



A Discography of the Norwood Football Club



Chris Brown





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Acknowledgements:

Peter Millen – for generously providing a rare copy of “The Ballad of Phil Carman” for the Norwood Football Club’s archival collection.

Nick Haines and Daniel Best – for assisting with locating and obtaining “The Ballad of Phil Carman”

Peter Head (*formerly Peter Beagley*) and **Ron Tremaine**, for their historical recollections regarding the commissioning and recording of “The Ballad of Phil Carman”).

<https://peterheadmusic.com/home>

Len Novak of Magnum Productions, for digitising The Ballad of Phil Carman, Red and Blues with Redlegs Chorus, and the 1971 Amoco recordings of the Club Song and Norwood History.



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Trent Burge of Barossa Boy wines, for supporting the preservation of vinyl recordings through digitisation.



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Merv Roberts, Pat Hall and Neil Dansie – for their time and interest in giving their own oral histories to me, as past players of the Norwood Football Club.



Introduction

Over the course of nearly 150 years the Norwood Football Club has had many club songs, dating right back to the club's first year in 1878.

The current club song has been in continuous use since at least 1946, based on oral histories provided by Pat Hall and Merv Roberts in 2022. Pat played in the 1948 Premiership team, and Merv played in the 1946, 1948 and 1950 Premiership teams.

This publication is the outcome of a quest to finally get to the bottom of an age-old debate – who had their club song first, Norwood or Sturt? It was in the course of this investigation that numerous other historical club songs were identified. This publication – “A Discography of the Norwood Football Club”, celebrates the club's musical history.

My research would not have been possible without the support and assistance of those mentioned in the Acknowledgements section above. Thank you to all of them.

Chris Brown

Norwood Football Club History Committee

May 2023.

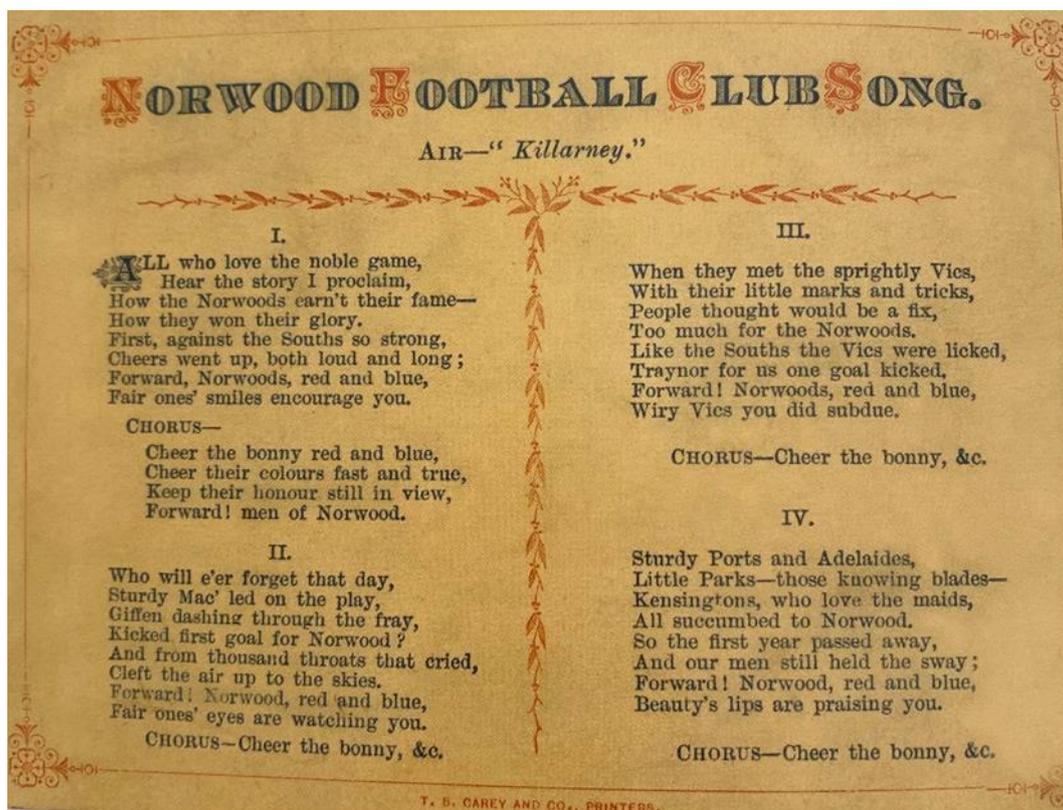


1878 - The First Club Song

“Then and Now” was written by one of the club’s founders, Arthur J Diamond, at the end of Norwood’s first season in 1878. Diamond was the Honorary Secretary of the club in 1878 and is an inductee to the Norwood Football Club’s Hall of Fame (see [REDLEGS MUSEUM](#) .)

The song was sung to the “Air” (tune) of “Killarney” – a version of which can be found here: [\(376\) KILLARNEY sung by John McCormack - YouTube](#) .

The tune itself is very reflective of the era – it is much more akin to a hymn than a rousing football song. *The Mail* (Adelaide, S.A.) on Saturday 12 October 1946 at page 7, reported that in the early 1900s, the tune was modernised to “Cock o’ the Walk” – which can be heard here: [\(376\) Cock O’ the Walk - YouTube](#) .



An 1885 copy of the Club Song.



The song's verses refer to the club's historic first season of 1878. Verse one has a line that says "First, against the Souths so strong". This is a reference to South Adelaide, who Norwood played in the club's first ever match on May 18, 1878. A crowd of 800 watched the match at Adelaide Oval. Norwood won the game with a score of one goal to nil.

Verse two goes on to reference this match further – "Sturdy Mac" is a reference to Norwood's Vice Captain, Alf McMichael, who had come to Norwood from Carlton. The verse then references "Giffen". George Giffen kicked Norwood's first ever goal – a feat he achieved on the run wearing only his right boot because he had removed his left boot due to a sore foot and a problem with the boot which he was trying to repair. Giffen played in five premierships with Norwood from 1878-1881 and then 1883. After the 1885 season he retired from football to concentrate on his cricket career and went on to Captain the Australian Test Cricket Team and be one of Australia's greatest ever all-rounders. Giffen was inducted in to the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2008.

Verse three speaks about "the Vics" – a reference to the Victorian Football Club – a team from North Adelaide. In round 2 of 1878, Norwood had defeated Victorians, again by one goal to nil, with that goal being kicked by Joe Traynor. This match was played on Norwood's home ground in the East Parklands, before a crowd of about 500.

Verse four goes on to ensure mention is made of all the other competing clubs in 1878. "Ports" being Port Adelaide; Adelaide Football Club; "Little Parks" referencing South Park Football Club and finally, Kensington.

Norwood's first year was challenging off the field, but with 8 wins and 4 draws for the year, and conceding only one goal, Norwood secured its first Premiership in its first year.

1888 - A Fifth Verse is Added (Discovered in 2020)

In 2020, whilst researching the feats of Norwood Hall of Famer 'Topsy' Waldron, I discovered that he had been responsible for penning a fifth verse to the first Club Song.

The Register (Adelaide, S.A.), Monday 29 September 1924, page 5.

EARLY FOOTBALL

The Famous Old Vics.

By Harry O. Leaver.

The fifth verse of the war-cry is the poetic effort of Topsy Waldron, the popular Norwood skipper in those days. Topsy's enthusiasm so outran all bounds that he stepped in where angels feared to tread, and bubbled forth as a poet. Perhaps when the Norwoods hear the song as sung by their forebears when they were flushed with victory it will stimulate them to gain the laurels next year.



