs (7 for 116 and 7 for 83) in Australia's ten wicket win over South Africa. Both performances remain the Test records for the ground.

1933 CRICKET The Bodyline Test attracted a record crowd of 50,962 on the Saturday and total crowd of 174,351 saw England defeat Australia by 338 runs. The blows to Australian captain Bill Woodfull and Bert Oldfield, and the employment of the 'Bodyline' field brought accusations of 'unsporting' English behaviour.

1936 CENTENARY PAGEANT South
Australia's centenary celebrations included
the children's Pageant of Empire at
Adelaide Oval, which drew crowds of
more than 50,000 over two days. In hot
conditions, and with little thought given to
hydration, hundreds of children fainted on
the first day and had to receive medical
attention.

1972 FOOTBALL North Adelaide's thrilling one point win over Carlton in the Championship of Australia game represented a high point for SA club football.

1973 FOOTBALL The last SANFL grand final at Adelaide Oval was a brilliant high-scoring encounter in which Glenelg 21.11 defeated North Adelaide 19.16 by seven points. North had been seeking a hat-trick of premierships while Glenelg won its first flag for 39 years.

1975 CRICKET The first limited-over international cricket match was held at Adelaide Oval on 20 December. Australia defeated the West Indies by five wickets.

1977 ROCK CONCERTS Fleetwood Mac was the first major rock group to perform at the Oval in 1977 and among those to follow in succeeding decades were David Bowie, Linda Ronstadt, KISS, Simon and Garfunkel, Paul McCartney, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Elton John and Billy Joel, Neil Diamond, Pearl Jam, AC/DC and the Foo Fighters.

1982 CRICKET South Australian captain

David Hookes pulverised Victoria, scoring

a century in 43 minutes from just 34 balls

at Adelaide Oval after being angered by

he Victorians' delayed declaration.

1990 NEW PUBLIC GRANDSTAND The
Sir Donald Bradman Stand designed by

1991 RUGBY LEAGUE First NSW rugby league match between Balmain and St. George drew an attendance of 24,757. Regular matches were played when Adelaide Oval became the home ground of Superleague team the Adelaide Rams during 1997 and 1998.

Hassell architects opened.

1993 CRICKET West Indies won a seesawing low-scoring Test by one run, the closest run margin in Test history.

1997 LIGHTS After numerous delays the retractable lighting system was turned on for a day-night cricket match between South Africa and New Zealand on 6 December. When a lighting tower crashed three months later it was replaced by a permanent lighting system in 2000.

2011 CRICKET South Australia, captained by Michael Klinger, won the KFC Twenty20 Big Bash final when it defeated New South Wales by eight wickets.

2011 FOOTBALL First AFL match played between Port Adelaide and Melbourne on 4 September attracted a crowd of 29,340 with Port winning by eight points.

2012 CRICKET Michael Klinger led South Australia to a dramatic Ryobi Cup homefinal win when Tasmania required just four runs in the final over with plenty of wickets in hand. The game ended in a tie but the trophy went to the host side which had finished in top position.

2013/2014 REDEVELOPMENT The new Southern and Eastern stands are opened, joining the Western Stand which was commissioned in 2010. Adelaide Oval becomes not only the home of cricket but also – for the first time in 40 years – the home of football.

1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 Present

1954 QUEEN ELIZABETH VISIT Queen

watched a country cricket match, the first

visit by a reigning monarch to the ground.

Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh

1958 SOCCER English soccer wizard

spectators in Blackpool's narrow 1-0 win

over Australia. Aged 43, Matthews was

the star of the Blackpool attack and gave

many examples of his dribbling brilliance.

1960 HIGHLAND GAMES The first games

to be held at Adelaide Oval, these events

continued for the next 15 years offering a

mix of athletic activities such as massed

dance competitions, caber tossing,

wrestling and tug-of-war.

pipe bands displays, highland and national

Stanley Matthews thrilled 18,582

1882 MEMBERS' GRANDSTAND A new grandstand – the George Giffen Stand – was built to replace an earlier wooden structure and remained in place until 2009.

1884 CRICKET First Test match held at Adelaide Oval, just six months after the first Test was played at Lord's. England defeated Australia by eight wickets.

1885 CORROBOREES Two Aboriginal corroborees were staged, drawing huge crowds. Estimates were as high as 20,000 for the first night, overwhelming the four policemen on duty that night. The event was one of the biggest spectator attractions to be held at the Oval during the 19th century.

