



Presenting the thoughts of a legendary Recorder editor

THE next two weeks will feature some history of the Port and Solomontown Football Clubs written by Cecil Murn who captained Proprietary to the 1922 premiership and who was editor of The Recorder.

This is part of the story he wrote on the 50 years of St Mark's and Port Football Club":

"A nice sort of so-and-so you turned out to be!" was Herb Bronnick's greeting one day last week.

The president of Port Football Club was probably referring to my absence from the golden jubilee celebrations of his club- something I was really sorry to have missed.

It was a graceful action on the part of the club, through Joe Lambert, to say to me:

You have been connected to the game for so long that we should like to see you there."

But, as circumstances ordained, I was on the road back from Whyalla at about the time when the assemblage would have been about to call it a night. What a great night missed!

They returned

On Sunday morning, a knock came at the home door, and outside stood a somewhat careworn Jack Hocking. The former secretary of the local league seemed to be carrying it all right, and remarked that he had a whale of a time at the reunion the previous night.

And out in the street was the stocky, debonair figure of Billy Noal, who seems to have discovered the secret of perpetual youth.

To me he looked the same "Wonaka" with whom we used to try to measure tactics about 37 years ago. He knew all the tricks, that chunky skipper.

Originals

Considering that half a century had passed since the green and whites first ran on the field in the Pirie Churches Football Association, it was something of an

achievement to have three of the "originals" back in the club's present ornate hall - Jack Hocking, Leo Zubrinich, and "Brocky" Brown. Leo is the only one of those three who still claims residency here.

They entered the team skippered by George Wilson when this town was skippered by George Wilson when this town was in the throes of the famous 1909 lockout, when Tom Mann was more in the limelight than were the footballers.

But they battled along in good style and laid the foundations for our present-day game.

It was a case of the old triangle, with St Mark's, St Paul's, and Baptist-Methodist Combined. The greens, of course, won the first premiership.

I was not about the place then, but I have discovered from old records that the late and picturesque Charlie Hayter, later secretary of Port Adelaide Club, umpired the first match of the 1909 series in which Ern ("Screw") Johnson was one of the big stars, with Baptist-Methodist.

Selected team

I have not the time to sit down for a day and think out the 18 men who in my opinion were, farther back than 10 years ago, the best that ever played in the green and white. But to stir up a bit of friendly argument I will stick out my neck and nominate the following:-

Bill Noal, Joe Lukeman, George Jobson, Reg Conole, Henry Willis, Len Sandery, Ivan Davey, Leo Tessiere, Jack Brady, "Naish" Ellis, Max Baker (as custodian), Mick Zubrinich, George Ferbuson, Percy Baker, Paddy Tobin, Bill ("Whisky") Ellis, Bert Zevan, and Jimmy Brown.

And just a final note: The nearest thing I have seen to the flying Reg Conole in the air is Graham Gunn, the present green and white "bird".