

A casual complimentary comment by an enthusiastic football cleric was the seed which started the birth and growth of the Adamstown Rosebud Football Club.

Adamstown's inaugural secretary, Mr. Peter Finlayson later told of the importance of this incident.

"I had played a good game for Hamilton Athletic against Burwood United on Burwood Park (now Mitchell Park) - in fact, I scored the winning goal three minutes before the final whistle sounded.

The unexpected success of the Athletic caused more than ordinary excitement as the game ended.

As I walked towards the primitive iron dressing sheds, I ran into Rev. John Penman, who remarked, "Great goal, Peter - good win!"

"Thanks John," I replied and proceeded on my way - but the Rev. Penman spoke again, "Let's form a club at Adamstown for next season Peter. I have quite a few lads who need some healthy winter pastime and I am sure they will make good footballers. I'll give you half-a-sovereign to start it off", were his final words.

"To be truthful" continued Peter, "I had forgotten all about the suggestion, till on the following Wednesday afternoon, when walking down Glebe Road with the two Waugh brothers and my own two brothers, I saw several school kiddies booting a self-made football about on a vacant allotment. Then I mentioned the suggestion to them. We all agreed that it was a good idea as there were at least seven senior players from other established clubs living in the Adamstown area.

But we dilly-dallied when the 1889 season came that all recognised players had joined established teams where work was available. There was a recession in the coal trade and all mines were working only 4 or 5 shifts per fortnight. Perhaps this bread and butter issue prompted us to go with caution", concluded Peter.

But the Rev. Penman was a persistent person when planning sporting activities for local youths. He had established cricket and athletic clubs in three or four towns which fell under his control.

Penman again approached Finlayson and explained that he had a ready made champion goalkeeper in young Francis who had been offered a place in the Charlestown Association Club (National Code).

So Finlayson went home and made two large cardboard posters which read:

FORMATION FOOTBALL CLUB IN ADAMSTOWN (BRITISH ASSOCIATION). A MEETING
WILL BE HELD IN THE CRICKET SHED IN ADAMSTOWN PARK ON MONDAY, 12th
JULY, 1889.
ALL INVITED - YOUNG AND OLD - PLEASE COME & MAKE IT A SUCCESS!
P. FINLAYSON, CONVENOR.

One poster was placed in the bar of the Royal Standard Hotel and the other in the front window of Davis' Newsagency in Main Road, Adamstown.

The same day, Finlayson approached the local mayor, Alderman Tom Frith, who was so enthusiastic that he promised to chair the meeting and gave Peter three shillings to insert an advertisement in the Monday's issue of the "Newcastle Morning Herald".

There was talk and gossip on the street corners, pit tops and in the bars of the local pubs.

As the night approached, Peter was a little disappointed that he had failed in his effort to book the Carrington Hall for the occasion. When he did try to book it, he found that it had been booked for weeks for a benefit concert.

The Finlayson brothers had plenty to do beside worry about the outcome of their move. Peter borrowed three large hanging kerosene lamps from the Methodist Church, and several rows of wooden seats to accommodate 70 persons for that was the number anticipated.

After a beautiful Autumn Sunday, the advent of Monday brought overcast weather with leaden-grey skies blotting out the sun about five o'clock, a heavy storm hit the southern sector of the city. It rained consistently for well over 2 hours.

Talks of last minute postponement was out as far as Peter Finlayson was concerned and his final remarks were "It must go on. Remember things born in adversity often grow to great success".

Six stalwarts in the Finlayson brothers, the Waugh brothers and Bone were early arrivals to welcome allcomers.

First arrivals were Burwood 'United's secretary and captain, Dave Smart and his assistant secretary, Sam Gonge, both of whom faced the adverse weather conditions by cycling across the muddy back streets to give a helping hand.

By the time Alderman Alf Edden called "Order Gentlemen", there were 25 adults and the last comer was a teenage lad, Dinny Hamilton, a figure who was later to become 'The grand old man of the Rosebuds'.

Alderman Edden explained that he was acting as chairman for the Mayor of Adamstown, Alderman Tom Frith who had been summoned urgently to Sydney for a local government conference at which the new alignment proposals for Adamstown, Hamilton and New Lambton Councils would be discussed and finalised before they passed into the proposed act.

Years later, Dinny Hamilton gave a series of interviews with the writer about this vital meeting.

"Smart, who was a leading administrator, clever player and an excellent referee really got the club going. Smart was a tailor by profession and every thing was cut to order.

During his speech, the rain belted down with such force on the tin roof and sides that his Scotch brogue was often deadened by the noise but the meeting went on", said Dinny.

Smart's advice soon brought results and it was Peter Finlayson who moved, seconded by Scotty Waugh that we form the Adamstown Football Club to play the British Association game in the local Badge matches. This was carried and the first set of officials were elected:

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	The Mayor of Adamstown, Alderman T. Frith.
<u>VICE PRESIDENT:</u>	Alderman A. Edden.
<u>HON. SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Finlayson.
<u>HON. TREASURER:</u>	George Creig.
<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	W. Waugh, J. Waugh, Richie Finlayson, P. Inglis J. Bone, T. Carr, J. Embleton, W. Bird, J. Finlayson.