This fifth verse is believed to have been written around the time that Norwood won the title of 'Champions of Australia' after defeating South Melbourne in three games at Kensington Oval during the regular season, Norwood defeated Port in Round 12 on 28 July before a crowd of 7,000 people at Kensington Oval. Norwood actually kicked 11 goals that day, not 13 as this verse has recorded it. (The final scores were 11.21 to 3.6).

The fifth verse - Lyrics

The Ports they thought we lost the name,

Premiers of our noble game,

So to Kensington they came

Strong to meet the Norwoods.

But like the rest they, too, were licked,

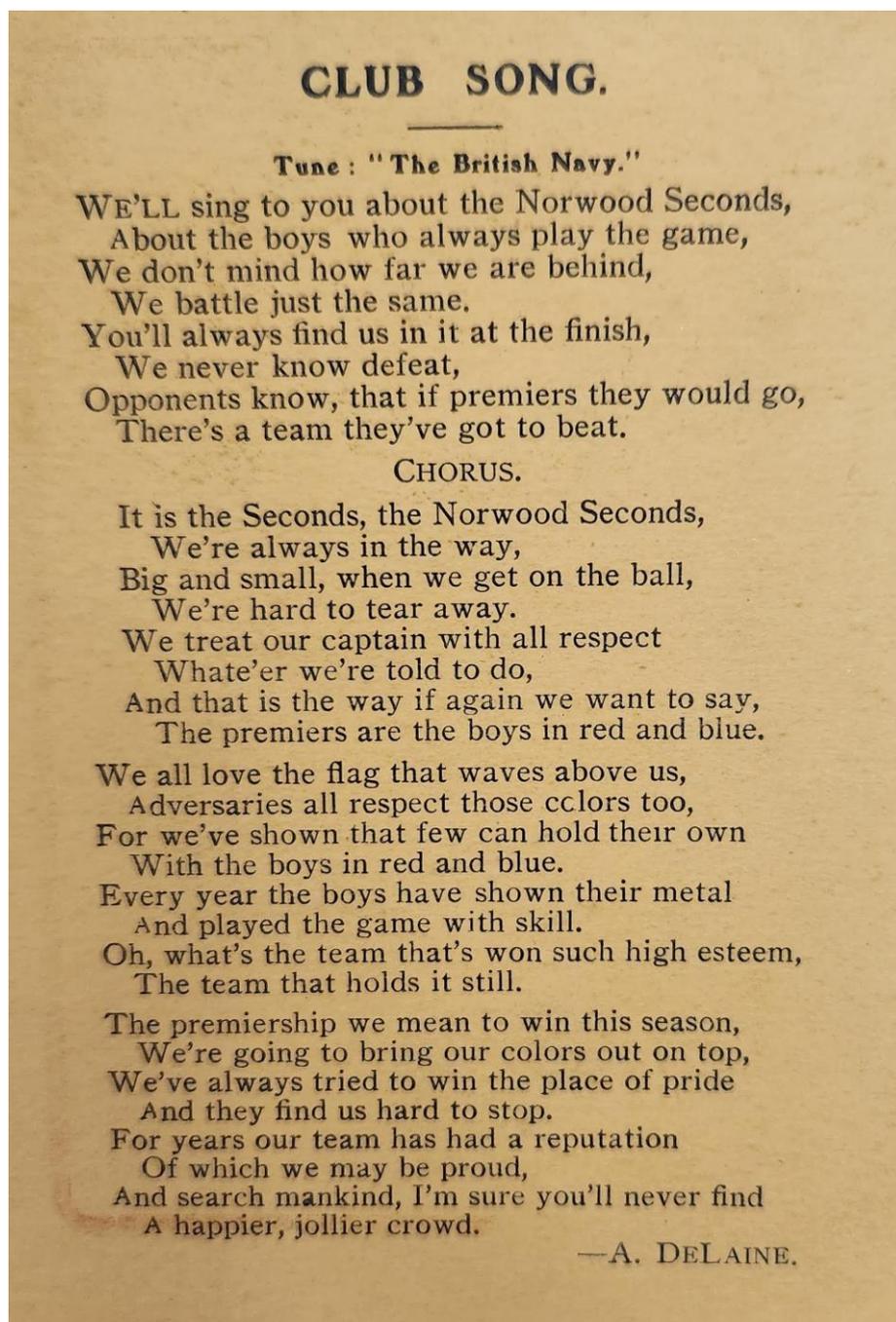
Thirteen goals to three we kicked.

Forward, Norwood, red and blue,

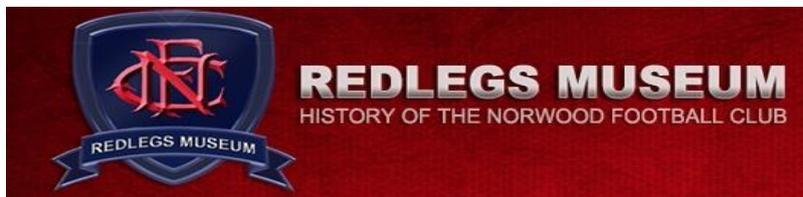
Beauties' lips are still praising you.



1912 – Club Song of the Norwood Seconds Football Club



This song was printed on the back cover of the 1911 Annual Report of the Norwood Seconds Football Club, published in 1912. The team's patron was none other than Sir E.T. Smith. The song was sung to the tune of "The Navy Hymn" – which can be heard here: <https://gloriamdeco.com/the-navy-hymn/>.



1909-1920 - “Lead, Kindly Light”.

Charles (Charlie) Perry played just 58 games for Norwood. However, his story is rich with character and achievement – not only for his feats as a Norwood ruckman and defender, but also for his great popularity across communities, and for the strength of his character and leadership.

Charlie was vice-captain and ruck follower of the First 18 football team in his final year at Prince Alfred College, winning the school’s football prize in 1909. He was still at school when he played his first game for the Norwood league team.

He played his early games on the wing and so quickly attracted the nickname “Red Wing” after a favourite ballad of the time. During his first year (1909) he played several games with his brother Frank who later founded Perry Engineering and became an MP.

Between 1909 and 1911 he developed an imposing physique, and this, along with his natural talent produced eye-catching performances in a Norwood team that lacked both flair and capacity. The football public warmed to Charlie and in an era when violence on and off the field were the order of the day, he became very popular for his gentlemanly conduct, commitment, courage and resolute skills. He possessed a good high mark, an accurate kick and was able to score goals when the opportunity arose. In a Norwood side that was near the bottom of the table for most of his career, Charlie had plenty of work to do at centre half-back where he frequently single-handedly turned back opposition attacks. Such were his abilities that he represented South Australia against Victoria in 1912.

He finished studying to become a Minister in the Methodist Church and entered the ministry in 1911. He had earned respect and influence at Norwood and his religious views were embraced by the club; he was encouraged to deliver religious devotionals across all sports when he was available. Many of his Norwood team-mates attended and these services attracted 300 people or more.

In his book “The Game of Their Lives”, Nick Richardson wrote

“The red-haired Perry’s dash proved to be eye catching. But if there was an obvious manner to the way he played the game, it was the air of a man doing serious business. He had no temper, only a fierce focus. Perry told a congregation of sportsmen at a special service in the middle of the 1912 season, ‘if anyone has any reason to get wild in the football field, maybe I have...I have been blue almost head to foot – some of you know that. On Saturday afternoons I have gone out with the determination that come what may, I would not lose my temper.’ Perry’s views became so accepted and his influence so profound at Norwood that the team sang a hymn, ‘Lead, Kindly Light’, on its way home from away games.”



He missed the 1914 season carrying out pastoral duties and returned in 1915 when he finished equal first in a three way tie for the Magarey Medal before placing second in a vote by umpires, according to the rules of the time. Charlie was posthumously awarded the 1915 Magarey Medal in 1998.

