

The 1949 season saw the local star, Allan Johns reach the zenith of his brilliant career. A real club man, Johns was open handed out of his usual place to serve the needs of the team. Later he filled many administrative positions with success. Johns earned 5 caps against Yugoslavia and two caps for New South Wales.

In interdistrict games, the club had D. Wendt, E. Screen, D. Williams, J. Walker, A. Johns. D. Coote - a record that in the two games Adamstown provided the half back line.

In the State Cup, Adamstown qualified for the semi-final by beating in turn Dudley 6-1, Swansea Belmont 3-2, to go down to Leichhardt by 5 to 2 after a 4 all draw.

In the premiership semi-final, Adamstown lost to Wallsend by 4 to 3.

Appearances during 1949: E. Screen 28, C. Nicholls 28, R. Dunne 28, H. Knight 27, W. Walker 27, C. Newton 27, D. Wendt 25, D. Williams 24, A. Johns 23, D. Coote 20, C. Baker 18, W. Avery 10, J. Davidson 7, S. Clarke 5, R. Simons 4, J. Easson 1, J. Roach 1, R. Gallagher 1, D. Beave, 1, W. Gibson 1, J. Galliard 1, M. Gardiner 1.

Goalscorers were: J. Walker 61, A. Johns 20, C. Newton 19, H. Knight 12, R. Dunne 6, E. Screen 5, S. Clarke 1.

In 1950, the club was honoured when A. Johns and C. Nicholls were named in the national team to tour South Africa. Newcomers were Billie Holt, Max Hamilton and Richie Thomas.

Jock Walker had a good season with 40 goals.

In the State Cup, defeat came quickly when West Wallsend won 2 to 1.

In the State team in Queensland, the club had Knight, J. Walker, and C. Newton and D. Wendt selected.

In the interdistrict game, E. Screen, D. Wendt, H. Knight, C. Newton, D. Williams, and R. Dunne won selection.

Appearances for 1950 were - E. Screen 25, R. Dunne 25, C. Baker 24, C. Newton 24, D. Williams 23, J. Walker 23, H. Knight 23, J. Easson 22, D. Wendt 22, R. Holt 12, S. Clarke 12, C. Nicholls 6, J. Davidson 6, A. Johns 6, J. Smith 4, D. Coote 3, M. Hamilton 2, F. Wallbeai 2, J. Winterbine 2, J. Knight 1, R. Thomas 1, A. Porter 1, W. Alexander 1, D. Borne 1, G. Parr 1, R. Maxwell 1.

Goalscorers: J. Walker 40, C. Newton 17, H. Knight 8, R. Dunne 7, A. Johns 6, E. Screen 6, J. Smith 2, H. Wallbeai 2, M. Hamilton 1, S. Clarke 1, J. Easson 1.

The season 1951 was made a mile post in Soccer history by the coming of the English F.A. touring party.

The league race was back to the intercity basis.

Young players like Holt, Thomas, Hamilton, Dunne, Gallagher began to show their true worth. Goalie, Bill Mahoney came from Wallsend and Charlie Baker left the club while E. Screen made only limited appearances.

The league results were:

| | P | W | L | D | GF | GA | PTS. |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| HOME | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 32 | 20 | 15 |
| AWAY | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 35 | 33 | 12 |
| TOTAL | 26 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 67 | 53 | 27 |

The team never really settled down especially in away games. It was knocked out of the State Cup by Granville (3 nil) in first round. It won its way to the Daniels Cup Final by beating West Wallsend (5-2) East Lakes (2 to 1) but lost in the vital final to Wallsend by 3 to 2.

A. Johns played twice for New South Wales and once for the North. D. Wendt played once for New South Wales and twice for the North. Others to gain interdistrict caps were R. Holt, H. Knight, and Bill Mahoney.

