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REDLEGS REVIEW//



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REDLEGS REVIEW //

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/// **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



WELL, the season didn't end as we would have hoped, however, there is a lot to look forward to and an enormous amount of things to celebrate on reflection of the 2019 season.

League Team

Throughout the season we played some very exciting football and showed glimpses of what we were capable of, however, we never reached the highs and consistency we promised with the talent we had. I know there will be a number of theories as to what went wrong and what we need to do to improve in 2020, however, rest assured we will be doing everything possible both on and off field to deliver the success we are striving for.

Reserves Team

There is no doubt this team was young, bold and exciting to watch. The enthusiasm and talent in this

group of young men will ensure continued success at Norwood for many years to come. This team were Minor Premiers, clearly the best team throughout the year, and then went on to win the Premiership quite convincingly. I would like to congratulate coach, Gavin Hughes, captain Mac Bower and all players on a wonderful year. I also want to congratulate Jed Spence on winning the Reserves Magarey Medal, in what can only be described as an amazing transformation from the start to the end of the year and evidence of what can be achieved when you work hard and follow your dream.

Michael Taylor Medal

Brad McKenzie had a fantastic year which was capped off by winning the Michael Taylor Medal. There is no doubt that Brad epitomised 'Kingo's' traits this year with his consistency and at times superhuman efforts. Who will forget the repeat entries

he saved with strong contested marks in the dying moments of the game at Noarlunga. Brad was a fantastic contributor throughout the year and although not the most outgoing player in the Club, he surely let his footy do the talking. Well done and congratulations Brad.

Retirements

It's not too often you get to farewell four legends of the Footy Club in one year, who between them have won 10 Premierships. On behalf of the Football Club I would like to congratulate and sincerely thank Jace Bode, Alex Georgiou, Brady Dawe and Ed Smart on their magnificent careers for the Norwood Football Club. We all have fond memories of them and would not have achieved the success we did in 2012, 2013 and 2014 if it wasn't for the contribution of these four Champions. Their farewell speeches were truly amazing, their love and passion for the

Norwood Football Club was clearly evident and all of them were overcome with emotion when they spoke. They all thanked the Norwood Football Club for what it had given them however Jace, Alex, Brady and Ed on behalf of the Norwood Football Club I thank you for your magnificent contribution and honour you as Men of Norwood! All the best in your retirement!

Wolf Blass Community Centre
The works are progressing on the new Clubrooms and it is anticipated that it will be completed by the end of April, in readiness for the 2020 season. Although you may not be able to see the extent of works that have been undertaken to date, rest assured the project is on track and within a month you will see the precast structure being erected on site. This is when you will really appreciate the extent of work that has been completed to date and gain a real appreciation of the scope and scale of the new building. This building would not have been possible without the generous contribution by many donors and on behalf of the Board and the future generations of the Norwood Football Club, I would like to thank everyone who has donated to date and especially acknowledge and thank Wolf Blass for his enormous contribution.

Volunteers

As the 2019 season has now ended I would like to acknowledge and thank all the wonderful volunteers that help the Norwood Football Club. There is way too many to individually mention, however, on behalf of the Board I would like to say thank you for everything you do, as without your contribution

it would not be possible for us to be the Football Club we are. I honestly think we have the best volunteers in the league and what amazes me more than anything about our volunteers is their continued selfless acts, putting Norwood first and the enjoyment they all get from helping our great Club. Thanks once again to all our Volunteers, you are the best!

Sponsors

I would like to acknowledge and thank all our sponsors as without their continued contribution we would not be able to operate as a Football Club. Although there is too many to mention, I would like to specifically acknowledge our major sponsors Veolia, IWS, Coopers, Barossa Boy and Paradise Motors. The support these companies provide is truly amazing and I encourage all members to support the companies that support us wherever possible.

Members

On behalf of the Board, I would like to say thank you to our wonderful Members who continually support our great Football Club through the good times and bad times. We have been fortunate over the years to have far more good times than bad and there is no doubt the continued support that our Members provide throughout the season is a big factor in helping us be successful. Thanks again for your support in 2019 and we look forward to your continued support in 2020.

In closing, we are always looking to improve our Football Club so if you have any ideas or would like to discuss any matter, please give me a call on 0418 856 085.



*Paul Di Iulio
President*

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// **CEO'S REPORT**

IN this edition of the Redlegs Review, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from our many volunteers who give of their time, expertise and most importantly of themselves.

We are extremely fortunate to boast such an amazing volunteer support staff, who's contribution is second to none. This was evident at the Club Champion awards night when each award winner including our President, Football Operations Manager and Senior Coach each took time to compliment and recognise our support team. I would like to congratulate Kirsty Fendt, who held the position of Head Trainer for the first time. Kirsty's commitment and care for our players is exceptional and she has done a first-class job in leading our very capable list of trainers. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Al Hughes who was awarded volunteer of the year. Al

is a committed member of our support team and like many of our people, goes about his role with little fuss and without any expectations of being recognised for their incredible ongoing contribution. Our medical team have been instrumental in ensuring our players are well cared for in every situation.