He served in Europe with distinction as a chaplain during World War 1 and captained the Combined Training Units team in the AIF exhibition match played in London in 1916. Another Norwood player, Ernest Beames was also a member of that team. It was an incident in 1918 that was possibly the most remarkable of Perry's war service. He was attached to a Brigade positioned near the Somme River in France when the Red Baron's distinctive red tri-plane was spotted overhead, under fire from the ground and from a chasing plane. The Red Baron's famous career ended as he was shot in the chest, and his aircraft crash landed. Australian soldiers arrived at the crash scene and started souveniring anything they could from the wreckage. Charlie Perry intervened and calmly explained to the men that the Red Baron's death should be treated with respect. However, most of the wreckage disappeared.

In 1919 he returned from Europe, working as a stoker on the ship home to regain his fitness, and resumed training with Norwood. He married in September 1920, delaying his honeymoon so that he could play in the grand final against North Adelaide. He played a typically dominating game at half-back and in the ruck but it wasn't enough and Norwood lost by 48 points. He retired in 1920.

Perry continued to serve in the Methodist ministry as the Chaplain of Prince Alfred College, as vice-chairman (and life member) of the Norwood Football Club, on the Umpires' Board and as a deputy commissioner of the South Australian Football League.



Lead, Kindly Light – Lyrics

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom
Lead thou me on
The night is dark, and I am far from home
Lead thou me on
Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see
The distant scene, one step enough for me

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on
I loved to choose, and see my path but now
Lead thou me on
I loved the garish day, and spite of fears
Pride ruled my will, remember not past years

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since and lost a while

Lead kindly light

You can hear this song being sung, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f4z1fnUqXM>



1935 - "A Club Song"

The News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 August 1935, page 6

The Singing Footballers

IF you hear the Norwood footballers singing on the field do not be surprised. They have a song to the tune of "The Man on the Flying Trapeze" and sing it with great gusto.

The words were composed -by Mr R. McLean and Mr. T. Hill, the club Secretary. This use of music by footballers is capable of much extension. Teams could have their own cries to emit at critical periods of the game, and why not a little community singing in between peanuts, minties and chocolates at the half-time interval?

NORWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

CHORUSES

A Club Song – Tune "Flying Trapeze"

Out there in Norwood, in old Adelaide,
Is the place where all good footballers are made;
They'll put any team in the League in the shade,
For the Norwoods are tigers to play.
Now this team that we speak of is famous;
Their opponents are filled with despair.
And the glorious name they have won by their game
Is known – yes, Siree – ev'rywhere.

Chorus:

*"They fly through the air, with the greatest of ease,
The daring young men that the Norwoods do seize;
Their actions are graceful, all girls they do please,
And the game they have stolen away."*

There's Secko, the captain and coach of the team
And Percy McCallum, and big Bob McLean:
There's tall Tommy Woodroffe, the 'keeper supreme,
And, oh boy! How he keeps 'em at bay!
There is Heusler, who plays the piano
While the boys are attempting to sing,
And there's Chinnery Jack, who's the back-pocket crack,
And there's Sisson, who plays on the wing.



Chorus 2:

*"They gather the ball with the greatest of ease,
If up in the ether or down on their knees,
Their tactics are crafty, opponents they tease,
And the game they have stolen away."*

There's Huxy, the wrecker, who's not very tall,
And big Bill McCallum, who marks over all,
And when "Whisky" Schultz gets his boot to the ball
It is sure to go straight for a goal.
There is tough Tim O'Brien, the lumper,
And there's Blanchard, who plays anywhere,
And there's striker Ron Brown, the best rover in town,
And there's Hancock with bright ginger hair.

Chorus 1: "They Fly Through the Air."

There's Tugwell from Victor, and Douglas McLean,
And Warhurst, who lately in Melbourne has been;
There's Allington, who is a light in the team,
And a hoax to the teams that we play.
There is Bice, the notorious wingman,
And there's Sawley, who baffles his man.
And there's brothers called Page, and how Yargo can rage,
When the umpire is faulty to scan.

Chorus 2: "They Gather the Ball".

There's old Geordie Webb, who supplies us the beers,
Who's mastered the game for at least fifty years,
And with his perpetual moan in our ears,
We cannot but gladly obey.
There is Edwards, the city policeman,
And there's Nelson, Dr Rainford, and Geoffry McKee,
And there's "Sowy" Ron West, who's as good as the best,
And there's Tom Hill, the Secretary.

Chorus 1: "They Fly Through the Air."



The source of this newspaper article can be found here -

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/199185135?searchTerm=Norwood%20song%20Football>

“The Flying Trapeze” tune can be heard at the following link: https://youtu.be/wDhG_4N_r6w

1970 - The Ballad of Phil Carman, by Robyn Archer

Recruited from Edenhope Victoria, “Fabulous Phil” played just over 50 memorable games for the Norwood Football Club. A superbly talented footballer, he made an outstanding debut in 1970, in round 1 against Port Adelaide on the Norwood Oval.

However, Carman's career was destined to be affected by controversy and by mid-season he was banned from playing for Norwood. Having initially been cleared by the Australian National Football Council to the NFC, he spent two years out of the game as a result of a clearance dispute between Norwood and Collingwood, and the Victorian club's refusal to allow him to play for the Redlegs. Carman was finally cleared to play for Norwood again in 1972 and he continued to show his extraordinary skills as a key position player or ruck-rover. (Source: [REDLEGS MUSEUM | PLAYERS](#)).

At the start of the clearance dispute in mid-1970, “the Ballad of Phil Carman” and “Red Legs Blues” were recorded by Robyn Archer. Robyn was an up-and-coming singer in Adelaide and at the age of 21, was singing in the Redlegs Club on Saturday nights. The story behind the composing of the Ballad of Phil Carman and the people involved, is as significant as the songs themselves.

The Norwood Football Club History Committee began looking for a copy of this record in 2020. Robyn Archer was contacted but she didn't have a copy herself and advised that her personal (musical) items were all with the National Library of Australia. Enquiries there were also unsuccessful. Phil Carman was contacted and again, he didn't have a copy. There was nothing on YouTube or anywhere else online. Even the online records detailing records released by Gamba Studios, were completely blank in relation to this particular release. EBay was scoured and “WANTED” advertisements were placed on GumTree, but despite all these efforts a copy of the record was no where to be found.

Finally, I got in touch with Nick Haines, who has been a long-time contributor to the preservation of history at both North Adelaide Football Club and the SANFL History Centre. Nick works in the music industry and this proved to be critical, for it wasn't long at all before Nick advised me that he had located a copy of this very elusive record. Some more months passed and then finally, it was secured from Peter Millen (via Daniel Best), for the archival collection of the Norwood Football Club. A Holy Grail had finally been unearthed.



Robyn Archer

In 1970, Robyn Archer was contracted by Adelaide promoter Ron Tremain to perform on Saturday nights at the Redlegs Club. Ron also engaged Robyn to perform at the Old Lion Hotel and the Princeton Club in Burnside. Peter Millen, an Adelaide music collector, writes about Robyn Archer, the Ballad of Phil Carman and Gamba Studios:



Rare & Collectable Australian Records, CDs & Cassettes

Peter Millen · 3 Apr 2019 ·

A gap in every online Gamba label discography is this beauty by Robyn Archer from 1970 on which she is assisted by a pre-Headband Peter Beagley. Archer was a mad Norwood Football Club supporter and the Ballad of Phil Carman celebrates the spectacular commencement of Carman's SANFL career with Norwood in 1970 and laments his being banned from continuing to play mid-season by Collingwood. Carman was from Edenhope in Collingwood's country zone and they refused to clear him. Carman stood out from football from mid-1970 until 1972 at which time he was finally cleared to Norwood on the proviso that if he ever played in the VFL it would be with Collingwood. After again starring for Norwood on his return, Carman did eventually move back to Victoria and commenced his spectacular and controversial VFL career with Collingwood in 1975. Accordingly, this single represents not just a piece of musical history in being Archer's first single (she did have an album track in the 60s as Robyn Smith) but footy history also. True dinks!