Appearances: H. Knight 30, W. Mahoney 29, C. Nicholls 29, D. Williams 28, R. Holt 28, D. Wendt 28, C. Newton 19, R. Dunne 18, E. Screen 14, D. Coote 13, W. Walker 13, R. Thomas 13, M. Hamilton 13, H. McKenna 12, A. Johns 12, J. Davidson 10, R. Gallagher 7, G. Horne 5, Ron Robinson 2, E. Screen 1. Prior to the start of the 1952 season the management committee decided to strengthen their reserve grade (Rangers) by generous elevation of local juniors.

International, Doug Wendt went to Auburn while the veteran stalwart Ern "Smoke" Screen retired. Here we had a grand club-man, developed in a tough school, one who never shirked a tackle and never gave in. As a leader his genial smile did more than his tongue. The club thanked him for his great service and loyalty and anyone who played under him lived to respect his capabilities as a leader, player and friend.

Newcomers included Bill Mullins, Ray Dobbins, Kev. Knight, E. Fitzsimmons, R. Patterson, C. Bush.

The Rangers team that won through to lose the final to Mayfield was W. Avery, R. Paterson, J. Sullivan, E. Richards, M. Gardiner, E. Mitchell, M. Hamilton, A. Woodbine, K. Leddon, C. Newton, and others worth noting include J. Norman, B. Rutherford, R. Dobbins, A. Harris, K. Knight, C. Guest, A. McKenzie, C. Bush, K. Talbot.

Bill Mahoney won interstate caps v Victoria, v South Australia & Queensland in the Melbourne Carnival in June.

The senior team did not qualify for Premiership semi-finals its away record being poor. In the State Cup it went down to West Wallsend in 2nd round by 5 to 3.

The league record was :-

| | P | W | L | D | GF | GA | PTS. |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| HOME | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 11 | 14 |
| AWAY | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 28 | 27 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 56 | 38 | 23 |

In the Sundale Cup S.F. it lost to Cardiff by 2 to 1 while it went down to East Lakes in the final replay of the Daniels Cup. In the first meeting the scores were 3 all but the Lakesiders romped home by 5 to 2 in the second clash.

Wainstown's beaten eleven was -

W. Mahoney, W. Mullins, C. Nicholls, R. Thomas, R. Holt, D. Williams, R. Gallagher, M. Hamilton, K. Talbot, A. Johns, R. Robinson.

The appearances were C. Nicholls 24, R. Thomas 24, R. Gallagher 23, A. Johns 22, R. Holt 20, W. Mullins 20, W. Mahoney 18, R. Robinson 15, M. Hamilton 15, K. Talbot 14, C. Bush 12, R. Fitzsimmons 12, J. Walker 10, D. Williams 10, W. Avery 7, A. McKenzie 7, C. Newton 6, T. Wilkinson 5, R. Paterson 4, W. Harris 2, K. Leddon 1, B. Rutherford 1, R. Dobbins 1, K. Knight 1, C. Guest.

The Goalscorers were: A. Johns, 25, K. Talbot 10, J. Walker 9, R. Gallagher 8, M. Hamilton 6, R. Robinson 4, D. Williams 3, C. Nicholls 2, C. Newton 2, L. McKenzie 1,

In the interdistrict games, W. Mahoney, D. Williams, A. Johns secured honours. For the 1953 season, new players were C. Allanson, M. Huffa, E. Griffiths, T. Hogan, K. Davies but the season proved disappointing. The final goal scorer J. Walker disappeared from the scene and only played one game while Dave Williams, a hard-working half, left the code.

The real weakness was in attack where many players failed as strikers. A perusal of the figures for the league games indicates this. Only 2 away games and one home game were won. The full figures are:-

| | P | W | L | D | GF | GA | PTS. |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|----|------|
| HOME | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 7 |
| AWAY | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 26 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 18 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 32 | 44 | 12 |

When the final figures for 1952 were made public it was quite apparent that the old club had fallen on bad days and a spring cleaning was needed.

