

# Could the Falcons be ready to swoop?

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ON THE UP: L to R: Dane Sommers, David Kearsley, John Ramage (A Grade Coach), Pete McMaster (Captain) and Matt Carey. Pic: Stephen Laffer.

FLAGSTAFF Hill Football Club's recent stunning A grade win against the once-mighty Morphett Vale has given Flaggy fans hope of big things to come in this season's Southern Football League competition.

The Falcons won that game by two points to end a losing drought of 16 years against the Emus.

So the question is: has Flagstaff Hill arrived as a top side and genuine flag contender?

The short answer to that is not quite and not yet. Let's wait for games against Brighton, Cove and Reynella to get a clearer gauge on that one.

So often in past years Flaggies have promised so much at senior level at various stages of the season but have fallen short when the pressure was applied nearing finals' time.

But after outstanding results in under 14, 16 and 18s finals' series in recent years the Flaggy seniors look to be on the march and gathering momentum, maybe similar to Morphett Vale sides of 2003 onwards.

He won't accept it and certainly wouldn't promote it but president Brett Charlesworth of Charlesworth Nuts' fame, has been lauded as the driving force behind Flaggies' off-field success.

Charlesworth has introduced business plans with portfolios for many of the 17-person strong committee, including sponsorship, facilities, grounds and even a web manager.

A grade team manager Ollie Meinecke of the past five years says simply, "Charlesworth's the man" when describing the club president/sponsorship director/football operations manager. Charlesworth was not content on just seeing his club enjoy regular junior success but nothing at A-grade level since the one-division competition was introduced in the early 2000s.

A grade coach John Ramage said the club was like a family with plenty of people chipping in to help.

"Brett (Charlesworth) drove the club and his foresight was the thing which got it going," he said. "But now there's a strong band of people sharing the load. On the field it's always been about our junior development.

"But it's just three wins at the moment. We haven't achieved anything yet. There's still plenty to go in the season."