On Tuesday July 28, 1970, *The News* wrote this page 3 article about Robyn, including references to "The Ballad of Phil Carman".



Robyn went on to have a very successful career, and is still performing to this day. The fact that this song about Phil Carman was her first ever single, is remarkable.

More information about Robyn Archer can be found here:

<https://robynarcher.com/>

Recollections of Ron Tremaine (Promoter)

I spoke with Ron on 12 December, 2022. Ron recalls working with Robyn Archer (nee Smith) at the Redlegs Club for a few months before she went to work at the Adelaide Festival of Arts. He recalled that Phil Carman's suspension from playing for Norwood, at the behest of Collingwood, was a significant story of the day. Ron wanted to get the Norwood faithful *emotionally* connected to the



situation and he leaned upon Robyn to write the lyrics and pianist Peter Head composed the music. In Ron's own words, "it worked!".

Ron paid for the records to be recorded by a new Adelaide recording label – "Gamba" – owned by Derek Jolly. Only 250 copies of the recording were released – 50 went on sale in retail stores and the remaining 200 were sold at the Redlegs Club itself. They sold for "a dollar or two". Apart from being performed at the Redlegs Club, Ron recalls it was probably sung at the "Princeton Club" at the Burnside Town Hall, and was played by his friend Bob Francis "a few times" on Adelaide radio station 5AD.

Ron was famously responsible for bringing the Beatles to Adelaide in 1964, when 300,000 people gathered in King William Street to see them appear on the balcony of the Adelaide Town Hall.

More information about Ron Tremaine can be found here:

Ron Tremaine Biography - <https://musicfinder.online/ron-tremaine/>

Ron Tremaine a big influencer, as manager and promoter, of Adelaide/Australian music from the 1960s - <https://adelaideaz.com/articles/ron-tremaine-a-big-influencer--as-manager-and-promoter--of-adelaide-and-australian-music-from-the-1960s>

Ron Tremaine ran parties, pubs and brought The Beatles to Australia - <https://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2013/03/07/3710169.htm>

Recollections of Peter Head (formerly Beagley)

I spoke with Peter on 12 December 2022, and subsequent text messages.

Peter composed the music for both songs but no music was ever written down – only a chord progression for musicians. He was the Musical Director for both Robyn Archer and Ron Tremaine for around ten years. They had all started working together doing entertainment functions in the tunnels at the Old Lion Hotel.

As a pianist, Peter was often engaged by Ron Tremaine to play piano for him when a pianist was needed at gigs or for other purposes. After this, Peter went on to perform in other bands, including "Headband" and "The Mt Lofty Rangers". The latter even included Bon Scott as a band member who later became the lead singer for AC/DC. Headband is described as progressive/art rock and the Mt Lofty Rangers as country, by musical genre. Headband supported genuinely serious acts such as the Rolling Stones and Elton John.

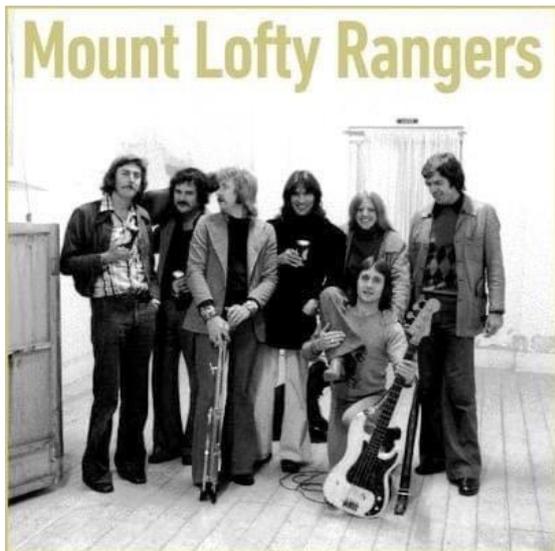


Headband were a progressive, blues rock band formed in Adelaide in February 1971 by bass guitarist Chris Bailey; drummer Joff Bateman; singer-songwriter and keyboardist Peter Beagley (later known as Peter Head); and singer-songwriter and guitarist Mauri Berg. The group supported acts like Elton , The Rolling Stones .at their Sydney performances, early 1970s. They were managed by Hamish Henry who also managed rivals, Fraternity, with Bon Scott. Headband played progressive blues rock with symphonic, country and pop influences. They had a strong work ethic, rehearsing and performing constantly, including three shows a week in high schools across Adelaide. "We did modern jazz at nightclubs, rock'n'roll for discos, J.S. Bach for pleasure, barbershop quartet stuff for laughs, electronic music at jam sessions, blues when feelin' low, and country and folk for interest. A combination of these influences comes out in our original material." explains Peter Head. On 22 October 1971, they supported Elton John's Adelaide show at the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre. Their debut single, "Scratch My Back" was released locally by RCA and did not reach the charts. It was straight forward pop and was followed by their second single, "Land of Supercars", which was issued nationally in 1972. "Country Lady" was also released that year. In July, the band finished third in the 1972 Hoadley's Battle of the Sounds – a national performance competition between the best groups representing each state – having been a finalist in the previous year.



The Mount Lofty Rangers were a group initiated by Peter Head. Throughout its existence The band featured musicians who later went on to greater fame such as Glenn Shorrock and Robyn Archer. 1970s. Left to right is Chris Finnen, Peter Head, Chris Bailey, Phil Cunneen and Trev Warner.

(The Images above and below were sourced from SA Showbiz Memories (Tonnika Xenides), on Facebook).



Above left – an official photograph of the Mount Lofty Rangers taken in 1975, when it toured Penang for the Dunstan Government. L-R – Trev Warner, Brian Porter, Rick Kent, Peter Head, Robyn Archer, Mick Jurd. Front – Chris Bailey.

Above right – Bon Scott performing with the Mount Lofty Rangers in the 1970s.



Peter agreed with me that the music score for “The Ballad of Phil Carman” is very similar to that of “I Still Call Australia Home”, by Peter Allen. However, Peter Head wrote his score in 1970 and Peter Allen didn’t release his famous song until a decade later, in 1980. Also in 1980, Peter Head changed his surname from Beagley to Head, because he found that journalists were mis-spelling his name all the time. He chose ‘Head’ as a surname to mirror the Adelaide suburb of Peterhead, hoping that if he ever found serious fame in the music world that he would also bring fame to the suburb of Peterhead in Adelaide!

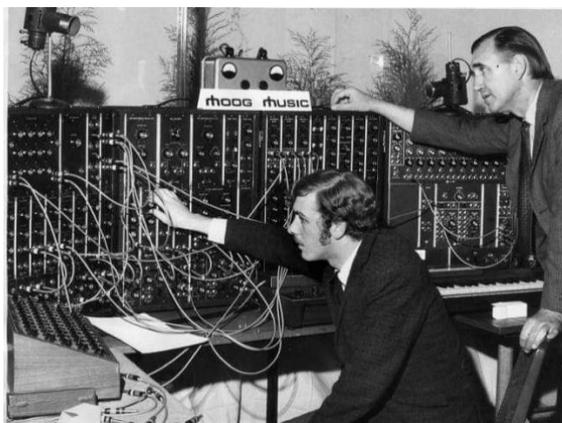
As for the two Norwood songs – Peter recalled them being ‘commissioned’ by Ron Tremaine. They were recorded in the Gamba studios of Derek Jolly, in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide. At the time, it was one of only two recording studios in Adelaide, the other being “Peppers”.

