

The Origins of the Norwood – Port Adelaide Rivalry



Researched and compiled by Chris Brown
for the
Norwood Football Club History Committee

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The Norwood-Port rivalry is part of the fabric of Australian football. Port Adelaide was established in 1870; the South Australian Football Association (SAFA) in 1877 and Norwood in 1878. And it wasn't long before the seeds were sown for a rivalry between the two clubs that has endured to this day.

In the early years of the SAFA, the rules were still being established; the clubs were being established (and in some cases, folding); recruiting was very competitive and relationships between the SAFA and the clubs, as well as between the clubs themselves, were constantly 'up and down'. Even umpires were usually only agreed to between the clubs and just prior to the commencement of a match. (Disputes over umpires often led to matches having delayed starts!).

From its first year in the SAFA in 1878, Norwood won the premiership and it continued to win the premiership every year until 1884 when, for the first time, it didn't. And the club that did win the premiership that year was none other than Port Adelaide.

1882 - The Seeds of Discontent are Sown

Saturday 27 May, 1882 - round 4. Norwood vs Port Adelaide, Adelaide Oval.

Sometimes, great traditions start innocuously. Think of the story of the Ashes cricket trophy, for example. By 1882, Port Adelaide was still trying to win its first game against Norwood after having lost the first 9 games between the two clubs. At a time when it was only goals that were counted, Port was leading in the game by two goals to one. Norwood's John Watson, who had been recruited from the Melbourne Football Club that season, kicked what was believed to be a goal. However, the umpire (W. Knill) disallowed the goal in the belief that the ball had been touched by Port Adelaide player Gliddon.

Shortly afterwards, at the conclusion of time, Port had beaten Norwood for the first time by 2-11 to 1-16. What might have been a draw was actually a win for Port, and the umpire's decision was subsequently referred to the SAFA. The SAFA determined that the game would be stripped of premiership points and played again at a date to be determined later in the season. The newspapers of the day describe these events below.

The Express and Telegraph, Monday 29 May 1882, page 3.

...Waldron with a splendid bit of play gave the Port backs trouble again. At this juncture there was a scrimmage in front of the goal and Watson kicking the ball along immediately gave vent to some of those extraordinary manifestations of delight which are characteristic of footballers, and a yell of "goal" sent all the Norwoods into the centre of the field.

Directly afterwards a number of urchins set up a cry of "no goal" and this appeared to be the umpire's decision. Hereupon a wordy war ensued, the ground was rushed, and there appeared to be an end of the game, as one or two of the Norwoods declined to play. The ground of the umpire's decision was that the ball was touched by Gliddon before going through the posts. Certainly from the press box the ball did not appear to go through the posts at all, but it was impossible to judge of this. The Norwoods indignantly deny the fact of Gliddon having touched the ball, and assert that several impartial spectators are prepared to hack them up in this respect.

It is certainly unfortunate that this dispute should have arisen, but the dispute itself affords no justification for the language used on the ground. Just before time the oval was cleared and the ball started, being kicked out of bounds. The game stood—Ports, 2 goals and 11 behinds; Norwoods, 1 goal and 16 behinds. The dispute will be referred to the association committee. Mr. W. Knill made an impartial field umpire.

The Adelaide Observer, Saturday 3 June 1882, page 19

FOOTBALL NOTES [By Goalpost]

The Association Committee must have had a lively time at their meeting the other night to consider the protest in the Norwood and Port match. They sat for three solid hours hearing evidence as to whether the ball was touched in its passage between the posts, and whether the umpire first gave a goal and changed his mind after a consultation with the Port players. A resolution was proposed that the game should be a draw, but an amendment that it should be a win for the Ports was also put. Both proposition and amendment were lost, and the committee were in a fix; but one of the Norwood delegates, seeing how matters stood, proposed that the game be played over again, and this was at once carried.

I am told that the evidence in regard to the matter was exceedingly contradictory, and if so perhaps the best decision has been arrived at. At the same time, I would suggest that the sooner Association umpires are appointed the better. Then an umpire's decision would be final, and we would not have such unseemly scenes as that witnessed on the Oval last Saturday afternoon.

The South Australian Advertiser, Saturday 10 June 1882, page 6

THE RECENT FOOTBALL DISPUTE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir —In your issue of to-day Mr. K. W. Duncan, of Port Pirie, writes to point out the inconsistency of the South Australian Football Association in deciding that the late match between the Norwoods and Ports shall be played again. He is also very severe on the association for over-riding the umpire's decision in the match in question, but Mr. Duncan, in common with several writers who have lately been airing their ignorance in the matter, makes one very serious error, namely, the association not only did not set aside the decision of the umpire, but it was never asked to do so. The question that the association was requested to decide was, did the umpire in the first case give a goal to Norwood, and afterwards try and revoke his decision. This was the point the Norwoods based their share of the contention upon, and the Ports relied on the umpire's denial of the Norwood's statement.

At the meeting of the association it was declared in evidence, both that the umpire did give a goal to Norwood, and that he did not. I am not going to discuss which was the likelier of the two, namely, the umpire to say a thing and forget it, or for the Norwoods to remember hearing him say a thing he never said, but simply to point out that where the evidence was so conflicting the association showed great prudence and strict impartiality by declaring that the match should be played at some future date.

The injustice to the Ports that a lot of writers have been so trenchant about is simply moonshine. According to two members of the committee of the Football Association, who are not connected with either of the clubs, and who were standing close up to the goals at the time, the goal was as fair a goal as ever was kicked, and the dispute saved the Ports another quarter of an hours play at a time when their whole team was thoroughly played out, and having rings run round them by their opponents. A considerable amount of unnecessary animus has been thrown into this discussion through people unacquainted with the facts of the case trying to set themselves up as a sort of final court of appeal in the matter; and Mr. K. W. Duncan, from the distance of Port Pine, can scarcely expect to set the association right on a question that is peculiarly its own business.

I am, &c., A MEMBER OF THE S.A.F.A. Adelaide. June 9, 1882.

The South Australian Advertiser, Tuesday 13 June 1882, page 7

THE RECENT FOOTBALL DISPUTE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir —I quite agree with "A Member of the S.A.F.A," in his letter in Saturday's issue, that the association has not set aside the goal umpires decision in match Norwoods v. Ports, as it has no power to do so. That it has attempted it, however, is proved by the resolution passed at one of its meetings that the match should be played over again. As by its own rules the goal umpire is the sole judge of goals, and his decision, as he informed the association, was "no goal," the victory must remain with the Ports, and I have therefore declined, on behalf of my club, to accede to the request to play the match ever again.

I am, &c.,

ED. C. LEMESSURIER

Hon. Sec. Port F.C.

Saturday 15 July 1882, round 8. Norwood vs Port Adelaide, Alberton Oval.

The next time the two teams were scheduled to play was at Port Adelaide's home ground, Alberton Oval. The Norwood players of the eastern suburbs travelled by train to the western suburbs to meet their opponents. When they arrived at the gate, they were duly advised that they would not be given free entry, and they refused to pay for the privilege of playing. They were about to return to the train station when the matter was resolved and thus the game went ahead, albeit with a very late start.

The Express and Telegraph, Monday 17 July 1882, page 3.

Norwood v. Port.