This has enabled our players to have absolute confidence in the knowledge that we have outstanding people who are there to support them. I would like to make special mention and thank our medical officer's Dr Andrew McDonald and Dr Simon Vanlint who have been outstanding in their support of our senior teams and all of us at the Club. Our Physiotherapists have again been extremely busy and do an incredible job preparing our players week in and week out. I would like to thank Tom Moore and Kerry Bungey, for their continued support and for the wonderful job they do.

There are also many more support staff behind the scenes from our statisticians, doormen, property stewards, trainers, runners, ball stewards, timekeepers and UniSA Students, Elizabeth, Dom, Lauren, Caleb, Tarsha, Adrian, Georgia and Tyson that all contribute to ensuring our teams are well prepared for training and match days to the best of their ability. Both our men's and women's teams are extremely fortunate to have these people who provide uncompromising support all year long. I would like to single out our two team managers Marc Robinson Senior Men's team and Sarah Thompson Senior Women's team, who both are the high-performance oil that keeps the wheels turning at all of our player's sessions and they do this in a manner that is inclusive, caring and respectful at all times. I would personally like to thank each one of these men and women for their wonderful support and contribution to our players and our Club.



Our coaching staff have been instrumental in providing both Jarrod Cotton and our playing group their unconditional support throughout the season. I would like to thank these men for the incredible amount of time and effort that they put in throughout the football season and the incredible sacrifices they make to ensure our players are best equipped to represent the Norwood Football Club on the field each week. Thank you, Adam Smith, James Saywell, Jeremy Cini, Nic Massacci and Ben Mesisca. It would be remiss of me not to give special mention to our reserves team. Congratulations to Gavin Hughes and his coaching staff and all the players who represented Norwood Football Club in the reserves this year for winning the Reserves Premiership, a wonderful achievement. Most importantly, this generates great excitement and confidence for season 2020 with many of these young men pushing for senior selection. Our development squad coaches and their support teams, Chris O'Connor our U/16 coach and James Allen our U/18 coach and his support team all have been committed to making our players better. Once again, these people put in far more than is expected and this is reflected in the quality programs we can offer to our young developing players.

Off-field, we have an incredible array of people who are willing and prepared to provide their time effort and support to the Norwood Football Club. This is never more evident than the incredible amount of work our board members do on many different levels across the Club. Led by our Club President Paul Di Iulio, his contribution to our Football Club is quite exceptional



and he epitomises our club values being professional, one club, community focussed, innovative, inclusive and united. Each member of the board carries a portfolio that also sees their involvement spread across all areas of the Club. The Build the Fort fundraising committee has been led by our long-time supporter and committee member Andrew Killey, supported by members Charmaine Binns, Daniel Gannon, Michael Pratt, John Cunningham, President Paul Di Iulio board member Rick Neagle together with Commercial Manager Dale Fleming and CEO James Fantasia. This group have been incredibly active and have helped the club raise over \$3.5million over the past four years. This year included 'The Great Debate', that was a wonderful event. Again, it would be remiss of me not to recognise Wolf Blass and the Late Bill Cooper, his wife Josephine and their family for their substantial and respective individual financial contributions.

Our Finance committee is led by board member and Vice President Ben Seekamp and this committee is supported by Hamish Moulds, Nick Green, both qualified accountants and President/ Board member Paul Di Iulio, Finance Manager Peggy Burns and CEO James Fantasia. This group meet monthly and oversee the financial position and forecasts of the Football Club. Our Nor East Hotel has an advisory board chaired by our Licensing and Facilities Manager Chris Branson and supported with committee members Mr Glenn Cooper AM, Matt Binns, board member and finance committee chairman Ben Seekamp, board member Steve Arblaster and CEO James Fantasia. This group focuses on the Clubs important and successful commercial venture and its continued sustainability. The Football committee is chaired by Football Operations Manager Mark Ross with its members including Football Director Justin Staritski, Club



Legend Michael Taylor, Senior Women's Coach Steve Symonds, Women's Football Director Cat Rugari, Senior Coach Jarrod Cotton, Talent Manager Rick Shrowder and CEO James Fantasia. This group work on all matters Football, including developing and overseeing our clubs strategic planning, list management, league issues and football operations. Our player wellbeing and care committee is supported by Football Operations Manager Mark Ross, Talent Manager Rick Shrowder, Team Welfare Manager Donna Rhook, John Neat, Andrew Aish and Anthony Hill. I would like to mention and recognise the work that Andrew Aish carries out for the Club. Andrew a qualified physiotherapist, is our Club Chaplin and his care and wellbeing for every member of our Club is quite remarkable. It is not uncommon for Andrew to call in on a player's family home to check up on one of our young footballers dealing with the loss of a loved one or visiting the hospital to be there for the injured player and their family. Andrew typifies the

incredible support that is offered to our playing group often going about his business with little fan fair and a lot of goodwill and care. He is well supported by Donna Rhook who carries out her role well and truly above expectations. Her care for our players is exceptional and we are incredibly grateful for her level of support.