More information about Peter Head can be found here - <https://peterheadmusic.com/bio>

Derek Jolly and Gamba Studios

Gamba Studios was owned by entrepreneur Derek Jolly – a member of the Penfold Wines family who pursued interests as diverse as music, racing Lotus cars, restaurants and art.

Jolly’s Gamba Studios was built in the mid 1960s at 97 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide. Jolly had a dream to develop Adelaide as a world renowned location for recording music. To further this dream, he bought a Moog Synthesiser in 1969 and Gamba Studios was the first place outside the United States to have one. “The Moog” was used by the Monkees, Simon and Garfunkel and George Harrison but Jolly’s Moog was mostly used for advertising jingles and he sold it two years later to the University of Adelaide, where it remains to this day.



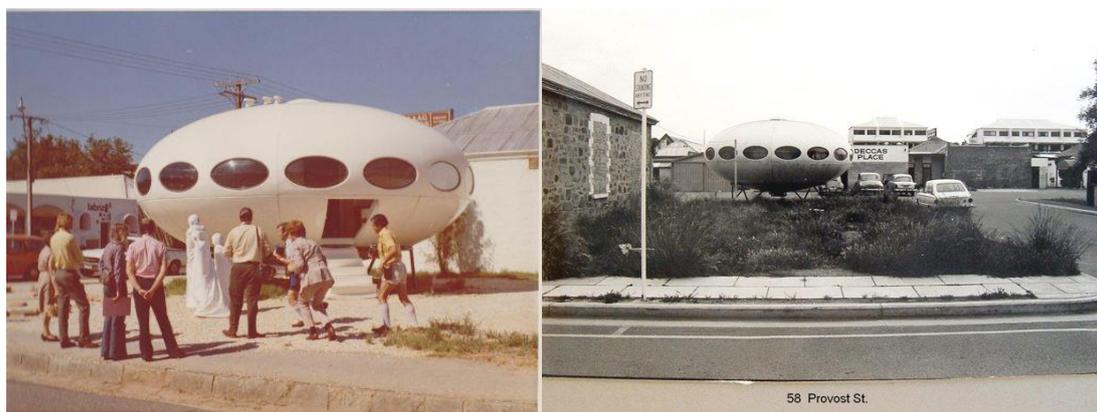
The Harts (l. to r.), Phil, Bob, Peter and Harry, listen to one of the “takes” in the control room at Gamba Studios.

Photos sourced from (left) -

<https://www.adelaidereview.com.au/arts/music/2019/10/22/derek-jolly-moog-synthesiser-australia-adelaide/> and (right) – SA Showbiz Memories (Tonnika Xenides) – facebook.



Jolly even bought a UFO-like house known as the Futuro House. Peter Head told me that he actually lived in this house for three months, saying that many of the musical staff were given a chance to live there for three months. It had two levels, with a kitchen, toilet and bedroom on the bottom floor and a living area upstairs. The Futuro house was bought for about \$15,000 and was later moved to 58 Provost Street in North Adelaide, before a permanent move to Deep Creek. It is now part of a health retreat - see [Naiko Retreat Gallery luxury accommodation South Australia](#) .



The photos above are sourced from the following link:

[*The Futuro House - Deep Creek, SA, Australia - Information, Photographs, History, Maps*](#)

More information about Derek Jolly can be found at the following links:

[*Derek Jolly and Adelaide's Gamba Studios - ABC Radio National*](#)

[*AdelaideAZ*](#)

[*Futuro House \(aka UFO House\): Deep Creek, Australia: Strange, Weird, Wonderful And Cool Buildings: \(thegrumpyoldlimey.com\)*](#)

[*The Futuro House - Deep Creek, SA, Australia - Information, Photographs, History, Maps*](#)

[*Lotus Fifteen 608/626 Climax, Le Mans 1959... | primotipo...*](#)

[*Derek's Deccas and Lotus 15's... | primotipo...*](#)

[*Derek Jolly | Racing career profile | Driver Database \(driverdb.com\)*](#)

[*1960 Australian Tourist Trophy... | primotipo...*](#)



Lyrics - The Ballad of Phil Carman



We'll sing of a boy, named Philip John Carman
Who settled with his family in this town,
The league made it clear, he can't play football here,
Now his smiles have all turned to frowns.

Life's been hard, for this boy, so far,
Tho' he's fought back at work and at play,
And now, a little sunshine appears, through the door,
They're trying to take it away.

Well, a man, must be free,
To find his dream, can't you see,
To play his own game, his own way,
Live as best he can, without fear of any man,
Why won't they let him play the game?

When he dazzled spectators, in his first few games,
Everyone saw a bright, future shine,
So let the boy stay here, yes let the boy stay here.
With the Redlegs as our great number 9.

Well, a man must be free,
To find his dream, can't you see,
To play his own game, his own way,
Live as best he can, without fear of any man,
Why won't they let him play the game.

Give him claim to fame,
Don't cross out his name,
Oh let him,
Play the game.



1970 – “Red Legs Blues”, by Robyn Archer

This song was the ‘B’ side to The Ballad of Phil Carman. It is definitively a ‘blues’ song. What is unique about this recording however, is that this song is ‘paused’ half way through and a live recording then commences of Robyn Archer singing the club song “It’s a Grand Old Flag”, live at the Redlegs Club! I discussed this with Wally Miller on 6 December 2022, and he recalled the night it was recorded, saying that the place was “packed to the walls”. At the end of this live recording, there is a return to “Red Legs Blues”. This unique recording will explain why the song is published on the record label as “Red Legs Blues” (by) Robyn Archer *and Red Legs Chorus*.

Lyrics – Red Legs Blues

We’re talking about the Red Legs
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
Yeah, we’re talking about the Red Legs
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
Oh we play so well, we hardly ever lose

I tell you the club was started in 1878
The club was started in 1878
And since that time
We’ve gone from good to great

Yeah, we’re talking about the Red Legs
The Red Legs Blues
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
Oh we play so well, we hardly ever lose

We play in the colours of Red and Blue
Oh don’t you know us then
We play in the colours of Red and Blue
And everybody knows us
For the very fine things we do
On the field and in the club, yeah....

(Club Song recorded live at the Redlegs Club – both verses)

Talking about the Red Legs
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
And we play so well,
We hardly ever lose



Well Johnny Marriott
He was a very fine man
And Haydn Bunton
Was the finest in the land
And don't you know Jack Oatey
He had four commands

Well I'm talking about the Red Legs
The Red Legs Blues
I'm talking about the Red Legs
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
And don't you know we're so good
We hardly ever lose

The Red Legs, the Red Legs, the Red Legs, the Red Legs Blues
The Red and the Blues
The Red Legs, the Red Legs,
The Red Legs Blues
We're so good
We hardly ever lose

And like men like Big Bill
Have made our name
Men like Big Bill
Have made our name
And everybody knows us
Cause we play that great game
Australian Rules

Talking about the Red Legs
The Red Legs Blues
Talking about the Red Legs
Talking about the Red Legs Blues
We're so good
We hardly ever lose