The Norwood met the Port Football Club for the second time this season on the Alberton Oval on Saturday afternoon, July 15. The afternoon was beautifully fine, and the weather was in every respect suitable for a fast game, the sun's rays being tempered by a cold breeze which made running a pleasurable exercise. Great interest was taken in the match, as was manifested by the large assemblage of spectators. Long before the game was commenced the ground was well filled. Owing to the delay which seems to be inseparable from a football match the play was not started until fully an hour after the advertised time for commencing. The Port captain (Kellet) winning the toss elected to kick towards the railway line, being aided by a light wind. At 3.30 the men took up their stations, and five minutes later amid great silence Watson kicked off for the Norwoods towards the pavilion goal. Directly the ball left Watson's foot cries and exhortations rose from all parts of the ground. The play was terribly fast, and the crowd were shouting themselves hoarse in trying by calls to stimulate the players to greater exertions.

The Adelaide Observer, Saturday 22 July 1882, page 18

FOOTBALL NOTES. [By Goalpost.]

An unfortunate misunderstanding nearly sent the Norwoods back from Alberton on Saturday last without fulfilling their engagements with the magentas. This arose through the Secretary to the Alberton Oval giving instructions that all players must produce their Club tickets before gaining admission to the ground. As this was directly opposed to the expressed feeling of the committee of the South Australian Football Association that all players in uniform be admitted with out any such ticket, the Norwoods refused to accept the alternative which was offered to them of paying at the gate, and declared they would sooner return to Adelaide without playing than submit to such an imposition. The matter was eventually arranged by the Secretary withdrawing from the position he had assumed, and no further ill-effects than a great delay in the starting of the game resulted. The attendance was very large for the Alberton Oval, and the crowd at the start of the game at all events very demonstrative. A large amount of interest was taken by the general public in the match, as it was generally thought that the victors in the strife would in all probability be the champions of the season.

The game finally (ended) Norwoods, 3 goals 17 behinds; Ports, 2 behinds.

This result must be considered as one of the surprises of the season, for all through the first two series of matches the form of the Ports has been as good, if not better, than their vanquishers; their forward play is reckoned very good, their back and wing play excellent, and their following at least equal so that of any of the city teams. Yet in a fair trial of skill they were never in the hunt, and were not only beaten, but beaten easily. Certainly the Norwoods played a better game than they have ever yet played in this colony at least. Their forward play was quick and unselfish to a degree, their wing play perfect, and in every department of the game they appeared the best-equipped team we have seen this season. But giving all this in, the Ports should have been nearer them at the finish, or the Norwoods are about to set up a standard of excellence above that the football public are used to.

Amongst the players Roachock certainly was facile princeps (Latin for "certainly the first"), having a tremendous lot of work to do, and doing it well. I don't remember ever seeing a more effective centre man than he made on Saturday. It would not be fair to the remainder of the team to single out any of the others for good play, because every man in it played good and brilliant football all through the afternoon, the goalsneaks being the only ones who were ever at fault, and they in the general forward play were usually too smart for the opposing backmen.

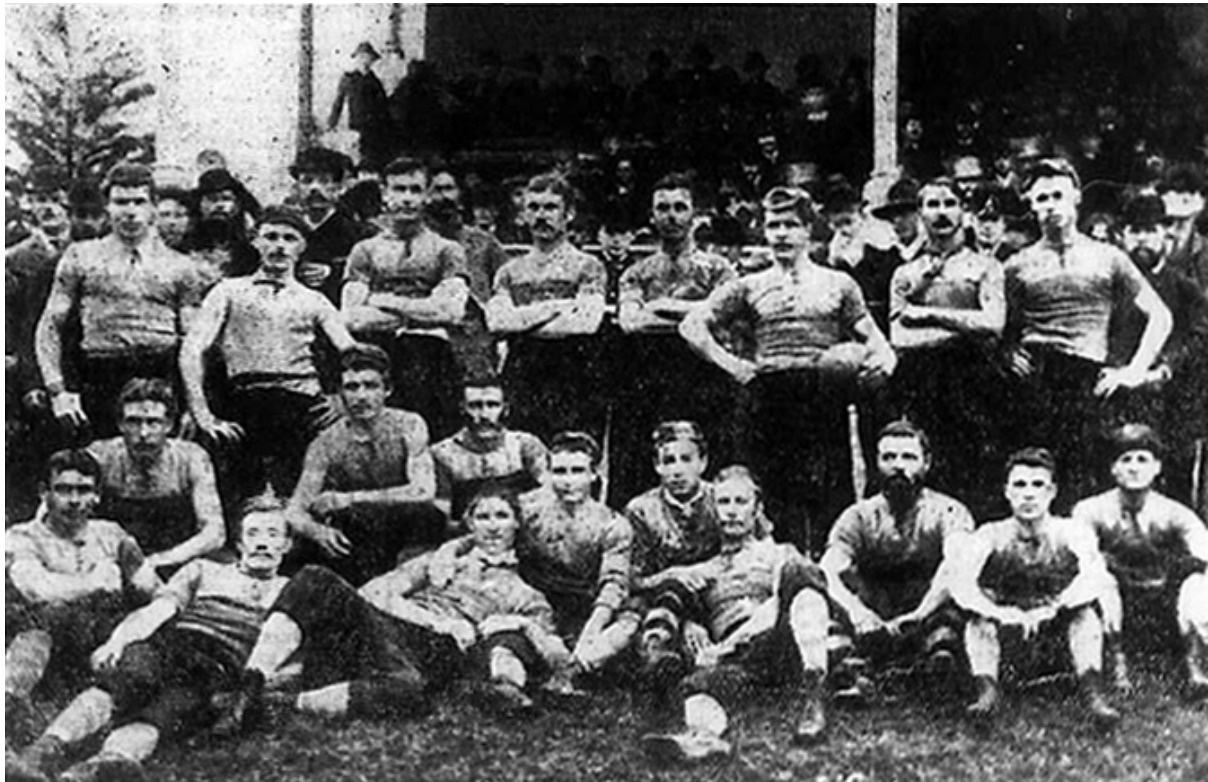
Among the Port players Munro played about the best game until Jackson went alongside of him, when he seemed overmatched. T. Fletcher played the sterling game he always does, and in addition to doing a lot of really hard work, he made certainly the most brilliant run of the afternoon, and ended with a fine kick. Hosie, Kellet, Fitzpatrick and Mitchell strove very hard, also Sandiland and Gliddon, but the opposition was too good for much individual brilliancy to be shown. Mr. A. M. Pettinger was a decided success as central umpire, being very quick in his decisions and very impartial all through the game.

1884 – Tensions Build and then Boil Over

In 1884, Port changed its team colours from pink and white to magenta and blue. Throughout the season the two clubs postured for supremacy at the top of the premiership ladder ahead of the other three clubs in the competition, South Adelaide, North Adelaide and South Park. As both Port

and Norwood dominated the other three clubs, the results from their own four matches against one another would effectively determine who would finish atop the ladder at the end of the season and therefore claim the premiership. (It wasn't until 1889 when the first grand final was played – again, between Norwood and Port). Norwood won the first encounter three goals to two at Alberton on May 17. The second match at Adelaide Oval on June 20 was drawn with three goals apiece. Then Port won the third encounter definitively on August 2, again at Alberton, by eight goals to three.