Our History committee lead by Wynton Heading is quite extraordinary. Their continued documentation of the club's history, the memorabilia they collected, documented and itemised includes over 3000 pieces with an estimated value of over a million dollars. They have been responsible for developing and driving our club's history site that is incredibly comprehensive. I would like to thank each member of this committee for their continued efforts including, Graeme Adams, Michael Coligan, Chris Lane, Bryan Ridge, Phil Robins, Marie Walsh, Reonaldo Cialini, Roger Woodcock, Rob Crompton, John Townsend, Trevor Mather, Diana Cox, Lindsay Cox and Stephen

Jones. A special thank you to Robert Walsh who has collected and developed a video library second to none. The library documents the club's history with many matches captured including special moments and Grand Final wins. Bob has ensured that his collection will be left to the club to use now and into the future to which we are most grateful.

Our Past Players and Officials Committee have played a substantial role in bringing back to the Club its many past players and Officials. With an annual luncheon and golf day we have seen an increase in our people returning to the club. The Club was able to recognise the wonderful achievements of its past player and General Manager Wally Miller OAM who was recognised with AFL Life membership. This occasion provided a unique opportunity to get many of our past players together to celebrate this special occasion. The Horizons committee is a relatively new committee that looks at the long-term direction of the Club

and how it can best place itself going forward. Whilst not as active this year, the committee has assisted in developing a strong partnership with UniSA. Lead by Sean Keenihan, the committee comprises of Tony D'Alessandro, David Brooks, President Paul Di Iulio and CEO James Fantasia. Our Governance Committee is led by board member Steve Arblaster with professional lawyers Andrew Lamb and Richard O'Dea and CEO James Fantasia in support. Both Andrew and Richard also assist with tribunal matters if they arise. Finally, we have an IT and Marketing committee lead by board member Marie Skrodski. This committee includes our Commercial Operations Manager Dale Fleming, Communications Coordinator Joseph Marciano and CEO James Fantasia. Responsible for our marketing mix, social mediums and general communication methods this committee ensures we can promote club events and match day experiences. This year we have also been provided with wonderful support from both Michael and Sandy Wilkins. Sandy initiated a parent and friends group to provide a more warming and inclusive environment for our players families from U/18 level, Reserves and League. Sandy was able to organise several opportunities for families to meet at the football and we look forward to supporting this further next year with our new facilities. Michael has taken on the role of Chairman of our Legends Club. The Legends Club is an important coterie group who contribute significantly to the club. With Michaels leadership, we are growing this group and providing a strong association to the Club.



Sue Hutchinson has been a long-term servant of the club and is an intergalactic member of the Norwood family. We thank you Sue for the continued support you provide our administration team with each year. Rowley Pengilley has been a long-term servant of the Club and whilst holding down various roles within the club over many decades, Rowley manages the Clubs Lottery which is a significant fundraiser for the Club. He works lengthy hours and is committed to ensuring we conduct our lottery professionally. John Emery is the Clubs official photographer and has captured each of the club's special moments throughout the year. Johns work can be viewed from the club's website and he has done a brilliant job capturing matches, events and club Functions. Once again, I would like to thank these individuals personally and on behalf of the club for the amazing work they do and the support they provide our club.

Whilst there are many more individuals that play both big and small parts within our club, I would also like to thank Peter

Nanotti, Stuart Bee and Bill Drummond for their continual support with oval maintenance, merchandise sales and general office support. These men typify an unreserved commitment to our football club and their efforts are greatly appreciated and acknowledged. In closing I would like to congratulate all the individual award winners at this year's club Brad McKenzie for winning the Michael Taylor Medal as Club Champion and young Jed Spence who won the Reserves Magarey Medal.



James Fantasia
CEO



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// **COACHES REPORT**



FIRSTLY, I would like to thank all our sponsors, members and supporters for their support over the 2019 season. Once again, we had fantastic support at both home and away games this season. The players and I thank you for your commitment to the Norwood Football Club.

I would also like to thank everyone involved at the club from the board, coaches, support staff and the players. To play in the SANFL competition takes a lot of sacrifice and effort and with the build happening during the season, everyone faced different challenges. Everyone got on with the job and there was no complaining or excuses made.

Reserves Team

I'd just like to recognise the Reserves Team and what they have done for the club this year. It's not just the Premiership win,

but it's the way they have gone about their football which has been awesome. They brought fantastic energy and worked extremely hard to develop their game. It's a great position for us as a club, that we will have many of these players push hard to play a lot of Senior Football in 2020.

Jed Spence had a great year which allowed him to win the Reserves Magarey Medal. He showed great resilience early in the year and became one of our most consistent players. Luke Surman won the Bob Lee Medal for Best on Ground in the Grand Final, Luke had a lot of injuries early this year but proved later in the year that he can become a very important player for us moving forward.

