**NFC History Committee - Annual Report 2022**

Following the relaxation of Covid 19 restrictions, the History Committee resumed regular monthly meetings in the Wolf Blass Community Centre

Condolences were extended to Dee Cox when her husband and committee member, Lindsay passed away. Lindsay and Dee had been regular attendees at meetings and it is great that Dee has continued her biographical research on past players.

It was a busy and productive year for the committee as several major projects were initiated and a number of significant acquisitions were added to the club’s collection.

**Redlegs Museum**

In July it was announced that a club museum, to be known as the Redlegs Museum, would be established in the former mayor’s parlour in the western stand. The committee is particularly grateful to Mayor Robert Bria for making the room available for a permanent exhibition. The announcement was made at the past players and officials lunch, which resulted in many past players and official making immediate pledges of financial support for the museum.

A museum committee was established, made up of two representatives from each of the Past Players and Officials Committee and the History Committee, along with CEO James Fantasia and board member Rick Neagle as chair. The committee’s brief is to oversee the planning, financing and construction of the museum which is anticipated will be open later in 2023.

**Halls of Fame**

In April, Neil Craig, James Gallagher, Mervyn Roberts and Thomas Woodroofe were inducted into the Norwood Hall of Fame. A special exhibition of artefacts and memorabilia was mounted for the event which drew widespread praise from members, past players and sponsors who attended the function.

Following a presentation to theSANFL Hall of FameCommittee, supporting the nomination of Norwood’s leading goal kicker Bruce Schultz, it was gratifying when his induction was announced at the annual Magarey Medal awards function.

The History Committee have long advocated for the inclusion of Michael Taylor in the Australian Football Hall of Fame so it was particularly pleasing when his contribution to the game in South Australia and Victoria was recognised with his induction at the ceremony held in June.

**Redlegs Museum website**

Profiles of 74 players were added to the website bringing the total number of completed biographies to 1231 out of a total of 1533 who have represented the club at a senior level. Apart from 42 players from the 19th century photographs of every player have been added to their profiles on the website.

Many of the player profiles have been enhanced by the addition of action images sourced from the club’s extensive collection of photographs.

Biographical profiles of some of club’s early officials were also added to the website, viz

W O Whitridge, A W Piper, E H Tassie, H C Burnet, J H Gosse, J J Woods, W A Sneyd and W Essery jnr.

All of the club honour rolls including the under age, reserves and women’s teams are now available on the website.

**Digitisation Project**

The committee was successful in securing a grant from the History Trust of South Australia to digitise 100 of the club’s historical “treasures” and to display the images on the Redlegs Museum website. The grant was recognition of the club’s history as a sporting and community organisation and will allow many of the artefacts to be viewed by a wider audience on the internet.

**Acquisitions**

For many years the committee has been searching for a copy of the song “The Ballad of Phil Carman” performed and recorded by Robyn Archer in 1971. The song was a protest after the VFL revoked Carman’s permit to play for Norwood following an appeal by Collingwood who had delayed responding to Norwood’s application for a clearance. A rare, original 45rpm vinyl record has at last come to light and been added to the collection.

The committee was also able to secure a 78rpm vinyl record of Alan Killigrew’s pre-1960 grand final speech to players. Both the Carman and Killigrew records will be digitised and made accessible on the website.

Matt Panos has generously donated his grand final boots - still bearing the Adelaide Oval grass !

Jade Rawlings donated several items relating to the 2022 Grand Final viz,

* Copy of a video shown to players the day before the Grand Final, set to "Time after Time" by Cyndi Lauper
* Copy of a video showing the highlights of players exhibiting the standards the coach expects
* Copy of a document summarising the players’ feedback on each other’s performances during the Grand Final.

Other items added to the collection during the year included;

* Guernseys worn by Matthew Nunn and Harry Boyd during the Grand Final
* A tea pot set awarded to Ron Brown for best rover in 1936
* Former president Ted Heidenreich’s SANFL life membership certificate
* Greg Turbill’s personal scrapbook
* Ian Stasinowsky’s 1978 long sleeve guernsey
* A 2017 women’s guernsey
* Black and white and colourised newsreel clips of the Norwood vs North Adelaide game held at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 13 June 1953.
* Bob Kite’s NFC blazer and tie
* Syd Ackland’s Team of the Century guernsey
* A painting of Ian Brewer, by the artist Alan Tucker

**The Collection**

123 items were catalogued, bringing the collection database to 3,809 records, including 2,091 images of objects.

Digitising the club’s collection of photographs continued and the number of player, official, team and action images is 12,654. All league and reserves team photos have been digitised, and work is continuing on scanning under age team photographs.

The collection itself continues to be securely stored in three U-Store-It units but access is problematic due to overcrowding which causes difficulty in retrieving items and there is no room to sort or select items for display. It is a major physical effort to retrieve items and transport them to and from the Norwood Oval.

**Acknowledgements**

Once again the committee is grateful for material donated by past players, members and supporters and this year 18 donors presented the club with items making a total of 248 people who have donated material since 2009.

Dawn and John Eastwood from U-Store-It are thanked for continuing to provide three storage units to securely house the collection.

Wally Miller continues to be an invaluable source of information and we thank him for his ongoing interest and support and for his written contributions.

Barry Solomon and the ground staff are thanked for their assistance in mounting exhibitions at the club and for commencing the renovation of the mayor’s parlour.

The office staff are always cooperative and willing to provide assistance and Anthony Harvey continues to oversee the operation of the Redlegs Museum website.

Throughout the year a wide range of people, including families and friends of past players, local historians, archivists and librarians, have provided information and photographs and we acknowledge the following:

Jeff Austin, Zac Battersby, Peter Cochinos, Fatima Eslamion, Mark Giles, Trevor Gyss, Rod Hamann, Colleen Hammat, Rob Hogan, Williams family, Toby Woolley, Peter Dunn, Nathon Irvin, Alex Staristski and Mike Weir.

**History Committee members**

Wynton Heading (Chair)

Graeme Adams

Chris Brown

Reonaldo Cialini

Michael Coligan

Dee Cox

Lindsay Cox

Rob Crompton

Stephen Jones

Chris Lane

Trevor Mather

Bryan Ridge

Phil Robins

Marie Walsh

Phil Walsh

Robert Walsh

Roger Woodcock

W. Heading, February 2023