By the time the fourth game between these two clubs was to be played, Port Adelaide was atop the ladder with one and half wins more than Norwood. With the remaining draw for the season being an easier one for Norwood, it was the defining game for the season. Port would not be conquered for the premiership if it won this match, but if it lost, then the odds were that Norwood would overhaul Port Adelaide and claim yet another premiership.



Port's 1884 team vs Norwood at Adelaide Oval on June 20. The match was drawn.

Norwood's 1884 team vs Port at Adelaide Oval on June 20.



Adelaide Oval, 1884.



The Fourth and Final Game of 1884

The Adelaide Observer, Saturday 6 September 1884, page 20

ADELAIDE OVAL.

Port v. Norwood.

As the match on the Adelaide Oval on Saturday afternoon, August 30 was the conquering game between the above clubs and virtually decided the premiership for the season 1884, considerable interest was manifested in it, and in spite of the very dusty weather the attendance reached nearly 6,000. The supporters of both teams had mustered in strong force, and the excitement during the afternoon ran high, though a heavy gale blowing in the first half materially interfered with the exhibition of football. At times a good deal of unnecessary roughness was indulged in by members of each side, and during the second half Buchan for the Ports had his shoulder dislocated. A little later on Smith (Port) and Duncan (Norwood) collided together very heavily, and both were compelled to leave the ground. Duncan, who was badly cut about the eye, was able to return with his head bandaged, but Smith, who was more seriously injured, could not do so, hence the magentas for a period of the game played with eighteen men. Dr. Rees kindly attended to the sufferers.

Turpenny had the good fortune to win the toss, and of course elected to kick into the city goal with a strong wind blowing from the north-west assisting him. At 3.16 p.m. Letchford started the ball for Norwood, and the Port skipper took charge, his kick landing right in among the red-and-blue backs, and Robertson assisting, Liston, Duncan, and Waldron were soon at work.

Despite their efforts Roy secured a mark at the side out of a scrum, but not kicking far enough Cairns got possession and marked to Smith right in front, the result being first behind. Robertson immediately added the second, and Noel, if he had proved trustworthy, might have had first goal registered, but his kick was too low, and Bertram relieved. Waldron marked from the College man, and, thanks to Jervis and Duncan, the sphere reached the centre, where Turpenny was on the alert. Slight, Reed, and Cairns on the wing near the Press tent supplemented, and the services of Burton, Chandler, and Bertram were required. A nice run by the former player was nullified by Kirkpatrick and Turnbull, and Bragge just saved a straight kick by Smith from going (through the posts).

It was evident that it would be impossible to make any headway against the strong gale blowing, and Waldron called all his forces back, Turpenny bringing his forward. The field now presented rather a peculiar aspect, only two men from each side being in the northern part of it, while about thirty players were all struggling on the ball in the south-eastern corner, where the wind kept the play. The game was being contested in a rough manner, but this no doubt in a great measure was caused through so many men being together.

After Bragge had relieved to the wing, Robertson out of a scrum gave Brooks a mark, and with a fine kick that placer notched first goal for his side. Started again, Litchfield should have held the ball close to the Ports, but failing Liston relieved, and, thanks to a rush by the Norwood followers, Letchford marked near the entrance and forwarded to Brophy, he in turn passing to Roberts; but there the success ended, as Robertson and Kirkpatrick transferred the scene of operations to the other end.

Here Roachock secured, but foolishly ran right across his own goal, and being pressed by some four opponents, held the ball too long. Wedd awarded a free kick against him, which Rov took, and succeeded in scoring second goal, to the delight of the magenta supporters. The Port men continued to force the pace, and three behinds came in quick succession from Kirkpatrick, Cairns, and Hosie, the latter having a very easy show. Waldron, Bertram, Burton, Duncan, Liston, and Bragge, with the followers, were working like Trojans against the odds, and for a time they kept the enemy at bay, eventually succeeding in rushing the ball down to the other end. Owing to Kirkpatrick, Robertson,

Turpenny, and Brookes it did not stop there long, and Roy kicked the seventh behind, Blight following with the eighth. Then another charge by Roberts, Morgan, and Jervis gave Hill, McGrath, and Hayward an opportunity to stretch their legs, but only till Smith and the Port followers came on the scene. Some exciting play in front of the pavilion, and the ball was rushed across to the other side, soon after which Hosie marked in front. He tried to pass to Roy, who missed, but Robertson was about, and marked to Nosworthy. His attempt was unsuccessful, and Morgan, Jervis, and Bragge called Buchan's services into requisition. From this up to half-time the Norwoods defended their sticks well, and succeeded in preventing their opponents from increasing their score, the game standing when the bell was rung at Ports, 2 goals 9 behinds; Norwoods, nil.

The wind during the last fifteen minutes had somewhat subsided, and when the ball was thrown down it had almost ceased. The magentas were first prominent, and somewhat surprised the spectators by placing the red-and-blues on the defensive, Hosie kicking the first behind. Then the Norwoods pulled themselves together, and with a rush, in which Roberts and Chandler were prominent, transferred the play well up on the other wing, where Rowe should have marked from Hill. Roberts then forwarded to Brophy, who secured the first behind of the afternoon, Roberts causing the second to be added immediately afterwards. Then Cairns, with a fine run, relieved, and Bushby supplementing him, Hosie entered into possession, but he came to grief, and Liston forced it out of bounds. On being thrown in, Nosworthy, Bodycombe, Hosie, and Fry gave the Norwood backs some trouble but, thanks principally to Roberts, who was playing a great game, the leather was run up to the entrance wing, where Roachock, Woods and Rowe brought Kirkpatrick into notice. Bragge replied, Turpenny doing similar duty for his side. At this time Roachock sent Buchan a nasty spill, which caused his retirement from the field.

Some little-marking between Roachock, Rowe, and Hill resulted in the latter adding a behind; then Letchford disappointed the red-and-blue supporters by missing a very easy chance right in front. Robertson, Kellet, and Turpenny tried hard to relieve the pressure, and the Norwoods lost their position through Woods holding the ball. Thanks to a fine run by Warburton they regained it, and Woods and McGrath both might have scored, but their kicking was wretched, and behinds only resulted. The Norwoods maintained the pressure, Roachock, Roberts, and Bragge being conspicuous, while Woods and Brophy nearly scored. Noel just now proved very serviceable, and through his and Cairns's exertions the attack was temporarily repulsed. The accident to Smith and Duncan referred to above here occurred, and from this point the Ports played with only eighteen men. Some even play now ensued, in which the leather was taken up and down the ground.

For the magentas Hosie, Kirkpatrick, Cairns, Roy, and Bodycombe were conspicuous ; while for the Norwoods Liston, Chandler, Waldron, Jervis, and Duncan were most prominent. Finally McGrath was awarded a free kick for Coffee evading the rules, and Hill should have marked a kick from Bragge close up, but Letchford secured, and missed the opportunity afforded him. The next piece of play of importance was a fine attempt at goal by Hayward, the new man going very near again a few minutes later on. The Norwoods during the last ten minutes seemed done, and the Ports hemmed them, Nosworthy kicking the third goal just before time was called, the final result being Ports 3 goals 13 behinds, Norwoods 11 behinds. Mr. Wedd made a fast and impartial umpire.

For the first time in its history, Norwood was not the premier club of South Australia.

The Confrontation

After the game, players from both clubs gathered at the Imperial Hotel, on the north east corner of King William and Grenfell Streets. Emotions were still raw and bodies were bruised after such a physical game.