Senior Team

I would firstly like to acknowledge

some individual efforts for the 2019 season

- We had five players play their first SANFL Game – Cam Ball, Brodie Carroll, Josh Richards, Dylan Stephens and Cam Taheny
- We had three players play their first Game for the Norwood Football Club – Dom Barry, Cody Szust and Corey Grove
- 100 Game Players – Matt Panos, Lewis Johnston, Ed Smart
- 200 Game Player – Brady Dawe

Jace Bode, Ed Smart, Brady Dawe and Alex Georgiou have decided to retire from SANFL Football, and I thank them for their effort and support over the last three years. They are all premiership players and champions of the club and I wish them all with best with the next chapter of the lives.

// **COACHES REPORT**

- Cole Gerloff had a great year and won the Powerade Breakthrough Player of 2019.

- Anthony Wilson and Dom Barry represented SA in the State game v WA and both had a great impact in the game.

- Sam Baulderstone, Lewis Johnston and Brad McKenzie made the SANFL Advertiser Team of Year and all three players had fantastic seasons.

Season 2019

- Won 12 games Lost 8.

- Won Elimination final and lost First Semi-Final.

In breaking down the season we won seven out of our first nine games, lost four games in succession then finished the season winning the next five out of seven games.

- We finished fourth overall in 2019.

- Second place in the Stanley Lewis Cup (Overall club).

As you can see there are a lot of positives to be proud of as a Club.

Our focus as a Football club is to have sustained success and we have been able to play finals in the last three years and be a very strong club on and off the field. We had a good year, but not a great year as a Senior team. We played some ELITE Football at times, but also let ourselves down in periods of games. We

are here to win premierships and we didn't achieve our goal in 2019.

We can't do anything about our last game, but we do have a choice about how we come back and prepare to win again in 2020. We must study and learn from this season and we are in an extensive review process now. There will be a change in our football program and there will be an opportunity given to players who want to work hard and live the values. as we need to look to improve in all areas of our club. As a club we are in a very strong position, I'm very excited about the 2020 season ahead and look forward to celebrating a win in the new Wolf Blass Community Centre with the **RED** and **BLUE** army.



*Jarrod Cotton
Senior Coach*



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// **TALENT MANAGER REPORT**

SEASON 2019 seems to have come and gone in the blink of an eye. As everyone is aware it is an exciting time with works having started on new change rooms, office spaces, medical rooms and function centre. As exciting as this is, it has certainly created some challenging times for everyone including staff, parents and players involved in underage programs at the club. I'd like to say a big thank you to all the parents, that have been patient and understanding this year with no parking available and some last-minute changes due to building work.

This year the club has proudly supported the development of male and female players through a total of 12 different squads. These have been our U13, U14, U15 boys Development Squads, U15 and U17 Girls Development Squads, U16 and U18 male squads, U15 and U17 Eyre Peninsula squads, Metro and EP Country Academies and the lads in the visiting Maralinga/Tjarutja team. All these squads have had varying levels of on-field success, but more importantly have continued to develop their footy skills in the red and blue jumper.

All our squads are fortunate to have fantastic coaches and support staff that give their time, energy and experience to ensure our players can learn, improve and play in the best environment possible. I'd like to thank the following people some of whom have had multiple roles this year, Alex Forster (U13s Coach), David Payne, Devin Payne, Steven Canala (U14s Coaches), Michael Niederswicky, Riley Atkinson, Corey Di Stefano, Lachlan Pascoe (U15s Coaches), Chris O'Connor, Dave Bartel, Tyson Currie, Brock Kennedy, Bek McMahon (U16s



Coaches), James Allan, Luke McCarthy, Tim McMahon, Sam Boulderstone, Alex Forster, Tom Charlton (U18s Coaches), Steve Symonds (Metro Academy Coach), Alison Ferrall, Cassie Tsoumbri, Rhi Busch (Girls U17s Coaches), Elisha Gallagher (Girls U15s Coaches), Richard Horgan, Danny Horgan, Michael Harris, Michael Curtis (EP U15s Coaches), Roger Puckridge, Glenn Dunn, Paul Warmington, Robert Shirley (EP U17s Coaches), Andrew Taheny (EP Football), Colin Cairns, Paul Homann, Mike McAveny, Thomas Tiver, Tushar Vyas, Mark Vincent, Gavin Goodfellow, Victor Thach, Shane Ellul (Team Managers, Strength & Conditioning, Timekeepers, Bus drivers, Scorers), Nick Cubitt, Karli Wise, Alison Harvey, Suzy Pengan, Kerry Bungey, Gayl Sutton, Kira Eliseo, Akshaya Suryakant, Ashutosh Londhe, Brooke Leah, Kerry-Anne Casanova, Chris Gerrie (Medical officers and Trainers).