It was agreed that the playing colours be:
White shirt, with Blue sash 1½" in width from
left shoulder to right hip - dark trousers of
knee length.

Membership fees were fixed at 2/- per member but 1/- if
member was out of work.

At 10.15 p.m. a break in the storm caused the adjournment
of the meeting for four weeks; meeting to be held in Dickson's
Refreshment Rooms and the main business would be to finalise the full
name of the new club.

Alderman Edden's final remarks, "Get busy with your suggestions
for a suitable name".

THE NAME

As suggested by the Secretary and President, the August
General Meeting was primarily set aside to discuss the proposed name
for the Club. The secretary reported that the following names had
been submitted to him. Athletic, Central, Wanderers, Rangers, Albion,
The Pioneers, Rosebuds, West End, Advance and Thistles and Pirates.

Again, Dinny Hamilton provided the background for this selection.
Discussion lasted well over 2 hours and for a time it looked as if
no finality would be reached.

An Englishman named Eastman argued for the name of "Rosebud"
he criticised many of the names as too commonplace and "we need some-
thing original".

He pointed out that his name was attractive and used by his
cricket team, Lambton Rosebuds which was linked with a friendly society
Lambton Rosebud Lodge. There was also in Adamstown, a very strong
Juvenile Lodge called Adamstown Youthful Rosebuds. Thirdly, the
winners of last season's 2nd junior cricket competition was Islington
Rosebuds. Recently, in checking details, the writer read in the
newspaper files that the most popular brand of butter at that time
was called Rosebud Butter, packeted by the well known wholesale
grocery firm of J. Ireland & Co. of Newcastle.

Members present were given small pieces of paper and the name
of their choice was written on it. Counting showed that over 70%
favoured Rosebuds with Rangers, Pioneers and Advance next in that order.

In declaring the results of the ballot, the chairman, Alder-
man Frith remarked "I feel that we have made a wise choice and may
the Rosebud prosper."

Not so enthusiastic was the secretary, Peter Finlayson, who
wanted a name with a touch of Bonny Scotland remarked amidst laughter,
"We will give the buds to the forwards and the thorns to the backs".

Club matters began to happen so quickly that Secretary Fin-
layson called a committee meeting to clear the deck for the big August
meeting. The minute book tells of the following items:

1. It was left to secretary and his brother Richie to arrange
for the first practice match on the Adamstown Park as perm-
ission had been granted by the Adamstown Council to use the
ground. The officials of the Adamstown Cricket Club also
gave their approval and wished the new football club every
assistance and success.

2. The secretary was instructed to obtain price of set of 12
white shirts from Harry Steggle - mercer of Hunter Street,
Newcastle.

3. Goal posts to be purchased from Ellis Brothers Timber Mill and erected as soon as possible.
4. That the committee recommend to the General Meeting that only friendly matches be played during August and September but plans to be prepared immediately to enter two teams - senior and junior in the 1890 badge and Ellis Cup.
5. A donation of a practice ball from J. Gilchrist of Greta - accepted with thanks.
6. In his first report, the treasurer, G. Creig said that the following donations had been received:

Rev. John Penman 10/6, Mayor, T. Frith 10/-, Dr. Smith 10/-
 Alderman A. Edden 10/-, Dr. Harwood 10/-, William Lee (Town Clerk) 7/6, Alderman Sheedy 7/6, D. Smart 5/-, E. Davis 5/-, Alderman Thwaited 5/-, Peter Finlayson 5/-, Richie Finlayson 5/-.

Thirty years after that meeting, the writer asked Dinny Hamilton the following question - 'What do you now think about the choice of name?'

With characteristic logic, the 'Grand Old Man of the Club' replied "I feel that it was the best name discussed for 3 reasons -

1. Its originality.
2. Adamstown grew wonderful roses at the time and that was appropriate.
3. It was English and pleased many who had come from the coal mines in that land."

A week later, another committee meeting was needed to clear up the business.

Secretary reported that goal posts had been erected and general excitement prevailed.

Use of the playing pitch was granted for the annual mid-week match between teams from the Adamstown and Hamilton Fire Brigades.

A newly elected committeeman, Alf Filby suggested the formation of a schoolboys team and that every encouragement be given to local youths to take up the game.

Special motions of thanks were accorded the President and Secretary for their efforts especially Peter Finlayson who showed great organising ability and a real leader of men.

The September Committee meeting brought forth the following facts:

1. That the first practice match was between two local teams and over 50 players had participated.
2. The following Saturday, Adamstown Rosebuds met Hamilton Seconds and a 2 all draw was the result. Mr. Galloway of Burwood acted as referee.

The following were elected as the selection committee: Peter Finlayson, Peter Inglis and Richie Finlayson. Main duty was to secure two teams for the 1890 season.

A working bee of about 20 supporters had removed about 100 yards of ti-tree scrub from the Hamilton Commonage and to the north of the cricket boundary.

Local carrier, W.E. Talbot offered two loads of good soil to

Mr. Sam Marshall of Burwood - well known official and
reference - gave an instructive talk about the laws of the game and the
present developments in both England and Scotland.

The enthusiasm showed at the inaugural meeting of the club
had not diminished when the curtain fell on the season.

All efforts were directed to 1890.