Above - The Imperial Hotel c. 1869-1889 at right of picture. It was built in 1866 for Asher Hamm. A three-storied stuccoed building, it had two shops on the King William Street frontage as well as the usual hotel facilities. The Union Club occupied most of the first floor of the hotel and the third floor had a billiard room and bedrooms. It was demolished in 1960 for the National Mutual Building, built in 1961.

Below – The Imperial Hotel circa 1896. Source: State Library of South Australia, PRG 631/2/1251.



The Imperial Hotel became the next arena for battle. Port's key forward, Robert Roy, and Norwood's Captain 'Topsy' Waldron found themselves exchanging words and sure enough, things became physical. The fight between the two of them ended up becoming a police matter and Waldron was convicted of assault and fined. The battle between the two clubs for premiership supremacy had spilled in to a battle off the field as well.

In a separate incident two days after the match, Norwood's Patrick "Paddy" Roachock was involved in a clash with Port's Tom Nosworthy and he too was convicted and fined for assault.

These incidents solidified the emergence of the rivalry between the two clubs.

The Provocateurs

Robert Roy (left) and Tom Nosworthy (right).



Roy was a key forward in Port's first ever premiership side in 1884. He was described as the best and most reliable forward in the colony in 1884, a season in which he topped the goalkickers with 22 goals. Little is known about Nosworthy, a team mate of Roy in 1884.

The Reactionaries

Alfred Edward "Topsy" Waldron (left) and Patrick Bartholomew (Paddy) Roachock (right).



"Topsy" Waldron is Norwood's longest serving on-field leader. Between 1881 and 1892, when he was at his brilliant best around the ball, he was captain for 10 seasons, six of those for premierships. Also known as "the prince of dodgers", Topsy led South Australia before he led Norwood.

A product of Carlton, he grew to love Norwood so much that in his later years the tears would flow after a Redlegs win. Topsy had his differences with officials, but his heart was in the right place. And

Topsy could play.

In 1887 the Norwood captain had the footy smarts to take full advantage of a new long-kicking, running style of game from Victoria. His team took the title that year and the next, when it successfully challenged the Victorian premier South Melbourne to become Champions of Australia. Topsy had beaten the best from his home State at their own game, and had become the first Norwood legend. Club captain for ten years, he won 9 premierships at Norwood and one at Carlton.

Tough and talented, the remarkable Paddy Roachock packed into his short life of 32 years no fewer than seven senior premierships – five with Norwood and two with Fremantle.

A Clare Valley boy of Polish-Irish heritage, Paddy was a top centreman and also useful around the goals with deft snapshots or 70-yard place-kicks. He played a vigorous game and had a short fuse which sometimes got him into trouble.

Matters came to a head at Adelaide Oval on 30 August 1884 in a match to decide whether Norwood would win its seventh successive premiership or Port Adelaide its first. It was a rough contest. Port won 3.13 to 0.11 but finished the day two players short. At one point Paddy sent Port's Bill Buchan packing with a dislocated shoulder. On 9 September the SA Football Association disqualified Paddy until the end of the season for rough play. Norwood defied the ban and was censured for playing him in the last match of the season, against North Adelaide. On 11 September, Roachock was in more trouble, charged in the Adelaide Police Court with the assault of Port player Tom Norsworthy, who, as a spectator at a Norwood-South match, had called Paddy "a dog" and other terms of 'opprobrium'. After the match, played at Adelaide Oval on 1 September, Paddy struck his tormentor and probably thought it was worth the one shilling fine he incurred later.

Paddy contracted typhoid fever in April 1887 and there were fears for his life but, an 86-kilogram ball of muscle, he bounced back and contributed to the Norwood premiership three-peat of 1887, 1888 and 1889. He was an extraordinary athlete, renowned Australia-wide in wrestling, weightlifting, hammer throwing, tossing the caber, Indian club exercises and juggling, manipulations of sharpened axes, dumb-bell movements, tug-of-war events and other feats of strength. He operated an athletics hall in Adelaide and later a gymnasium in Perth.

In his two years with Fremantle, 1890 and 1893, he was vice-captain to former Norwood mate 'Paddy' Knox but between premierships played with the rival team Rovers in 1892.

Born at Sevenhill on 6 August 1861, Paddy was the oldest of the six children of Tomasz Rucioch/Roachock and his wife Mary, née Laughlin. One of his four brothers, John, played at Norwood with him in 1886 – the year Paddy married Eliza (Lalla) Ryan at St Aloysius' Catholic Church, Adelaide.

Weakened by a fever, an almost unrecognizable Patrick Roachock was assaulted and robbed a week before he succumbed to pneumonia at his Coolgardie residence on 17 August 1896. His widow died in Adelaide in 1936.

The Express and Telegraph, Thursday 11 September 1884, page 2

A FOOTBALLERS' FRACAS.

Alfred Edward Waldron was charged on the information of Robert Coilin Roy with assaulting him, at Adelaide, on August 3. Mr. Dempster appeared for the informant, and Mr. J. W. Downer for the defendant. In opening the case Mr. Dempster said the parties met in the Imperial Hotel on the night of August 30, and Waldron without receiving any provocation spat in Roy's face. Mr. Dempster then went on to stigmatise Waldron's conduct as the reverse of gentlemanly, and was all the more so because Waldron was the captain of the Norwood Football Club. Prosecutor stated that he was a clerk engaged at Port Adelaide. On August 30 last met Waldron in the Imperial Hotel. Nodded to him and said "Good evening." Waldron came up a few minutes afterwards and called him a d— thing, and spat in his face, and tapped him on the nose. Did not give defendant any cause for this conduct, but merely said to him that he did not want to have anything to do with him. By Mr. Downer—Did say to defendant "If you were at the Port you would not carry on like this." Could not suggest any reason for Waldron's conduct. Edwin Barlow stated he was in the Imperial Hotel on the date in question, and heard Roy say to him, "Good evening, Topsy." Heard Waldron call Roy a cad, and remembered hearing the latter say something about going down to Port Adelaide. Other evidence in support of the charge having been given, Mr. Downer said he would not call any evidence. He felt that there was no occasion for the parties to have come into court. He thought that although the footballers had no written law dealing with such subjects as this, yet it was generally understood that the football association was a court to which such questions were referred. There was no doubt that an assault had been committed by Waldron, but it was not of that grave character that the court was led to believe by Mr. Dempster's opening. He thought His Worship would say that a small fine would meet the ends of justice. Fined 10s., and court fees £1, £1 10s. in all.

Two days after the Norwood-Port match, Norwood played South Adelaide on Accension Monday, again at Adelaide Oval. The match did not count for Association points but 2,000 people turned up to watch, including Port player Tom Nosworthy. Nosworthy agitated Roachcock with name calling from the Pavillion during the match. Roachcock was best on ground in the win for the Norwoods over

South, and Waldron was also named fourth best for Norwood. After the game Roachock and Nosworthy ended up in a physical altercation which again required the intervention of the City Police Court.

The Evening Journal, Friday 12 September 1884, page 4

Football.