Each year, it is important to acknowledge the team as well as individual achievements. This season our 16s finished 4th and experienced finals again and our U18s finished 6th. Both teams had some fantastic wins but ultimately not enough to finish as high as players and coaches would have liked. Importantly though, the future looks bright with some talented young footballers progressing through the system. Unfortunately, our U15s lost in the Grand Final of the SANFL Intra State Champs but did very well to get there after some solid matches during that week.



Congratulations to Dylan Stephens and Cameron Taheny who proudly represented South Australia in the National Championships, as well as Cooper Murley and Matthew Dnistriansky in the U16s State Squad, Bella Smith in the U18s Girls State Squad and Alana Lishmund, Hayley Taheny, Sachi Syme in the Girls U16s Squads. Well done to all of these players!

In addition to the people listed above, I'd like to thank and acknowledge all of the NFC staff that make it possible for our squads to train and play at the club each week. At various times all of these people contribute to the underage football programs, Angeline Solari, Joseph Marciano, Natasha Maios, Peggy Burns, Chris Branson, Mark Ross, James Fantasia, Jarrod Cotton, Ben Mesisca, Justin Staritski, Rowley Pengilly, Barry Solomon, David Solari and Michelle Dunsmore.

To all the parents, guardians and families that support our programs through the support, they give to their kids
– Thank you

To the club sponsors that enable us to put development programs together for our young players
– Thank you.

I hope that all our players and families enjoy a break and I look forward to kick-starting season 2020 very soon!

Rick Shrowder
Talent Manager

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/// **DAWE BIDS FAREWELL**

NORWOOD Triple Premiership Player Brady Dawe will bid farewell to football after 10 seasons in red and blue at seasons end.

Dawe made his debut for the Redlegs in round 2, 2009, and it was ironically against Sturt. After playing under 19 football at the Double Blues, he was told he was not required and returned to his junior club Meadows.

Former Redlegs star Brett James, then coach of Kersbrook, recommended Dawe try his luck at The Parade after a game against Meadows in the Hills league.

After ten games in 2009, Dawe's rise was profound. Dawe's biggest strength to date has been his durability – he played 24 games in his second season and as the years have passed has only missed a handful of matches.

He played 196 games over the following nine seasons and emerged to become one of the competition's premier forward/ruckman.

In that time, he played a vital role for the Redlegs in 2012, 13 and 14 Premierships and developed himself a selfless leader who would do whatever he could for his team.

In Round 9 this year, Dawe became the 16th Redleg to play 200 games.



Dawe admits it was truly emotional telling his teammates and coaches that he would not be playing on in 2020.

"It was definitely a bit emotional when I told the fellas the other night," Dawe said.

"It just all comes to an end and it feels like I only just started.

"It's been 10 years now, and I have loved every second I've spent at the football club.

"For me, I think it's the right time to hang up the boots, relax and focus on other parts of life."

On reflection, Dawe's best memories from his time at Norwood were the three Premierships, as well as the relationships he has made with teammates, coaches and staff. "The three winning Premierships are certainly up there as some of my favourite memories playing at Norwood," Dawe said.

"Probably the last one against Port Adelaide is the pick of the bunch, playing at Adelaide Oval in front of 38,000 people and winning was truly amazing.

"Over the years I have probably taken for granted how you get to run around and hang around with your mates every couple of days. "I'll definitely miss that, but am forever indebted to the club, as it's given me the chance to create so many friendships.

"I would personally like to thank the Norwood Football Club, family, friends and supporters who have helped and supported me over my career."

Norwood coach Jarrod Cotton said Dawe left his mark at Norwood and described him as a

team man through and through. "I think team man is the perfect way to describe Brady," Cotton said.

"He plays his role every week and probably doesn't get a lot of the praise which others do; however, he is held in such high regard around this place.

"As a player he plays his role whether it's up forward or in the ruck and does everything he possibly can to be the best player he can be and best person.

"Overall Brady has had a fantastic career, 200 games and a Triple Premiership Player - he will be regarded as one of the best of the football club."

The Norwood Football Club would like to thank Brady for his service to the club and wishes him, and Siobahn all the best for the next stage of their life.

Career Stats/Accolades

Guernsey Number: 30

Career: 2009-2019

NFC Games: 208

NFC Goals: 135

Premierships:

2012, 2013, 2014



/// **SMART SAYS FAREWELL**

PREMIERSHIP forward Ed Smart has made the decision to retire, calling time on his 100-game SANFL career.

Originally from the Onkaparinga Valley Football Club in the Hills, Smart made his way to Woods Street in the Under-16s in 2009. Smart, then went off to play school football for two years, however played intermediately for the Under 18s under then Coach, David Oatey.

After returning from school football in 2011, Nathan Bassett presented Smart the opportunity to play in the Reserves Grand Final and then made his League debut the year after in Round Nine against the Double Blues at Unley.

The 26-year old played seven years of League Football, winning flags in 2012 and 2014. Smart's on and off-field leadership saw him recognised as the Best Team Man of 2018 taking home the Garry McIntosh Medal.

Smart finishes his career playing 100 Games, winning two Premierships and kicking 50 League goals.