1885 FOOTBALL The first match played under electric light drew a crowd of 8,000. Adelaide defeated South Adelaide 1 goal 8 behinds to 8 behinds.

1889 PUBLIC GRANDSTAND New grandstand erected for the general public on the southern side of the Members' Stand. It was eventually incorporated into the Sir Edwin Smith Stand.

1900 CRICKET Clem Hill scored 365 not out in South Australia's win by an innings over New South Wales. The innings remains the highest Sheffield Shield score at the Oval.

1901 DUKE & DUCHESS OF YORK A

public school display for the Duke and Duchess of York drew a crowd of 30,000 on 11 July. The Duchess had already visited Adelaide Oval to present trophies at the St Peter's-PAC intercollegiate football match and the couple returned again the following day to attend a military tattoo.

1903 CYCLING The first world champion black athlete, cyclist 'Major' Taylor raced at Adelaide Oval winning 11 races with three second places from 14 events.

1920/30S ROYAL VISITS Visits by the Prince of Wales and his brothers the Duke of York (1927) and the Duke of Gloucester (1934) were occasions for huge children's displays. Crowds were as high as 60,000 with an additional 12,000 children performing routines on the ground.

1927 CHARITY CARNIVALS Massive spectator events were held at Adelaide Oval between 1911 and 1929, combining the appeal of pageants and carnivals with novelty sporting events and raising funds for charitable purposes. The 1927 carnival attracted nearly 50,000 patrons.

1928 FOOTBALL When the final siren sounded for the interstate game against Victoria local players and supporters thought they had won by one point, 11.23 to 13.10. That's what the scoreboard told them but an error had been made by an attendant at three-quarter time and the SA score was reduced by a point. Result – a draw!

1942 FOOTBALL The first of three seasons in which the eight South Australian league football teams combined into four teams to sustain the competition.

1942 AMERICAN FOOTBALL An

1943 AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

appreciation of American servicemen based in Adelaide resulted in the staging of a football match on Independence Day (4 July), which attracted more than 28,000 people who had no idea what was going on.

DEMONSTRATION A giant Lancaster bomber thrilled a crowd of 21,543 as it went through a 15 minute display of aerobatics and was the first of several 'thrills' in a first-rate program. Three RAAF bombers later simulated a 'raid' – a charge of gelignite which shook the ground indicated that a bomb had fallen – and there were further ear-shattering explosions when 'direct hits' were made on first-aid posts. Mobile first-aid units in converted delivery trucks raced on to

the Oval and took over, while demolition and

1949 CRICKET First women's Test match against England attracted a crowd of 17,025 over three days. All-rounder Betty Wilson starred for the home side with a century and nine wickets in the match in an easy win for the Australians.

rescue squads featured.

1961 CRICKET An outstanding drawn
Test match against the West Indies in
which Ken Mackay and Lindsay Kline
staged a dramatic last-wicket 102 minute
fight back to save the game for Australia.

1965 FOOTBALL An astonishing win as South Australia kicked 12.11 to Victoria's 3.1. Victoria kicked only one goal after the first term and were scoreless in the second and last quarters, their final total being their smallest in 86 years of inter-colonial and interstate football. A record crowd of 62,543 at the SANFL football grand final on 2. October saw Port Adelaide 12.8 defeat Sturt 12.5 by three points.

1966 FOOTBALL Sturt won the first of five successive league premierships.

1967 VICTOR RICHARDSON GATES
Eastern gates opened in honour of South
Australia's greatest all-round sportsman.

2000 CATHOLIC MASS Archbishop Leonard Faulkner delivered mass to 34,000 Catholic schoolchildren from a stage over the centre pitch area to mark the new millennium. The children were transported to the ground by 540 buses and 94 trains and 26,000 received Holy Communion.

2003 EASTERN GRANDSTANDS The eastern Chappell Stands and Clem Hill Stand on the southern mound were the first attempt to provide substantial seating and shade for patrons on that side of the Oval.

2003 RUGBY UNION World Cup rugby came to Adelaide and Australia 142 defeated Namibia 0 in a World Cup record winning margin before a crowd of 33,000 on 24 October. Ireland beat Argentina 16-15 the following night.

2004 DAVID HOOKES' FUNERAL

SERVICE A crowd of 10,000 gathered for the event which was telecast nationally by Channel 9. South Australian captain Darren Lehmann led the pallbearers with eulogies delivered by family, friends and cricket colleagues. Among those attending were former Australian and international cricket captains, past club and state team-mates, as well as the Australian, Victorian and South Australian sides who formed a guard of honour.