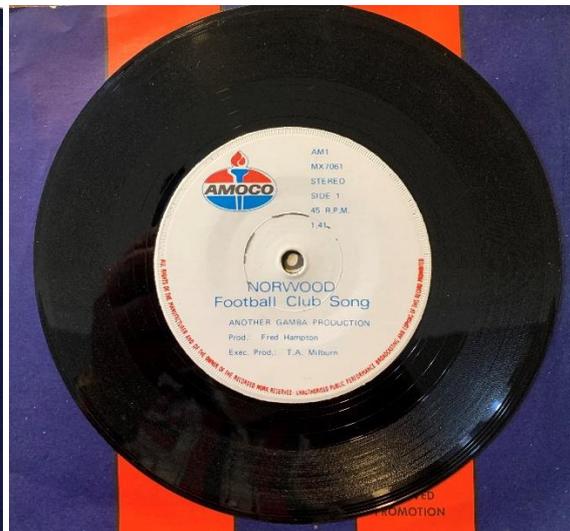
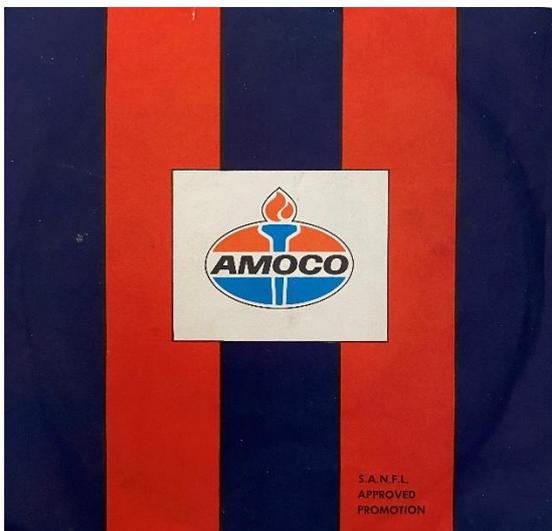
The Red and the Blue
What do you do
The Red and the Blue
You know it's so true
The Red and the Blue
Are the Red Legs through and through
And everybody knows us
For the very fine things we do



1971 - Amoco Recording

In 1971, the SANFL had a promotion where club songs for each of the ten clubs were sold on 7-inch vinyl records through Amoco Service Stations. Once again, the songs were recorded at Gamba Studios in Adelaide.

The songs were all sung by country singer, Jim Chamings. He had released a couple of country songs as singles whilst living in New Zealand in 1963, before emigrating to Australia and working as a radio broadcaster. He is pictured below at Adelaide radio station 5KA. He died in Adelaide in 2002.



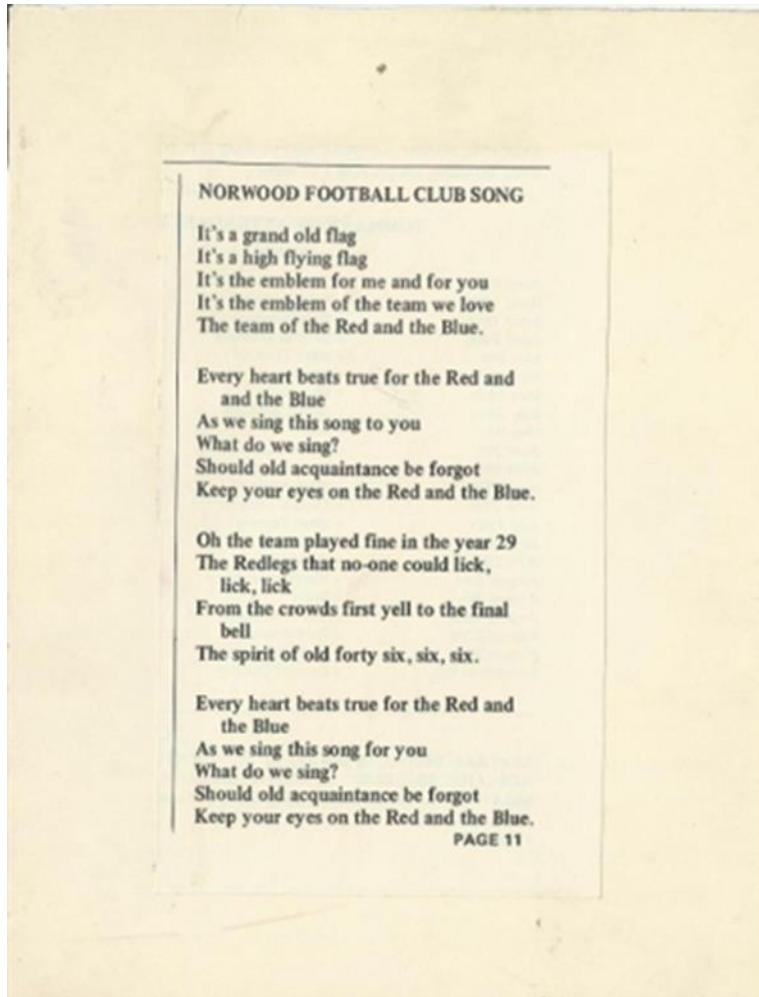


Record

A-side

Norwood Football Club song on 45 rpm record. You can listen to this recording here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsG1O_tAdCM&t=0s

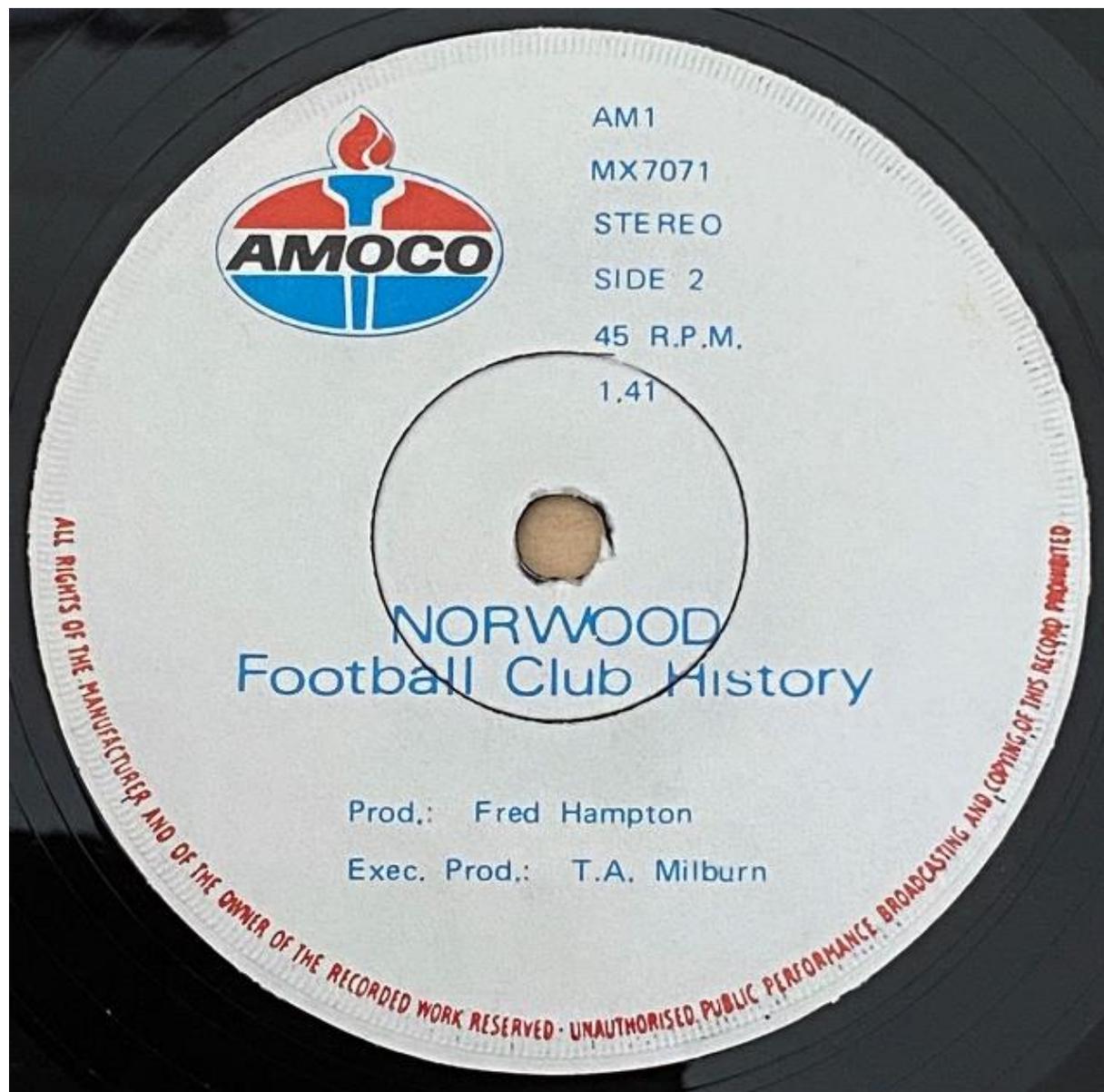


B-Side



A Discography of the Norwood Football Club.