Smart said he is comfortable with his decision and said he certainly tried to get the best out of himself everyday he stepped into the club.

"I am content with my decision to leave the game having played 13-years at the Norwood Football Club," Smart said.



"It was an absolute pleasure and I have loved every minute of it."

"I think that I certainly tried to get the best out of myself every single day, no matter if it was training or a game.

"I did that for eight years and feel really happy with myself about it."

Smart says his favourite memories from his career at the Parade was the two Premiership wins paying importance to the 2014 Flag against a red-hot Port Adelaide outfit.

"I definitely can't go past the 2012 and 2014 Premiership wins," Smart said.

"Winning the first one was pretty special, especially when that final siren went and breaking down as a 19-year old kid hugging Bass (Nathan Bassett), that was a pretty fond memory.

"The second Premiership, I will never forget just watching that ball come inside 50 and hearing that siren go and just feeling pure elation.

"I'll never forget hugging Alex Forster on the ground for a solid 45 seconds, it was extremely emotional."

Since announcing his retirement, Smart said he will miss the professional environment that Norwood provides and the group of people including teammates and staff.

"I'll certainly miss the professional environment that Norwood has provided me," Smart said.

"Mostly, I'll miss the group of people that you get to play footy

with and the group of people that support and run the club.

"I'm grateful for meeting a lot of life-long friends and will miss all of them."

Norwood Football Operations Manager Mark Ross said the Club wished Smart all the best in retirement.

"To play over 100 games across eight seasons in the SANFL is something Ed should be incredibly proud of," Ross said.

"We would like to congratulate Ed on his career and wish him all the best as he enters the next stage of his life."

"He will always be part of the Norwood family and we wish him and partner Meg, all the best for

the future."

Career Stats/Accolades

Guernsey Number: 42

Career: 2012-2019

NFC Games: 100

NFC Goals: 5

Premierships: 2012, 2014



/// GEORGIU TO RETIRE

DEFENDER Alex Georgiou has announced that the 2019 season will be his last after seven years at the Parade.

A popular and respected member of Norwood's playing group, Georgiou played 173 SANFL games in a career highlighted by hard work and a team-first approach.

Georgiou joined the Norwood Football Club as a junior in 2004, progressing through the ranks making his League debut against Sturt at Unley in 2010.

The 29-year old played three years of League football from 2010-2013 culminating in two flags, before being drafted to the Melbourne Football Club with pick number 35 in the 2014 Rookie Draft.

The ever-reliable defender spent a year on Melbourne's list, before returning to the Parade on the eve of the 2015 season. Georgiou served as Captain of the club in 2015 and was then announced Co-Captain with current skipper Jace Bode for the 2016 season.

The hard-working defender represented the state on three occasions and always was up for the challenge taking the oppositions best forward most of the time. He played 173 games over seven seasons and emerged to become one of the competition's premier defenders.

In that time, Georgiou played a vital role in the 2012 and



2013 Premierships, and always featured prominently in the club's leadership group.

Georgiou said he can look back on his career with contentment. "Like I said on Thursday night at our Best and Fairest, I feel like I have given it a fair crack over my years at Norwood," Georgiou said.

"I'm probably not the most talented player floating around, but I've tried my hardest and felt like I got as close to the best I could out of myself.

"I am a no regrets type of operator, so I am pretty happy with how my career went." On reflection, Georgiou holds the 2012 and 2013 flags as his favourite memories and feeling around the group after the 2014 win against the Magpies.

"The three flags were my favourite memories, 2014 I didn't play, but just being around the group at the time was awesome," said Georgiou.

"2012 was a great day because we broke a 15-year drought and 2013 was special because North Adelaide have been a pretty fierce rival of ours during my career, so to beat them on the biggest stage was remarkable.

"Overall, I will miss the comradery.

I was lucky enough that my best mates spent a significant time at the club with me, and everything from dinners and trips away will be something that I'll cherish and miss dearly.

"I'll also miss the professionalism

and playing with a bunch of guys who are trying to obtain the same success as you."

Norwood Football Operations Manager Mark Ross paid tribute to Georgiou.

"Alex is the type of person that every footy club wants and needs," Ross said.

"He has been able to perform consistently, and his work ethic sets a great example for younger players to follow.

"He will always be part of the Norwood family and we wish him and his wife Lauren, and their daughter Isabella, all the best for the future."

Guernsey Number: 39

Career:

2010-2013, 2015-2019

NFC Games: 173

NFC Goals: 8

Norwood Captain: 2015-2016

Premierships: 2012, 2013

Best and Fairest: 2017

South Australian Games: 3

Career Stats/Accolades



/// ***BODE CALLS TIME***

SKIPPER and Triple Premiership Player Jace Bode is set to announce his retirement after an illustrious nine-year career in the Red and Blue.

A popular and respected member of Norwood's playing group, Bode played 195 SANFL games in a career highlighted by his work ethic and team-first approach. After returning to his junior club Sturt in 2009 after three years on Melbourne's list, Bode switched to the Parade on the eve of the 2011 SANFL Season.