FOOTBALL DISPUTE.—At the Adelaide Police Court on Thursday morning a case of some interest to footballers was brought forward, in which A. E. Waldron, the captain of the Norwoods, was charged with assaulting R. C. Roy, of the Port Club, on August 30, by spitting in his face. Mr. Downer, who defended, admitted that there had been an assault, and a fine of 10s. and Court fees was inflicted on defendant. A charge of assault was also preferred against Patrick Roachock for assaulting Thomas Nosworthy. Roachock was playing in a match Norwood v. South Adelaide, and for his rough play was called a dog by Nosworthy. After the match was over defendant struck complainant in the mouth. The defence was that Nosworthy was standing in the pavilion and called Roachock opprobrious names whenever he approached, and this provoked the assault. Defendant was fined 1s. and Court fees ; costs were disallowed.

The South Australian Register, Friday 12 September 1884, page 3

Alfred Edward Waldron pleaded not guilty to a charge of assaulting **Robert Colin Roy**, at Adelaide, on August 30. Mr. G. W. Dempster prosecuted; Mr. J. W. Downer, Q.C., defended. Mr. Dempster in opening the case, said that the litigants were rival footballers, and on Saturday, August 30, Roy, with three or four of the Ports, were in Adelaide, and at the Imperial Hotel met Waldron and some other members of the Norwood Club. The defendant bore some ill-feeling towards Roy because the Ports had defeated the Norwoods on the same afternoon, and the assault complained of was committed in the Imperial Hotel. The complainant said that he was in the Imperial Hotel on the evening in question with three or four of his mates, and met Waldron and other players of the Norwoods. Waldron, after calling him a cad, spat in his face without receiving any provocation. By Mr. Downer—The Port Adelaide Football Club were not prosecuting in the case. Several other witnesses gave corroborative evidence. Mr. Downer admitted that an assault had been committed, but it was of rather a mild character. Unfortunately it seemed that footballers could not get through their matches without disputes. He understood that it was an unwritten law in football that these little disputes should be settled amongst themselves, and they were not usually brought before a Court of Justice. No evidence was called for the defence. Fined 10s. and Court fees; £1 10s. in all.

In addition to being convicted of assault, Roachock was also suspended by the SA Football Association for "rough play" during the match between Norwood and Port on August 30, 1884.

The Aftermath

The Adelaide Observer, Saturday 13 September 1884 page 19.

FOOTBALL NOTES (by Goalpost)

To a certain extent the discreditable proceedings to which I referred to last week as having taken place between leading footballers of the Port and Norwood Clubs have been made public, and three or four of the most prominent members have made their appearance in the City Police Court. These disturbances are decidedly a disgrace to those concerned, and it seems a great pity for the credit of football they could not otherwise have been amicably settled. As to who are to blame in these rows it is not my business here to state. The litigants have laid their troubles before Mr. Beddome, and he has no doubt meted out justice; but such ill-feeling is not easily forgotten, and the members of these teams when next meeting each other in the field will still cherish it. The result is that true football is never shown, and we are likely to have a repetition of the last game between the two clubs mentioned, viz., brutal roughness, combined in some instances with spite. Why the players of the different clubs cannot engage in a friendly contest and forget any little fracas that may have taken place on the field after they have left it is a mystery to all outsiders. It seems, as far as I can judge, that the men on the one side have a personal animus against their opponents, and are ever on the alert to manifest it. This has been the case on and off for the past few years; and I regret I cannot see any chance of improvement in the future.

The disqualification of Roachock has created much excitement in football circles, and by some the action of the committee has been approved of, while it has been dissented from by others. There can be no doubt that the game between the Ports and Norwoods was an exceedingly rough one, and that the man was played more than the ball by certain players. That Roachock erred in this direction is testified to by many of the spectators, and he certainly deserved censure; but it is a question whether such an extreme step should have been taken by the committee without their first giving him an opportunity to explain his position. The Norwood delegates might have secured an adjournment of the motion, and possibly if they had done so the whole unpleasantness would have been avoided. The committee, having taken such a strict view of this case, it would be well now if they put their foot down in other instances, and not overlook players who have made themselves notorious in both clubs, not only by their rough play, but by their disgraceful conduct after the game.

From the evidence in the Police Court this week and from the opinion of the P.M. there is but little doubt Nosworthy, of the Ports, was very much in the wrong on the Adelaide Oval on the Monday. Let the Association, now that they have commenced, carry out their duties strictly, and teach the players who have erred a lesson by which others can profit in the future. In Roachock's case it seems rather remarkable that only delegates of three clubs voted. Surely, if men are elected by clubs to act upon the committee, they ought to be prepared to carry out the duties of the office, the resolution had been adopted by the whole of the clubs, with the exception of the one playing the disqualified man, it would have come with much greater force.

The matter wasn't over yet, however. Both Norwood and Port Adelaide convened special meetings to thrash out the views of their respective clubs and their attitudes to the Association.

NORWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB



The Freemasons' Hotel, cnr Pirie Street and Freemason's Lane, Adelaide, c. 1895.

A special general meeting of playing and honorary members of the Norwood Football Club was held at the Freemasons' Hotel, on Wednesday evening, to take into consideration the present relations of the club with the committee of the Association. There was a good attendance, and Councillor Lyons occupied the chair. Mr. A. J. Diamond moved—" That the members of the Norwood Football Club tender their hearty sympathy to Mr. Roachock, and hereby express their indignation at the undeserved stigma cast on his fame as a footballer by a clique in the committee of the South Australian Football Association."

The mover, in the course of a lengthy speech, laid before the meeting the whole of the particulars of the recent disputes which have arisen between the Norwood Club and the committee of the Football Association.' In the first place, he said, they had good grounds for assuming that the action taken against Roachock by the Port delegates had originated from the fact that the Port Club had failed in their endeavours at the beginning of the season to induce him to join their ranks. He stated that the action of the committee in disqualifying Roachock at the first meeting was illegal, and quoted, in support of his contention, the opinion of a leading Q.C., which we have already published, in addition pointing out that there was no provision in the rules for disqualification simply for rough play. The

action taken against Roachock by the committee, Mr. Diamond asserted, was deliberately planned for the purpose of prejudicing him in his case in the Police Court, and in support of this he said Messrs. Roy and Nosworthy, the two prosecutors, were both willing to withdraw the Informations, but they were hounded down by men at the Port, Roy having admitted to his employer that he was so far compromised with his club that he could not do it without its consent. It was to Nosworthy's credit that he did not, appear to prosecute, and he presumed his reason for not doing so was that he was ashamed of himself. As regards Roachock's play, he had a deal of evidence that it was perfectly fair, and Buchan, who was injured in the collision with him, had admitted he had nothing to complain of. It was merely an accident, which the Norwoods and Roachock deeply regretted.

To sum up, if they wanted to stand by Roachock they would have to resort to one of the following conditions: they might defy the committee and play him on next Saturday, in which case a general meeting of the Association would be called and a motion submitted for the club's expulsion; or another means of redress was that they might apply to the Supreme Court for an injunction against the committee to restrain them from carrying into effect the resolution, or for a mandamus compelling them to erase the motion from their books. Both of these, however, would involve considerable expense, and it was not thought advisable, at this late stage of the season, to resort to them. Another resource was resignation from the Association, and though Mr. Burnet (his co-delegate) and himself wished the meeting to advise them in the matter, he favoured the idea of defying the committee, playing Roachock, and thus throwing the onus on their shoulders. In conclusion Mr. Diamond stated that he had invited all the members of the Association Committee to be present that evening. Mr. E. C. Burnet seconded the motion, which was carried. Mr. M. Bowe moved—"That the Match Committee of the Norwood Football Club be requested by this meeting to choose and ask Mr. Roachock to play against the North Adelaides on Saturday." Mr. E.T. Woods seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. Rowe, it was resolved that the club express its approbation at the action of Messrs. Diamond and Burnet, their delegates.