Chris Brown



The B Side of this recording features a short (1 minute 41 seconds) overview of the history of the Norwood Football Club. The words are transcribed below and the actual recording can be heard here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9tlCO32eqM&authuser=0>

"Norwood are one of the oldest South Australian Football Clubs. They were formed in the year 1877 (it was actually 1878!), and commenced their competitive football most impressively. They won six successive premierships from 1878-1883, and further dominated the competition when they won three consecutive premierships from 1887-1889. Norwood



were the first Australian Rules Club to hold the title of Champions of Australia, when they defeated South Melbourne in a Test Series of three games played in Adelaide in 1888. They repeated this performance again in 1907, by defeating Carlton.

Since 1907 when the League was formed, Norwood's final series appearances record is second only to Port Adelaide's. Norwood have made 40 appearances and have won 9 premierships and have been runners up 11 times.

Norwood were the first club to claim a Magarey Medallist, when A. Green won the first medal awarded in 1898. Other Norwood Magarey Medallists have been Wat Scott, Alick Lill, Bill McCallum, John Marriott and Ron Kneebone.

Bruce Schultz, the champion full forward, is the only Norwood player to have kicked 100 goals in a season. He achieved this feat in 1941. Unfortunately, he injured his knee only minutes after scoring his 100th goal and never played again.

Among the all time greats of Norwood, Jack Oatey who played 185 games and coached Norwood to three premierships, is ranked by many Norwood people head and shoulders, along with Wat Scott, over all others. Some of the other past stars were Alick Lill, Doug Olds, Ron Kneebone and Bill Wedding."

1994 - Love Never Runs on Time – Paul Kelly

Australian singer-songwriter Paul Kelly attended Rostrevor College where he was the first XI cricket captain and played in the first XVIII football team. He was a member of Norwood's under 19 squad back in the early to mid-1970s and was apparently known to have played concerts wearing a Norwood guernsey.

In 1994, Kelly wore a cap featuring the Redlegs logo in his film clip for "Love Never Runs on Time". You can view the full clip here: <https://youtu.be/4nQcf8I9e6Q>





1999 – “Red and Blue” by Greg Champion

In 1999, Greg Champion recorded “Red and Blue” and it was released on CD in 2001 to commemorate a match billed as “The Night of the Century”. The Round 6 match in 2001 commemorated the first game played at Norwood Oval 100 years before in 1901, against Sturt. It was also the first game that the Sturt Football Club played in the premier football competition of South Australia. Greg provided the pre-match entertainment for the Friday night blockbuster, where 14,000 fans turned up and watched Norwood run out victors by 15 points - 12.10.82 to Sturt 9.13.67.



You can hear “Red and Blue” at the following link, and the lyrics are also shown below.

<https://soundcloud.com/champs-8/home-of-the-red-blue-greg-champion>



Red and Blue

Let's me and you take a trip down to
Where every heart beats true
At the home of the Red & Blue
At the home of the Red & Blue
Today's the day, I'm on my way
Gonna see the Redlegs play

Every heart (every heart)
Beats true (beats true)
Every heart beats true for the Red & Blue
E - v'ry - heart - beats - true for the Red & Blue

This is the ground, these are the stands
These are the loyal Norwood fans
At the home of the Red & Blue
At the home of the Red & Blue
This is the heart of The Parade
Where Redlegs history's made

Every heart (every heart)
Beats true (beats true)
Every heart beats true for the Red & Blue
E - v'ry - heart - beats - true for the Red & Blue

NORWOOD

The Current Club Song (with lyrics)

The Norwood club song is an adaptation of a song originally composed in 1906 by American George M. Cohan, called 'You're A Grand Old Flag'. It's a song about the American Flag. (Cohan also wrote "Yankee Doodle Dandy"). A Biography about Cohan can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M._Cohan

Cohan's original song "You're a Grand Old Flag" can be heard here, as sung by his son George Cohan Junior in 1948:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En2kFnhmul>



The adoption of this song by numerous football clubs is in the form of an adaptation of the chorus.

The lyrics of Cohan's original chorus are:

*You're a grand old flag,
You're a high-flying flag,
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love,
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
Under Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
But should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.*

Graeme Adams from the History Committee of the Norwood Football Club advised that “Melbourne Football Club first aired “It's a Grand Old Flag” in 1912 when the team travelled to Tasmania on June 12. They pretty much forgot about it until they revived the song after winning the flag in 1926 and the players drove through the city in open cars singing the song”.

In comparison, the Norwood Club song as modified from the original lyrics, can be heard here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qswj5q9pwM4>

Who had the club song “It's a Grand Old Flag” first – Norwood or Sturt?

The adaptation of George Cohan's song as an Australian Rules Football club song, has been widespread. In the SANFL, there is often a debate between supporters of the Norwood and Sturt clubs, as to which of these two clubs adopted the song first. It is noted however that there are subtle differences between these two versions of “A Grand Old Flag”, and that Norwood has a second verse.

The Sturt Record

On 2 July, 2016, the Sturt Football Club published the following on its official Facebook page.

It's a Grand Old Flag - Who sung it first?

There has been much conjecture over the years about the use of club song “It's a grand old flag” and who had it first Sturt or Norwood Football Club.



Sturt's first recorded and one of the few South Australian club songs was in 1909 for the B team, although the complete song has been lost we still have the following verse:

Kick the ball to 'Diver' Dunne, along the ground to Cumberland, up in the air, Matson's there"

According to sources Sturt had a club song in the 1930's which was similar to the "Our Don Bradman" tune.

There is no record to suggest the club had a song during the next two decades and not before Len Fitzgerald arrived at the club in 1951. He and wife Beryl (pictured) introduced the Melbourne club song "It's a grand old flag" because as Len pointed out, "you can easily substitute the words red and blue to double blues".

The song was first used by the club during the period when Len Toyne coached (1950–1951).

It is understood that Norwood introduced "It's a grand old flag" during their coach Alan Killigrew's time (1959–1962).

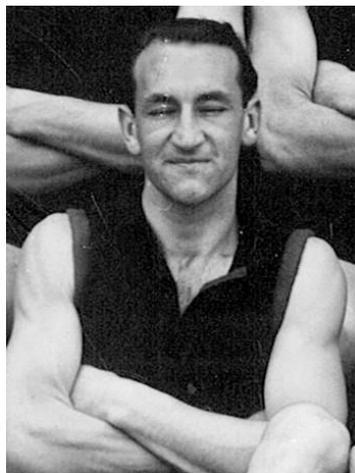
You do the math?

In the mid to late 1980's Sturt stopped using "It's a grand old flag" and instead changed to Carlton's "We are the Navy Blues" but adapted it to "Double Blues". This song lasted only a few seasons before members requested the board have the club return to singing "It's a grand old flag".

Source: "A Century of Sturt" written by John Lysikatos

I decided to make contact with three of Norwood's oldest living past players. Merv Roberts played in the 1946, 1948 and 1950 Premiership teams. Pat Hall played in the 1948 Premiership team after coming through the Colts during World War two and winning a junior trophy which was presented to him by Lady Downer. And Neil Dansie played at Norwood from 1946-49 before retiring as a football player to pursue a successful career as a first class cricketer.

