

The first notable reference to soccer in the Fisher Library archives under either soccer or the Sports Union is in the minutes of an 'annual meeting' that was held on 29 March 1946 in the McLauchlin Room. Whilst there is no mention of the establishment of the club, the minutes record an address from the President of the Sports Union welcoming "Association Football" to the Uni sporting fraternity. It further infers that this was first annual meeting of any formalised club. Almost certainly soccer was played at the University in some capacity prior to WWII - indeed the State (Gardiner) Cup Final was played at the University Oval way back in 1895 - however it seems that 1946 was the foundation date for SUSFC as we know it today.

In 1946 the club fielded two teams. 1st Grade appeared in the Metropolitan League, which was a level below the first tier of the NSW Soccer Association (the Association was a precursor Football NSW), whilst 2nds competed in the strong Canterbury Association. Whilst the club struggled to attract players in the early years, those they did attract obviously had plenty of ability. As early as 1948 the club had not only been awarded its first Blue but had secured an Intervarsity title in its first attempt. The club continued to excel in the Intervarsity competition winning the title nine times between 1948 and 1963.

Throughout this period the face of Australian soccer was rapidly changing. The massive influx of migrants into Australia predominantly from Southern Europe, saw the standard of the game improve and with it came an increase in player payments, professionalism etc. This in turn, led to the establishment of the NSW Soccer Federation in 1957 which SUSFC joined in 1959 and wherein the club's premier squads still compete. From 1959- 63 the club appeared in what is now known as Division 1 (i.e. the third tier competition) finishing its first season in fourth spot. These early years saw the club play against what were to become some of the biggest names in Australian soccer, amongst them, Marconi, Melita Eagles (Parramatta Eagles) and Croatia (Sydney United). In 1962 the club were, according to the club yearbook, declared to be joint winners of Division 1 after finishing equal first with Cabramatta though behind on goal difference. The title only being claimed after a 5-4 away win at Cabramatta resulted in the students being "attacked with sticks and corner flags"! The club dropped out of Division 1 for the last time in 1967 and was not to return until 1999 having spent the intervening years flirting between Divisions 2 and 4.

Those intervening years were far from barren however with the club not only picking up titles across most grades, including a NSW Federation Division 3 Championship in 1978, but increasing both its profile in terms of the clubs status amongst the University Sports Community and also the number of teams fielded.

The late 70's saw the establishment of the women's club in an era when female players were still somewhat of a rarity. Unsurprisingly the establishment of the women's club opened up a new avenue of social activity and there are said to be a number of young people who owe their very existence to this most productive union.

This era produced little in the way of Intervarsity success - indeed no IV title was claimed between 1968 and 1987. Yet there was success on foreign shores, notably when the club sent a team to the South Pacific Universities Championship in Fiji with the team coming home Champions and a rare but creditable honour.

All the while the playing personnel were ever increasing and subsequently the number of teams fielded by SUSFC was also gradually growing. This growth climaxed with the arrival of an eleventh team for the first time in 1999. This figure doesn't include IV squads or the Women's Club who had long become an autonomous body.

Throughout most of the life of the club the lower grades competed in the NSW Churches Competition. Once a prestigious and strong competition the changing nature of Australian society meant that by the 1990's the Churches competitions had fallen into relative obscurity and in many ways had become an anachronism. After years of putting up with the idiosyncratic ways of the officials and referees, the top (non Federation) squad joined the Sydney Amateur League in 1998 with the other squads finally rejoining the Canterbury Association in 2000.

Since 1996 the club has surely had its most successful period, an era that has seen a remarkable rise through the ranks of NSW Federation competition, the likes of which has rarely been seen in modern times. After finishing second from bottom in Division 3 (then known as Division 4) in 1995, the club won the Championship in 1997 and followed this up with a remarkable Premiership/Championship double the following year in its first year in Division 2 (Division 3). This ensured promotion for the second consecutive year and thus in 1999 the club assumed a position in Division 1 after a 32 year hiatus. That year also saw a similarly long-standing drought broken with the recapture of the prestigious Kennard Cup from old rivals UNSW for the first time since 1976. After several years of only low- level interest – indeed in some years no competition was held - 1999 saw a renewed interest for the Kennard Cup, the traditional symbol of University soccer supremacy in Sydney that dates back to 1960.

However the most dizzying heights were yet to be reached. A Grand Final appearance in 1999 and a first ever Division 1 Championship (by the Under 21's in 2000) were to prove to be only a forerunner of future success. In 2001, 1st Grade swept all before it to win both the Championship and Premiership – the latter by a remarkable twelve points – thus clinching promotion to the Super League for the first time.

Such on-field success has been matched in many other aspects of the club over the last few years. A buoyant social program, increased funding from the Sports Union, a dedicated effort to contact 'old-boys' (with the intent of them being an inclusive part of the current club) and the return to the No 1 oval for the first time in nearly two decades are just some of the achievements that has helped greatly increase the standing of the club in both the University and wider community.

Promotion to FNSW Super League for 2002 is testament to the hard work of countless individuals both on and off the field for more than 50 years. Since the elite men have retained their Super League status and made the Semi Finals in 2004 and 2009.

2003 saw the establishment of the Over 35s team who have competed strongly ever since, retaining the services of Club legends. The following year the All Age men's sides migrated to the Eastern Suburbs Football Association and have won a great many trophies there since.

In 2005 the elite and social teams of Sydney University Women's Soccer Club and the men's club merged into one, an amazingly successful venture that brought total membership to over 500 and growing ever since. In 2007 the Women's Super League First and Reserve Grades won their Grand Finals after both sides completed the season with eighteen wins, two draws and no defeats, winning promotion to the FNSW Premier League where they have remained since.

2005 also saw the first Blue and Gold Dinner, the Club's annual gala fundraising event which has featured many eminent speakers from the football world and raised many thousands of dollars for the Club.

The 2000s have also been successful at intervarsity level with the men's side winning gold in 2006 and the women's team in 2008 and 2009 with many silvers and bronzes to boot.

In 2007 following the introduction of VSU the SUSFC Foundation was launched, this body is run by Club members and ensures the stability and expansion of the Club in difficult times for sports clubs and university bodies in Australia.

The ever expanding nature of the Club brought the employment of a professional administrator in 2007 and Director of Football in 2009 to oversee the Club's elite teams and development of young players, ensuring continued improvement in all levels of football in NSW.

In 2010 all elite teams moved their home ground to the newly redeveloped, synthetic surfaced Hensley Athletic Field. SUSFC is in fantastic shape and is now approaching 600 members in 35 teams in all competitions. As football grows in Australia SUSFC has kept pace ensuring the University and its students compete successfully from beginners to elite levels whilst maintaining its incomparable club spirit.

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Club Historians