Mr. Woods moved—"That this meeting, after deep consideration of the treatment extended by the committee of the South Australian Football Association, consider it highly necessary that immediate and definite action be taken to vindicate the position of the club, and that a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. A. J. Diamond, H. C. Burnet, J. Osborne, and A. G. Roberts, be appointed for that purpose." Mr. F. Letchford seconded the proposition, which was carried, and votes of thanks to the Press and the Chairman concluded an orderly meeting.

PORT ADELAIDE FOOTBALL CLUB.



The Commercial Hotel, Port Adelaide, 1878-1880. South-east corner of Commercial Road and Divett Street. It holds the oldest surviving hotel licence in Port Adelaide.

Source: State Library Catalogue B45002/93.

A special general meeting of this club was held at Tier's Commercial Hotel, Port, on Thursday, September 25. There was a good attendance, and Mr. J. A. Rann presided. Mr. T. G. Smith said all were aware of the unpleasant business lately connected with football, and with which their club had also been connected. There had been a great deal of discussion as to the conduct of the Port delegates. They had had the manliness to do what other people had merely talked about. They had, in justice to the game itself, thought proper to bring forward the rough play of Mr. Roachock of the Norwoods. He had hurt a number of players during his career, which was rather shorter than a great many others now playing. It was well known that the Port Club had not tried to influence the action of their delegates. As a late member of the Association he felt sure that if the roles were carried out there would be no rough play. This matter had received attention in Victoria, and if the game was liable to injure young men for life football would be stopped by law. In the old country the game had been stopped in some parts through its brutality. The Victorian rules, under which the clubs now

played, were supposed to be a further improvement in the game, but even under them it was possible to overstep-the mark. He moved—"That this club heartily approves of the action of its delegates in bringing Roachock's rough play before the Association." Mr. E. Le Messurier seconded. Rough play had increased the last two seasons and had now reached a climax. If they allowed it to go further it would get beyond the control of the Association. Mr. S. Carter supported. The Norwoods, as an associated team, had not acted in accordance with the rules they agreed to, that all matters in reference to the game be controlled by the committee of the Association. Mr. Playfair also supported, referring in strong terms to the conduct of Roachock. The Norwoods were beaten, but they could not acknowledge it like men. As for Mr. Diamond saying the Port Club was jealous because they could not get Roachock, it was childish. In reply, Mr. E. Le Messurier said he was sorry that Mr. Diamond had made the statement he had. His speech was full of misstatements from beginning to end. The assertion that the action against Roachock originated from the fact of the Ports failing in their endeavours to secure him in their ranks was false, and Mr. Diamond knew it. The truth was Roachock expressed a desire at the time to play with the Ports, being dissatisfied with his treatment by the Norwoods. He saw Mr. T. G. Smith, and offered to throw up the billet a Norwood man had given him if Mr. Smith would find employment for him to play for the Ports, but this offer, he need hardly say, was refused. Again, to say that the action was deliberately planned for the purpose of prejudicing him in his Police Court case, and that Roy and Nosworthy, the two prosecutors, were willing to withdraw the information, but were "hounded down by men at the Port," was absurd and ridiculous, because the matter was purely a private one, and the Port Club neither planned nor advanced one penny for the prosecution of the Norwood players. In the interests of the game Mr. Smith and himself did all they could to have the case settled out of Court, and at their request very fair terms were offered to Mr. Woods, which, however, were refused. His action in the matter of Buchan was taken solely in the interests of football, and he trusted it would have the effect of making not only Mr. Roachock more careful in the future, but others whose unnecessary rough play had made them the subject of comment. He need not go into the subject of whether the Association had power to disqualify the man, but might point out that the Leader of Saturday last informed Its readers that Collins, of Geelong, was to be brought before the Victorian Association for his causing the dislocation of Stafford's shoulder in the Geelong v. Essendon match. This, if correct, proved that the Chairman of the S. A. Association was right in his ruling. The Norwoods emphasized the fact that Roachock was not allowed to defend himself. The delegates voted from what they saw. Had Roachock been at the meeting and denied the rough play it would have been adding insult to injury, because they had seen his action in the past, and no denial could alter it. He had given his defence on the ground. He was sorry the Norwoods brought the matter forward to try and prejudice them in the eyes of the public, but not one statement was in accordance with facts. It was also stated that Roy told his employer that he was so far compromised with his club that he could not withdraw from the case without its consent. Roy's employer had that day told him that the statement was untrue. Mr. Wedd, as his action in the matter had been referred to, would say that he was bound to vote on what he saw, and that alone.

Though Mr. Diamond stated that he saw the game, of course an umpire did not see everything. He only wished he had seen the occurrence, and how he missed the accident he did not know. Mr. T.G. Smith also entered into a full explanation in support of the Ports' action, and proposed—"That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded the playing members of the Port Club, who had won for it the premier position during the season." (Hear, hear.) Mr. E. Le Messurier seconded. Carried unanimously.

Football – Review of the 1884 Season, by Goalpost

The South Australian Register, Tuesday 30 September 1884, page 2 (supplement).

During the season difficulties have been experienced at times in the selection of field umpires, but towards the close a deal of jealousy and spite existed among players, more especially those in the Norwood and Port Clubs. As these disputes have so recently been enquired into, it is not my intention to refer to them again in this article. My idea is to impress forcibly upon the Association the desirability of paid umpires being appointed next season. Let it be the duty of these umpires to report to the committee themselves any unnecessary roughness or brutality in a match, and thus one club would not have a personal animus against another for bringing the matter forward. One thing is quite certain, i.e., until we follow the Victorian practice we shall never have satisfaction in this respect. Roachock was disqualified by the committee of the Association for rough play, and their decision has given rise to further trouble. The Norwoods, I think unwisely, have defied the committee and played Roachock in the last match of the season, against the North Adelaides. Whether any further action will be taken remains to be seen, but it is to be hoped that the matter will be settled amicably one way or the other before next year, or the crisis will be reached, and there is bound to be trouble.

The year was remarkable for the fact that it is the first season since the Norwood Club has joined the Association it has not come out top of the tree, that enviable position having been gained by the Ports. For some years past the "magentas" have been straining every nerve to gain this supremacy, and at last their efforts have been crowned with success. They have some brilliant players included in their twenty, and though the supporters of the "red-and blues" still cling to the idea that they are equal to vanquishing them, I am fully satisfied in my own mind that the Ports this season are the best team in the Association and that they have won their laurels honestly and fairly.

Of the individual players Cairns (Port) is the best we have in the colony. He is a splendid man back, being very reliable, and is of equal service forward, where his marking and kicking have gained for him his fame. Perhaps the best all-round man is Kellett, also of the Port club. He is a sure back, and always fellows splendidly, and one of few who plays the game as it should be. During the season I have watched him very closely, and numbers have much to learn from the cool gentlemanly demeanour he always exhibits on the field.

Waldron (Norwood) of course stands prominent among back men, and the others who have played in this part of the field who have distinguished themselves are Turpenny and Smith (Port), Watling and Rowley (SA), Bragge and Liston (Norwood), Taylor and Pleass (NA), and Turner (SP). Roachock (Norwood) was without doubt the best centre in the colony—in fact it would be hard to find many to beat him in any of the colonies. Turnbull (Port) and I. Mehrtens (SA), are also worthy of mention.

