

## W.A. Sneyd



- Norwood Committee Member, 1920-1924

William Albert Sneyd (1874-1954) was a in the business of being a draper and milliner, He had grown up in Adelaide but moved to Brisbane in 1898. Whilst there he worked for Mr T.C. Beirne for 8 years before opening his own shop in Queen Street for seven years. He also served as the honorary Treasurer of the Brisbane Drapers Association.

In 1913 he returned to Adelaide, having bought the 60-year old business of “Martin Brothers”, at Burlington House in Rundle Street – which was known as “a large emporium”. He served as a Norwood Committee member from 1920-24, and is acknowledged as having also been a vice-president for five years. His time with Norwood came an end in rather unique circumstances – he wanted to play more golf! This was reported in *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) Monday 11 May 1925, Page 7.

### *“PRESENTATION TO MR. W. A. SNEYD.*

*A pleasing function took place in the Norwood dressing room at the conclusion of the game with Sturt, when Mr Eric Tassie, on behalf of the Norwood Club, presented Mr. W.A. Sneyd with a smokers companion, as a token of the high esteem in which he is held. In apologising for the absence of Mr. J. H. Gosse, who, Mr. Tassie, said would have been delighted to have had the opportunity of honouring such a staunch supporter as Mr. Sneyd had proved himself to be, Mr. Tassie warmly eulogized the recipient's valuable aid in furthering the fortunes of Norwood, and expressed the regret which they all felt that Mr. Sneyd was no longer able to continue his active association with the club. Mr. Sneyd, who was received with cheers, in response, confessed his regret at the severance, owing to his recently acquired penchant for the game of golf, which, he said, gave him a very enjoyable form of exercise of which he felt the need. His association with Norwood had given him the greatest pleasure, and he concluded by expressing hope that the splendid success attending Norwood's opening matches would continue.”*

Notwithstanding, he may have also taken up swimming as he was later the patron of the Gilberton Amateur Swimming Club. In 1927 it was announced in *The Northern Districts Courier* (North Adelaide, SA : 1925 - 1927) Sat 17 Dec 1927 Page 4, that

*Through the generosity of Mr. W. A. Sneyd, Esq., the club's patron, a barrage is being erected at the club's pool, and when completed an average depth of nine feet of water should be available, which will enable the club to conduct carnivals again.*

In 1929, he was mixing it with high society Adelaide as a member of the executive of South Australia's "Big Brother Migration Movement", with fellow executive members including Mr. J. Lavington Bonython, Lord Mayor (President); Mr. R. L. Butler, Premier; Sir Alexander Hore Ruthven, V.C., the Governor; Mr. J. Cowan, M.L.C., Minister for Migration; and Brigadier-General S. Price Weir, (vice president), and Ven. Archdeacon J. S. Moves.

W.A. Sneyd was married to Alice Maud Sneyd (1880-1953) and they had three children – Dorothy Alma (1905-1976), Isobel Margaret (1921-2004) and William Howard (1923-1942). William junior was lost on the HMAS Perth on 1 March 1942, aged 19 years. William senior died in 1954. They are all buried together at Centennial Park in Pasadena.

*Chris Brown, August 2022*

Sources:

Find a Grave

Trove - *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931) Thu 14 Feb 1929, page 24

Trove - *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) Mon 11 May 1925, page 7

Trove - *Daily Standard* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1912 - 1936) Sat 19 Apr 1913, page 6

Trove - *The Northern Districts Courier* (North Adelaide, SA : 1925 - 1927) Sat 17 Dec 1927, page 4