Appearances were: C. Nicholls 20, R. Holt 20, M. Huffa 19, R. Gallagher 17, C. Allanson 18, A. Johns 17, W. Mahoney 16, E. Griffiths 14, C. Bush 12, K. Hogan 11, W. Mullins 9, C. Newton 8, K. Davies 7, R. Thomas 5, J. Robson 5, W. Avery 4, R. Maxwell 3, K. Talbot 3, A. Kay 2, M. Hamilton 2, R. McGlasheen 2, S. Nicholls 2, R. Dobbins 1, J. Walker 1, A. Green 1, R. Robinson 1.

Goalscorers: R. Gallagher 9, A. Johns 7, C. Nicholls 4, M. Hogan 3, M. Huffa 2, E. Griffiths 2, J. Walker 1, R. Thomas 1, W. Mahoney 1, J. Robson 1, R. Robinson 1.

In some quarters criticism was levelled at the selectors for not promoting some of the best players of the Reserve Grade, which had a meritorious record. In 18 matches, it won 16, lost 1, drew 1 scoring 82 to 15 goals against and won the honours with a clear 4 points from West Wallsend. In the final the Rangers beat Wallsend Royals by 4 to 1 in a game which produced much better soccer than any of the senior games. The death of Bob Gardiner left a sad note on the season's activities.

The club claimed no success in the State Cup or Daniel Cup ties. Due to the administrative ability of the secretary, Mr. Les Morgan, the club launched out in a big move to form a separate club for the junior section of the club.

A group of keen observers in Ollie Bush, Ern Reynolds, Jack Cook and Les Morgan headed this progressive move.

The first separate organisation comprised President - Les

Teaching classes were begun and under Ollie Bush, the Under 10 years won the State Aged Championship.

What an achievement for at the end of its first year, the club had 32 under 10 years team competing. At the Annual Picnic and Presentation of trophies 365 pockets were presented - "one for each day of the year", as Les Morgan remarked.

The fight back was a difficult one for the club. The senior's finished 5th and were edged out of the semi-finals by Lake Macquarie. Warren Avery became regular goalie while C. Moore, J. Sullivan, W. Cook & Baartz, got their senior baptism.

The league record was:

| | P | W | L | D | GF | GA | PTS. |
|-------|----|---|---|---|----|----|------|
| HOME | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 25 | 21 | 10 |
| AWAY | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 27 | 20 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 52 | 41 | 20 |

In the State Cup, after beating Merewether 2 to 1 after 2 all out, it lost to Mayfield United by 4 to 1. Cardiff outed the 'Buds' in the Daniels Cup by 4 to 2 in the first round.

Honours were secured by A. Johns (National, State and District) M. Hamilton secured his first district cap. The Junior club showed significant progress for in 1954, it fielded 32 in Under 10, 5 in under 12, 4 in under 14, 3 in under 16, 3 in under 18 - a total of 47 teams - a Northern record.

Appearances for 1954 were:-

- 1. Allanson 24, M. Hamilton 24, A. Johns 24, R. Holt 22, W. Avery 20,
- 2. Sullivan 19, R. Thomas 17, J. Robson 16, E. Griffiths 13, R. Maxwell 11,
- 3. C. Newton 13, L. Carter 8, A. Green 8, M. Gardiner 7, C. Simms 7,
- 4. K. Davies 6, C. Moore 5, W. Cook 5, R. Patterson 3, V. Gleeson 2,
- 5. Broadbent 2, R. Gallagher 2, K. Leddon 1, Rob Baartz 1, K. Talbot 1,
- 6. W. Mullins 1.

The Reserves again won their title playing 18 games for 14 wins and scoring 60 goals against 27.

Goalscorers for the seniors were:

- 1. Johns 14, C. Newton 11, M. Hamilton 10, E. Griffiths 7, A. Green 7,
- 2. Ron Maxwell 3, T. Robson 3, R. Holt 2, R. Thomas 1, W. Cook 1.