We have had some splendid followers, of whom Kirkpatrick and Coffee (Port), Woods and Roberts (Norwood), McIntyre and Middleton (South Adelaide), and Cullinan (South Park) are all in the front rank. The wing men have not been so good this year, but the most noticeable are Buchan and Read (Port) and Wilson (Norwood). Of the forwards Roy (Port) stands first, closely pressed by Hill (Norwood) and Bushell and Fry (South Adelaide).

(For Port), Turpenny has again filled the position of captain, and in addition has proved a useful half-back. The Ports' back was a very strong one, and it required a hard struggle to pass Cairns, Brooks, Slight, and Smith, the latter player on several occasions being conspicuous for some brilliant runs. Towards the close of the season Cairns played forward, and the change turned out a good one. Kirkpatrick, Kellett, Coffee, end, later on, Robertson have all followed well, while forward Roy has

proved very reliable, and kicked as many as 22 goals in Association matches. He has been fairly well supported by Litchfield. Turnbull was an effective centre, and Buchan and Read fine wing men.

(For Norwood), After holding the championship for six years the red-and-blues have to be content this time in taking second place along with the South Adelaides. They would have ranked above the latter had it not been for their unexpected defeat by the North Adelaides the other Saturday at Kensington, when the form exhibited by the ex-premiers was very so so. In fact, all through the season, the twenty has not played so well as previous years, and it must be admitted that they are not so strong.

Of course, every allowance is made for the improvement made by the other leading clubs, but the Norwoods have lacked that determination, energy, and unity which made them so famous in past years. Their brilliant exhibition against the Geelong team and the good fights they made against Melbourne and Carlton here and in Victoria are exceptions, but they have lost or dropped some of their best men, and this accounts for their secondary position.

In Waldron they possess one of the best men in South Australia, and he has been well supported by Liston, Bragge, and Burton. Roachock is the finest centre man in the colony, while Roberts and Woods are two followers very hard to beat. Hill has proved himself fairly reliable forward, while Letchford has kicked the most goals. Wilson was a good wing man, and Dixon, though streaky, was useful, while in Bertram the Norwoods found a player who is bound to make his mark.

1889 – The First Grand Final Match

The very first grand final to decide a premiership for a major competition took place on Saturday 5 October 1889, when Norwood and Port Adelaide faced off on the Adelaide Oval. Both teams had finished the season with 14 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw.

The South Australian Register, Saturday 5 October 1889, page 7.

For the first time in the history of South Australian football it has become necessary to play off for the premiership, and today on the Adelaide Oval the Norwoods - last year's premiers - and the Ports - the second team of 1888 - meet to wrestle for the much-coveted position.

Extraordinary interest has been excited in the match, and a huge sum of money is staked, the ports being slightly the favourites, especially among the smaller backers, but the Norwoods have a host of backers.

The clubs have met four times.....this season, the Norwoods winning two, losing one, while the other was drawn; but no inference as to today's game can be safely drawn from these results, as it is to be admitted on all hands that the Ports have considerably improved during the last few months, while the Norwoods lately have not been in such form as they were when they won two matches.

Mr. J.J. Trait, who is acknowledged to be the best umpire in Australia, will act in the match, and as he is specially known for his strong determination to put down rough play at all costs there is very little probability of the disgraceful play which characterised the last match between these clubs.

If the weather only keeps fine the attendance should be even greater than on the last occasion.

The Norwood team is slightly different to that which did battle for them before, and it has been somewhat improved by the substitution of McGrath, O. Bertram, and Roachock for Haldane, Honner

and McCarthy. On the other hand, the only alteration in the Ports' twenty is that Lowe takes Miller's place.

The chosen teams are:

NORWOOD: R.M. Bertram O. Bertram, Combe, Dixon, Daly, Guster, Grayson, Jackson, McKee, McGaffin, McGrath, Rawson, Roberts, Roachock, Shaw, Slattery, J.J. Woods, C.W. Woods, Wilson, Waldron

PORT ADELAIDE: A. Bushby, W. Bushby, Correll, Davis, Ewers, C. Fry, J. Fry, Gardiner, Hamilton, Hills, Kempster, Le Leu, Lowe, J. McKenzie, K. McKenzie, Miers, Phillips, Stephens, Tomlin, Webb

Special trains will leave the Port at 1.55pm and 2.08pm, in addition to the ordinary trains, and a special will leave town after the match, at 5.55pm.

The South Australian Register, Monday 7 October 1889, page 7.

THE DECIDING MATCH

NORWOOD AGAIN WINS THE PREMIERSHIP

The much talked-of match between the Norwoods and Ports for the premiership came off on the Adelaide Oval on Saturday afternoon. For weeks past both teams have been training assiduously, and they entered the field in the pink of condition. Both clubs were content to take level money, although some of the supporters - principally of the Ports - laid odds on, but when the game started the Norwoods were slightly the favourites.

The very strongest teams that could possibly be got together were selected, and the eastern club had the best combination they have had this season. Special trains from the Port brought up large numbers of spectators, and when the ball was set going there were quite 10,000 people on the ground. The official figures show that 7,227 paid, and the balance was made up of tickets. Both pavilions were crowded to their fullest extent. The members' reserve was also filled, and the mounds in front of the buildings were packed with people.

The Norwoods entered the field first, being received with applause, and then a loud cheer greeted Mr. J.J. Trait, the crack Australian umpire. The Ports were not long following, and from the cries that assailed them it was evident that their supporters had rallied in force. When the two teams took their places there was little to choose between them, and it is questionable whether ever before any two so evenly matched clubs had assembled on the Adelaide Oval.

The conditions for a good game could scarcely have been improved upon. The ground was in splendid trim, but a fairly strong wind blew across the ground towards the bridge. No delay was experienced in getting to work.

The Norwoods having secured the wind at six minutes past three, J. McKenzie sent the leather down towards the north goal, and from the very first both teams went into the game at a terrific pace.

All the first quarter the play had been terribly fast, every man doing good service. There was not the slightest difference between the teams, both of them giving a magnificent exhibition, the marking and kicking being perfect. At quarter time, the board showed Norwood 3.1; Port Adelaide 3.1

The Ports with the aid of the wind were the first to attack (during the second quarter), but Jackson warded off. Shaw and Roberts troubled the Ports' back line, and C. Woods receiving a free on the boundary from a very difficult angle made the Norwoods' goal total four.

On kicking off, some very bad attempts at marking by the Norwoods let in Gardiner, and he sent forward. Roberts, who was marking excellently, despatched back to the centre, but K. McKenzie with a long kick sent it forward again, and the ball went over to the gate, remaining on that wing for some time.