Merv Roberts' Recollections



Mervyn Arthur ROBERTS STATISTICS

Guernsey Number: 10

Career: 1946 to 1956

NFC Games: 162

NFC Goals: 6

Debut: v Port Adelaide
(Alberton) 11th May 1946
Finale: v North Adelaide
(Adelaide) 8th September
1956

Premierships: 1946, 1948,
1950

NFC Life Member

NFC Hall of Fame

Advertiser Team of the Year:
1954

South Australian Games: 5

South Australian Games: 5

Merv Roberts was one of the most respected backmen of his era as selection in five State teams testifies. He gained a great reputation for the surety of his ball handling, causing one reporter in June 1950 to refer to him as, "sticky fingers."

Roberts played in the successful, "Jack Oatey Era" and was a member of three premierships sides: 1946, 1948 and 1950.

He was a highly regarded clubman being presented with excellent service awards in 1950 and 1953. In 1954 he was the player representative on the Management Committee.

A wonderful tribute was paid to Merv Roberts by one of the icons of SA Football; Wally May (Former VFL, Sturt and State Ruckman). In the Advertiser on September 13th, 1954, he wrote: "What a tremendous player Merv Roberts is. He is the best back pocket I've seen in this State and as good as they come in Victoria."

Merv Roberts retired at the end of the 1956 season leaving behind an outstanding record: 162 games, three premierships and club life membership.

B Ridge Feb 2014

(In 2022, Merv Roberts was inducted in to the Norwood Hall of Fame).

I spoke to Merv Roberts by telephone on 14 July, 2022. At aged 98, he has better days than others with his health and I was hoping to arrange to visit him again, but on this particular day, Merv and his wife Pat (herself 90 years of age!) had a telephone conversation instead. Merv said that the Norwood club song is the only song he has ever known to be used since his league career



commenced in 1946, and that it was sung throughout his whole career. However, he was unable to recall the origins of verse two or when and how it was introduced. Merv also said the use of the club song was different to today – it wasn't sung after every match and perhaps was used more often as part of club functions and events than as a post-match celebration.

Pat Hall's recollections

	<p>A ruckman / half forward with a good mark and reliable kick, Hall was a member of the 1948 League Premiership team that defeated West Torrens. He played the last seven games of the season in the league team, but still managed to finish runner-up for the Reserves medal by only one point.</p> <p>Unfortunately he missed the 1950 Grand Final win with a back injury and was a member of the side that was soundly beaten in the 1952 Grand Final.</p> <p>In 1953, at the age of 23, Hall replaced Johnny Taylor as player-coach of Glenelg, and in his first season coached the Tigers to a win against Norwood in the knockout 1st Semi-Final. He went on to play 47 games for Glenelg between 1953 and 1955.</p> <p>In 1956 he returned to Norwood, playing in the Advertiser Cup (Night series) win over South Adelaide and in the side that beat Carlton the following week. He retired after playing in the 1957 Grand Final.</p> <p>He later became a football commentator on Channel 7 and is the grandfather of former Norwood player Joel Patfull, who played with the Brisbane Lions from 2006 to 2014 before transferring to Greater Western Sydney. Pat Hall's son John played for Norwood from 1980 to 1991 and his father Alexander played from 1928 to 1932.</p> <p><i>R Cialini Nov 2013</i></p>
<p>Alexander (Pat) HALL STATISTICS Guernsey Number: 24, 12 Career: 1948 to 1957 NFC Games: 98 NFC Goals: 72 Debut: v West Torrens (Norwood) 8th May 1948 Finale: v Port Adelaide (Adelaide) 28th September 1957 Premierships: 1948 South Australian Games: 5</p>	

I met with Pat at his private home on 15 September, 2022. It had been reported that Pat had historically spoken of having sung the club song after the 1948 Premiership win, and I wanted to see if this could be confirmed. Pat, who is now aged 93, was racking his brain but couldn't specifically or definitively recall singing it after the 1948 Grand Final win. He said that in those days, the club song was not routinely sung after a win, nor was it sung in a circle like the players do today. It was a song that was used exclusively by the League team and he recalled it always being around during his league playing career (which commenced in mid-1948), but the club song wasn't used in other



grades such as when he played in the Colts teams. He said if they had sung it after the GF win, it was likely that they sung it whilst stood in front of their lockers. He also said that he could definitely recall the second verse of the song being used during his own playing career – “the Spirit of Old 46” line was of interest because he played in the decade after 1946 but he couldn’t recall specifically when that second verse was introduced, or by who. However, he reflected on that line as being interesting given his own playing career spanned the immediate period post-1946! When he was later told that Merv Roberts recalled singing it his whole career at Norwood, (Merv played in the 1946 Premiership for Norwood), Pat agreed with Merv’s recollection and added that Merv would be “right across it”. However, he said that the song was DEFINITELY being sung by the team when he joined the league ranks in 1948.

Neil Dansie’s Recollections



Hampton Neil DANSIE
STATISTICS

Guernsey Number: 15, 14, 10
 Career: 1946 to 1949
 NFC Games: 39
 NFC Goals: 35
 Debut: v Port Adelaide
 (Norwood) 20th July 1946
 Finale: v North Adelaide
 (Adelaide) 17th September
 1949

Back in the 1940s, Norwood Colts players were warned: "Don't eat a dozen bananas before a match, like Neil Dansie did." A healthy appetite was no bar to success for Hampton Neil Dansie, who was born at Nuriootpa on 2 July 1928 and raised at the mid-north hamlet of Stone Hut.

He blossomed as a sportsman at Norwood High School, showing an aptitude for cricket, football and baseball. A "heady" half-forward or utility player, he notched 39 games in four seasons under Jack Oatey and coached the Norwood seconds from 1957 to 1960, achieving premiership success in the final year. He also coached Payneham, the SA Amateur Football League and the all-Australian amateur team.

But cricket was his first love. He played for East Torrens, Todmorden in the Lancashire League and Kensington, where he was a premiership captain and the last player to bat with Don Bradman in an official match. He played 124 first-class matches for South Australia, making 7,543 runs at 34.4 (top score 185) and taking 90 wickets at 33.31 (best bag 5/61).

A broken jaw, wired after a cricket accident, restricted his speaking for a while and contributed to his nickname, 'Nodder'. As a long-time player, coach, selector and board member, he was made an honorary member of the SA Cricket Association.

P Robins Oct 2014



I spoke to Neil via telephone on 20 September, 2022. Neil is now aged 94 years of age and remains vibrant and enthusiastic when talking about sport and his own careers as a footballer and a cricketer.

Neil didn't recall singing the club song when the team came into the rooms after a win. He said he was only at Norwood for four years before retiring to pursue cricket. However, he believes the team might have sung the song after the premiership in 1948 but isn't certain of it. If the club won the premiership at any time, they probably could have sung the song on those occasions he thinks. Neil did not recall any other songs at the club in his time there either as a player or as a coach.

Conclusion

The Norwood Football Club has a history of songs, tributes and musicians who have honoured the club in different ways, dating right back to the club's foundation year in 1878.

Further information has recently come to light indicating that Jim Keays, the late member of the Masters Apprentices, was an avid fan of the Norwood Football Club. He certainly played football whilst at Norwood High School and efforts are under way with his widow, Karin Keays, to uncover more information.

It's quite clear from the accounts of past player Len Fitzgerald that Sturt adopted their club song on his arrival in 1951. In the case of Norwood, the oral histories of three surviving players post World War two suggest that Norwood has been singing its club song since probably 1946 and definitely since 1948. In which case, Norwood has used "A Grand Old Flag" as its club song since prior to 1951 when Sturt adopted the song.

Unfortunately, it remains unknown at this point in time as to when the second verse of Norwood's club song was introduced, and why.

Chris Brown

Norwood Football Club History Committee

May 2023