

## CHAPTER 2.

To appreciate the achievement of these pioneers, it is necessary that the sporting background of the era be known.

There were 3 codes of football players in the North - Rugby Union Association Football, Aussie Rules and British Association (Soccer). Rigger dominated in the inner city area; Aussie Rules in Saltland, Waratah and Wallsend - Soccer in West Wallsend, Minmi and Wallsend. Soccer was at a disadvantage as a greater majority of its players were associated with the mining industry which worked on "back" Saturdays - badge matches being played fortnightly on "pay" weekends. Press publicity was poor due mainly to the lack of vision by soccer officials.

In the late 80's, Adamstown's only sporting interests were cricket, turf, handball and quoits; while athletics began several years before soccer.

The advent of oversea miners soon saw a pocket of Soccer enthusiasts in Adamstown - but to see badge matches they were forced to walk through the ti-tree scrub to Hamilton Athletic's ground or over Glebe Hill to Burwood United pitch near where St. Joseph's Convent now stands at the Junction.

Just prior to 1889, a new mine opened at South Burwood which was later called Dudleytown - shortened in 1890 to Dudley.

The club's 1st secretary, Peter Finlayson was a Scot from Lanarkshire. He migrated with his brother Richard in 1887. His third brother, John came here in 1885 and invited the family to come here - he wrote "I can get you jobs in mines, a game of football and a climate unrivalled in my travels".

As soon as the Finlaysons arrived they played Soccer with the Hamilton Athletic. The trio were Staunch churchmen and attended the Hamilton Presbyterian Church.

Later, Peter's fiancée, Miss Janet Burns came from Scotland to marry and settle down in Hamilton.

In the Month of June, 1890, Soccer activity in Adamstown was warming up and the first game of note was against Wallsend Rovers - conducted as a benefit for M.E. Baldwin, who suffered broken legs and an arm in an accident.

A goal in second half by P. Finlayson allowed Adamstown to win. The collection in hats totalled £2.15.1 which was given to the Baldwin Appeal. History was made on 12th July, 1890 when the following team represented Rosebuds v. Minmi Rangers - B. Francis, W. Waugh and J. Finlayson, J. Miller, T. Miller, J. Embleton, T. Carr, P. Finlayson, W. Bird, P. Inglis, G. Neilly. The game attracted 220 folk and Minmi were winners by 2 to nil. The referee was David Smart, the Burwood Captain - gate collection £3.15.6 mostly in copper and small silver coins.

Club President Tom Frith entertained both teams and predicted a bright future for the "Rosebuds".

The next badge match was at Hamilton V. the Athletic, which won by 2 to 1 with Inglis scoring Adamstown's 1st competition goal. The district selectors witnessed this game and one Adamstown defender, Peter Inglis was chosen in trial match. Next game Versus Minmi Rangers at Minmi was a big test. Adamstown's team was: B. Francis, W. Waugh, J. Finlayson, J. Embleton, S. Miller, J. Bone, W. Bird, G. Neilly, P. Finlayson, W. McLearnie, P. Inglis with Lynch, J. Waugh, Filby and R. Finlayson as reserves.

The Rosebuds and its band of supporters walked to Hamilton Railway, took trains to Hexham and then private train to Minni.

Soccer has made a noble start and the Rosebud Officials were elated and encouraged when the district delegates selected their ground for the Badge Final between Hamilton Athletic and Minni Rangers.

A crowd of 900 roared itself hoarse as a close game ended in Barwood's favour 1 to nil.

Club president, Tom Frith had invited the other 7 alderman, C. Edden, Tyson, Fairhall, Sheedy, Blackmore, Watson and Thwaites and the town clerk William Lee to watch the game from an improvised grandstand - tall horse lorry on which forms were placed. Of great interest were the comments of the Civic fathers at their next meeting.

Alderman Thwaites remarked, "It was an honour to our growing suburb to have the final. I was deeply impressed by the sporting attitude of the players and barrackers".

At Alderman Sheedy's suggestion a request was sent to the State Parliament for a grant of £100 to make the park more attractive for both summer as well as winter sport.

So the curtain fell on Adamstown's first competition season - no honours but increased prestige in playing and administration.