Ewers was prominent, and Kempster met all attacks. Combe and Daly kept the goal out of danger on their end, and then the Ports tried the other wing, and worked the ball across to the pavilion, where Stevens who was working very hard in the ruck showed up, and after the sphere had traversed the ground, Hills tried a shot, and the ball passed just outside the post. When the welcome spell came to the men, the figures on the board read Norwood 4.1; Port Adelaide 3.3

During the first half the wind had gradually shifted around, and was blowing across the gate. After the interval the Ports were the first to open aggressive tactics. The Ports put all their power into the play, and Gardiner finished up a nice run with a good kick. Hills placed in front of Le Leu, and a loud cheer announced that the totals were again equal. For a little the Ports prevailed, but the score was too dangerous for the Norwoods, and by a series of long marks they called upon the Ports to defend. When the final change took place the score was Norwoods 5.3; Port Adelaide 4.7

Aroused to still greater exertions by the loud cries of their supporters the teams went into work at a great pace. The Norwoods had evidently reserved themselves for a big attempt. Being bounced, a series of marks by Rawson, Daly and McGrath gave Shaw an opportunity, and the game looked all over as the ball went right up to the goal, but it fell short, and J. Fry secured. Taking it around the gate wing the Ports called upon the Norwoods to defend. Hamilton dispatched to Hills, who failed, and J. McKenzie had similar luck.

The Norwoods played wonderfully well together, their long marking being exceedingly good. They transferred the play to the Ports' end, where Webb defended. Sending it along the pavilion wing, Hills gave Phillips another chance, and he made amends for previous misses by equalising the score.

With time rapidly drawing on the teams were urged on by their supporters and the Norwoods made a gallant effort, while the Ports defended in equal style. The red team, however, seemed to have a little bit in hand, and by some good marking Waldron (left) forwarded to McGaffin, and his kick put the Norwoods a goal ahead.

Hamilton just previously was partly disabled by being seized by cramp. Resuming, the Norwoods again attacked and their combined play was too good for their opponents. In a scrimmage some distance from the goal C. Woods put his foot to the sphere and sent it between the uprights. The umpire thinking a Port man had kicked it did not give a decision, and nothing was registered.

By Mr. Trait's order the ball was kicked off from behind, and then some hot play ensued in the Port's quarters. K. McKenzie got away from two Norwoods, but Roachock outwitted him. Rawson, Roberts and Guster kept the ball forward and Daly missed a running shot. Then O. Bertram also tried a running shot, and a loud cheer greeted another goal. With everything to gain the Ports started off again, but before anything serious had eventuated, the bell pealed out, and the great contest was over, leaving the Norwood team premiers of 1889. The correct score was Norwood 7.4; Port Adelaide 5.9.

There is little doubt that taking the play right through the better team won. Although the Ports had the larger number of behinds, goal kicking is a most important factor in the game, and the magenta team failed in this respect, while many of their shots were from impossible distances. With the single exception of when Carlton beat Norwood in 1887, the game was the finest contest ever seen here.

In the first quarter the play was truly magnificent; not a mark was missed or a chance between the teams, but the Norwoods lasted a trifle better, and their last charge proved irresistible. For the first time this season the Norwoods beat their opponents in the ruck. It is impossible to say who played best, as fully fifteen men on each side were really brilliant, whilst all the others did good service.

After the match was over many of the Norwoods' supporters went to the dressing room, and Waldron, the captain, was greeted with ringing cheers. Mr. Trait was similarly complimented, and he was personally thanked by the club. Bushby, the Ports' captain, on behalf of his team thanked Mr. Trait for the admirable way he had conducted his duties. The Norwoods then gave three cheers for the Ports and their captain.

Analysis of the Game

	Norwood	Port Adelaide
Kicks for goal	11	16
Marks made	85	79
Running shots	4	1
Free marks received	19	22
Ball Ups	9	
Out of Bounds	101	

The Legacy

Norwood was faced with something it had never before had to face – a season without winning the premiership. In contrast, Port was tasting something it had never tasted before – a premiership victory. In subsequent years Norwood and Port won five of the seven premierships between 1885 and 1891, including playing one another in the first ever grand final, in 1889.

Matches between the two clubs drew the biggest crowds each season. Extra train and tram services were put on when the two clubs met, to cater for the large crowds attending these games.

The **Norwood-Port Adelaide rivalry** is one of Australian Football's oldest and most intense rivalries. Together Port Adelaide and Norwood have won virtually half of all the South Australian National Football League (SANFL) premierships since the founding of the competition in 1877.

The Williams - Gallagher Cup:

The Cup, named after two prominent football families of each club – was initiated in 1991. The Williams family represent Port Adelaide, and the Gallagher family represent Norwood.

Mick Gallagher and his brother Jim were the foundation members of the famous Norwood football dynasty, playing together in the same team in 1898. Mick had previously represented South Adelaide between 1893 and 1895 when that team was the most formidable in the SA Football Association competition.

Mick's brother Martin and his wife Mary were the parents of seven children, including Kevin (Sam).

Sam played 131 games for Norwood between 1945-1955, winning 3 premierships in that time. He is a member of the Norwood Hall of Fame and the Norwood Team of the Century.

'Sam' and his wife Shirley in turn raised Norwood captain Philip, players John and Martin, Damian, father of another Norwood captain James, and Anne, mother of AFL, Central District and Norwood player Martin McKinnon.

Phillip Gallagher played 292 games for Norwood from 1973-1986, winning four premierships. He was captain in 1981-82 and like his father, is a member of the Norwood Hall of Fame and the Norwood Team of the Century.

James Gallagher played 228 league games for Norwood from 1999-2012, winning premierships at u/19, reserves and league levels. He captained the club for five years from 2007-2011 and also played 38 AFL games for the Adelaide Football Club between 2001-2004.

Fos Williams is a legend in South Australian football. He turned the proud Port Adelaide Football Club into a power in Australian football. Nine premierships from 16 grand finals from the day the West Adelaide rover arrived at Alberton in 1950 has Williams stand as the patriarch of Port Adelaide. He had three brothers who also played league football - Frank, Glynn and Alec Williams. Frank played with Port Adelaide, Glynn played for West Adelaide and Sturt whilst Alec played predominantly for Sturt with a single season at South Fremantle in 1940.

Fos' four children all had successful sports careers. Son Mark Williams played 380 games of league football for West Adelaide and Port Adelaide in the SANFL, and Collingwood and Brisbane in the VFL, and coached the Australian Football League's Port Adelaide Football Club for twelve years, including its first premiership in 2004. Anthony Williams (Mark's twin, died 1988) also played for West Adelaide and Port Adelaide. Youngest son Stephen Williams played 268 games and coached eight seasons for Port Adelaide in the SANFL, winning nine premierships as player and coach. Daughter Jenny Williams represented Australia in several sports, but was best noted as a lacrosse player.

Of the long-standing rivalry between Norwood and Port Adelaide, Stephen Williams says that "it was always that strong rivalry and it always meant that bit more to Port supporters to beat Norwood. There's no question about them being the blue bloods from the eastern suburbs against the working class down at Alberton. Similarly, Phil Gallagher says that "I've never hated them, though, playing against them was the benchmark and you always needed to play well. I had a healthy respect for them."

Stephen Williams (left) and Phil Gallagher (right).



Williams - Gallagher Cup Winners

Norwood: 16 -1993, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018.

Port: 12 – 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2006, 2007, 2016, 2017, 2019.

The trophy was not contested in 2020 owing to Port's absence from the SANFL competition due to COVID-19 impacts on the AFL. Port Adelaide are the current holders of the Cup having won it back in 2019.



SKETCHES AT THE FOOTBALL MATCH—PORTS VERSUS NORWOOD.

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State Library Catalogue Reference B 9024. Photo of the Freemasons’ Hotel, cnr Pirie Street and Freemason’s Lane, Adelaide, c. 1895.

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