Bode made his debut against Port Adelaide at AAMI Stadium in 2011 playing 22 games in his debut season at the Parade. He played 173 games over the following eight seasons and emerged as one of the competition's premier small defenders.

Bode was an integral part of Norwood's three-peat of flags from 2012-14 and developed as a selfless leader who would do whatever he could for his team. Elected Co-Captain of the Norwood Football Club along with fellow defender Alex Georgiou in 2016, Bode then took the reins as solo captain in 2017.

Bode led the club to three finals campaigns, including the 2018 Grand Final in which Norwood came runner-up to North Adelaide.

On reflection, Bode's best memories from his time at Norwood were the three Premierships, as well as the



relationships he has made with teammates, coaches and staff.

"I think being fortunate enough to play in three Premierships was a highlight, the 2014 flag after the players that we had lost in 2013, a change in Coach and versing a pretty good team with a lot of AFL talent was probably the career highlight," said Bode.

"What I will miss most is the locker room chat and just being part of a club.

"It was an absolute honour to Captain this club - it's something that I am extremely proud of and something my family is also very proud of.

"I treasured the responsibility, and hope I emulated my previous Captains in Muff (Kieran McGuinness) and Gags (James Gallagher) footsteps."

Although having achieved a number of feats over his career, Bode wanted the opportunity to thank those around him who have supported him over his years at the Parade.

"I'd like to thank all my teammates, the coaches and the Norwood family," said Bode. "I'm really grateful for everyone that's contributed to this success and the on-going running of the club.

"I'd like to thank all the fans, the best place to be on a Friday night is running out in front of a packed Coopers Stadium – I'll be forever grateful for the support they have given me.

"To obviously my family, my wife Nat and kids allowing me to give up so much time for the club I love."

The Norwood Football Club would like to thank Jace for his service to the club and wishes him, Nat, Maddi and Milla all the best for the next stage of their life.

Career Stats/Accolades

Guernsey Number: 15

Career: 2011 to 2019

NFC Games: 195

NFC Goals: 20

Debut: v Port Adelaide
(Football Park) 2nd April 2011

Finale: v Central (Norwood)
16th August 2019

Norwood Captain: 2016 - 2019

Premierships:

2012, 2013, 2014

Advertiser Team of the Year:

2012, 2014

South Australian Games:

2VFL/AFL Clubs: Melbourne



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/// HISTORY REPORT

The Oatey family; a Norwood dynasty

*By Reonaldo Cialini
and Wynton Heading
NFC History Committee*

In September the Norwood Football Club, along with the Sturt FC and the South Australian football fraternity, mourned the passing of Robert Oatey. Robert will be remembered as one of Norwood's greatest ever footballers. A courageous, creative and determined rover, he rarely played a poor game for the Redlegs. As coach, he was instrumental in re-establishing the club as a powerhouse in the SANFL as he re-built the team that would ultimately achieve success through the 1970s and 80s.

It is timely to remember the contribution that Jack Oatey, his sons Robert and Peter and grandson David, have made to the Norwood Football Club. Jack Oatey played his early senior football with Maitland and joined Norwood in 1940 after Port Adelaide, West Adelaide and West Torrens had shown little interest in adding another rover to their lists.

In 1940 the clever, diminutive rover won Norwood's best and fairest award in his first year of league football.

In 1941 Jack had the distinction of winning the club's best and fairest in a premiership year when Norwood defeated Sturt in the Grand Final. He was runner-up in that year's Magarey Medal.



Jack served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) between 1942 and 1944 and played in the wartime competition for the combined Norwood-North side which won premierships in 1943 and 1944. He also represented South Melbourne in 1944 while on Army service in Melbourne.

In 1945 the SANFL competition resumed and Jack was appointed captain coach of Norwood. In the same year he won another best and fairest award and led the State team against Victoria.

1946 was a great year for the Redlegs, winning 16 out of 19 matches and defeating Port Adelaide by 28 points in the season decider. Jack was among the best players and was named the season's "most unselfish and best all-round player". He again represented SA against Victoria but a knee injury cost him a trip to Western Australia.

Norwood was beaten by West Adelaide in the 1947 Grand Final but bounced back to win the 1948 premiership, easily accounting for West Torrens in the Grand Final.

The Mail reported that Jack was carried home after a victory social at Norwood Oval after the game because of an ankle injury. He was kicked by a woman spectator as he was leaving Adelaide Oval at half time during the final.

After a disappointing finals series in 1949, the Redlegs were again premiers in 1950 comfortably defeating Glenelg in the Grand Final. Jack had secured his third flag as captain-coach and was again named State captain for the Brisbane Carnival.

Norwood were beaten by North Adelaide in the 1952 Grand Final and Jack announced his retirement as a player prior to the match.

A master tactician, Jack continued as Norwood coach up to 1956, making a Grand Final in 1955, before moving to West Adelaide from 1957 to 1960. In 1962 he took over the reins at Sturt, and by the time he had retired as coach at the end of 1982, had guided them to seven premierships, including five in a row, 1966-1970.

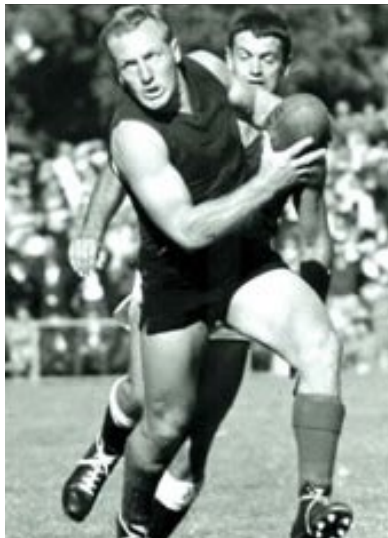
In 1978 Jack Oatey was awarded the Order of Australia for his services to Australian Football. He has the rare distinction of being an inductee to the AFL, SANFL and Norwood FC Halls of Fame.

From a young age, Robert was always destined to follow in the footsteps of his father. His early schooling was at Wellington Road Primary School, before progressing to Norwood High where he captained the team and won the 1960 Quinn medal as best player in the high school football competition. Later that year he was a member of the Norwood Senior Colts premiership team.

He made his league debut in the 1961 Anzac Day clash against North Adelaide at the Adelaide Oval. He had an impressive start to his senior career, kicking a goal with his first kick in league football, playing 18 games for the season, making the State practice squad, and being named Norwood's best junior.

A regular State representative during his career, he was a member of the famous 1963 State side that defeated Victoria on the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In 1965 he reached the 100-game milestone and represented SA in the Australian National



Football Carnival held in Hobart and in 1967 he won his first best and fairest award.

In 1968 at age 25 he was appointed as captain-coach and set about rebuilding the team squarely based on youth and skill. He also won his second best and fairest, finished runner-up to Barrie Robran for the Magarey Medal, and again represented SA in interstate football.

In 1970 he was awarded NFC player life membership, and in 1971 again adjudged Norwood's fairest and most brilliant player. He was appointed full time Football Director at the end of the season.

Robert won his fourth best and fairest in 1972 and received the Redlegs Club life membership after completing his 200th game. In 1973 he broke the club record for league games played. Robert was Norwood's senior coach between 1968 and 1973 and guided the side to fourth in his last two seasons.

In 1974 Bob Hammond was appointed as Norwood coach and Robert joined his father Jack at the Sturt Football Club where



he had immediate success, playing in a premiership in his first season with the Double-Blues. His playing career ended in 1978, after adding another 69 games at his new club.

Over the following years, Robert continued to serve the game in a variety of roles, including State under 16, under 17 and under 23 coach and SANFL coaching manager. He later returned to Norwood as kicking coach for junior players, many of whom went on to play senior football at Norwood and others, such as Orazio Fantasia, James Aish and Trent Dumont progressed to the AFL.

In 2000 he was named in a forward pocket in Norwood's Team of the Century. In 2002 he was an inaugural inductee in the SA Football Hall of Fame and 2008 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his services to Australian Rules football.

Robert's younger brother Peter played his junior football with Kings College (now Pembroke) where he captained the football and tennis teams. He made his league debut in Round 1 of the 1965 season.

His early games were as a half-forward flanker, mainly due to the presence of the powerful roving combination of brother Robert and captain-coach Haydn Bunton.

Peter suffered a serious ankle injury in a 1967 trial game, which forced him to miss the entire season.

While he later played most of his football as second rover to Robert, Peter played the 1969 season in the centre. Back roving in 1970, he was named Norwood's most consistent player for the season.

A creative handballer with sure hands and an accurate kick, he played his 100th league game in 1971.

While playing league football, Peter graduated from the Adelaide University Medical School as a Bachelor of Medicine and represented the State at tennis.

In 1972, after seven seasons and 120 games, Peter Oatey retired prematurely from league football because of increased work commitments.

Robert's son David played 30 league games with Sturt from 1987 to 1993 before moving to Norwood where he played four reserves games in 1994. In 2004 he took up the coaching mantle at Norwood where he was coach of the Under 17 team (2004 - 2008) Under 16 team (2009) and Under 18 team (2010 - 2015) mentoring many players who progressed to senior football in the SANFL and AFL. In 2016 David returned to Sturt where he has held the roles of football manager and Under 18 coach.

Rarely, if ever, has one family dominated the football landscape in South Australia as the Oateys have over such a long period. They excelled, not only as players, but as coaches, tacticians and mentors of younger players.

The full playing records and profiles of Jack, Robert and Peter can be found on the Redlegs Museum website at www.redlegsmuseum.com.au

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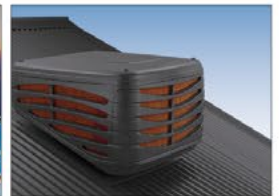
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