

The club was well established and the Annual Meeting held in the Royal Standard Hotel attracted 38 enthusiasts. At this meeting held on 10th January, 1891, the balance sheet revealed - income £52.11.8 and expenditure of £54.14.9 - a balance of £7.16.11 - a very creditable effort.

P. Finlayson (Secretary) in his report warned against complacency especially in team-building. "If we are to expand we need a winning team and a strong second eleven".

Other special items in his report :-

1. Better playing surface needed for cohesive play.
2. Need to brighten up uniform.
3. Need for better footballs.
4. Development of lower grades.

At the meeting, P. Finlayson, R. Finlayson and J. Filby were selected to a team's committee to enrol players.

Two outstanding captures were made - Arch. Jackson (father of the famous test cricketer) and his brother, James, who later went back to Scotland to become an established professional. "Scotty" Millar came from Wallsend while another clever Scot forward "Jockey" Stevenson crossed from Hamilton Athletics.

The selectors announced the first and second elevens as:-

FIRST P. Francis, A. Jackson, J. Clayton, W. Waugh, S. Miller, McBeth, J. Jackson, J. Stevenson, Muir, P. Inglis, G. Neilly, P. Finlayson, Dunbar, Edgerton, Martin, T. Carr, W. Bird.

SECOND J. Embleton, J. Waugh, T. Clayton, P. Lynch, Maxwell, Clarke, Filby, Jennings, J. Neilly, J. Finlayson, Wooten, Waugh.

Seven Badge matches were played and "Rosebuds" claimed a 1 to nil win over Hamilton Athletic and 3 all draw with Greta Bluebells. In the Ellis Cup K.O. Series Adamstown was beaten by Wallsend Rovers by 2 to nil in the semi-finals.

A bad recession in the coal industry and the bank crash affected Soccer in all ports in 1892.

The Annual Meeting held in Dickson's Refreshment Rooms on Thursday, 1st March, 1892, was not a very inspiring one. Income was £45.14.7 and expenditure £44.4.0 leaving only £1.10.7 in kitty. On the brighter side, the club's president Alderman T.C. Frith was elected President of the Northern District Football Association. The 1st eleven in 1893 comprised, Jack Neilly, W. Waugh, S. Nichols, T. Embleton, Jack Irish, Geo. Neilly, P. Finlayson, D. Jennings, A. Filby, D. Dunbar, J. Waugh, S. Bartley.

Of the 10 badge matches, Adamstown won 5, drew 2, lost 3. In a friendly match, it beat a Sydney XI (Burwood Forresters) by 5 to 2 while the 2nd graders won 7 of its 9 matches.

In the 1893 season, saw the 1st change in the club's secretaryship as G. Nicholls replaces P. Finlayson, who continued as Treasurer and G. Neilly as President. The balance was 9/9. Mr. P. Finlayson informed the meeting of his forthcoming marriage with Miss Janet Burns, who was arriving from Scotland.

Peter was praised by all sections of the community for his untiring efforts for sport, civic and church.

Alderman A. Edden described him as "A man of great interests and a very efficient administrator - a top grade footballer".

Soon after this meeting the two Finlayson brothers left for Western Australia in search of employment.

However, a brighter picture appeared when the famous English amateur international, Dr. Princeps joined the club. In 1892 Princeps had played one season in Sydney with Canterbury and become a big attraction in the capital. Princeps was called in an official history of England as, "The prince of dribblers".

A powerful athlete - he stood 5 ft. 11½ ins. and weighed 13st. 5lbs. He was a master of ball control, positional play, with a powerful shot in each boot. Tom Frith said later, "He was the 1st personality player in Newcastle Soccer and a real entertainer with the ball. I know him personally and he did much for the game here".*

Princep's scoring feats spread like a bush fire and crowds flocked to see him perform.

Princep's thrilled the spectators when he scored 5 successive goals against Carrington Black Watch. In the next round, he added a superb hat-trick at Greta, v Greta Bluebells - then 6 goals v Wallsend Rovers when the game ended in 6 all draw, for Princeps. burst the ball when he fired a powerful drive against the bar. Fans waited for the replay at Adamstown and the 1st thousand crowd at a club match saw even more dramatic happenings.

Wallsend using long passes took a 2 to nil lead at the interval.

Princeps had been cut out of the play by the stirring defence of S. Miller, J. McIlroy, W. Stein, J. Gilchrist who tackled like demons inspired. Within a minute after play resumed, Princep scored the equaliser when he snapped up a rebound after Waugh had crashed a free kick against the upright.

With 2 all and 5 minutes left play became hectic and the crowd roared its encouragement.

Wallsend attacked continually till Inglis slipped a pass to Princeps, still in his own half, the tall player summed up the position in a split second. Dribbling to the left, he evaded 6 defenders before he cut in and was ready to shoot at goals when an excited Wallsend barracker (about 20 years of age) careered on to the field and brought down Princeps with a well timed rugby tackle.

Pandemonium broke loose, and arguments galore resulted - but the tackler dashed into the ti-tree scrub and headed for Broadmeadow. Although chased by a dozen irate Adamstown enthusiasts, he evaded capture but later apologised for his act.

Referee Harry Brien also acted with a shrewd blast of the whistle and declared "Time was up" - 2 all draw. But for over 20 years Adamstown barrackers argued that there was still 2 minutes left for play. Many neutrals said that this episode was really the birth of the keen rivalry that exists when Adamstown plays Wallsend. Years later when the writer spoke to Mr. Filby, who lived in retirement at Kurri Kurri, the whole scene was reconstructed.

Filby said "It was the greatest club game in which I played. At the end, I had to sit down with emotion, but I did appreciate the words of old Bill Stein who said 'Bad Luck Rosebuds!'"

It was said that Princeps never really forgot the episode - but he had the desire to wander for fresh pastures.

Princeps wrote to club secretary, G. Nicholls from Brisbane -- in the letter he expressed his views on Northern Soccer - which were:

1. Better grounds needed so that the skilful art of dribbling can be mastered by local players.
2. More organised training by the team as a whole and not as individuals.
3. Development of youth elevens from 16 years to 20 years.
4. The standard of refereeing was very good.
5. The area was full of potential talent.
6. But better control of crowds was essential and he suggested roping off area.

The annual meeting for 1894 was held in the pavilion at the Park and saw Alderman A. Edden elected as President, John Maltman as Treasurer and G. Nichols as Secretary.

The membership roll stood at 61 but the bank balance was only £1.15.5. The playing strength of the team was improved during the season by the work of Secretary G. Nichols, who introduced a better scheme of training (or physical fitness). It may be noted that Nichols was a trainer of several of the North's professional runners.

In the Badge matches, Adamstown won 4, drew 1, lost 1 and finished level on 9 points with Minmi Thistles. A final was played and won by Adamstown by 2 to nil - final success being Embleton and W. Waugh - First Major Success!

In the Ellis Cup, K.O. series, Adamstown beat Minmi Rangers by 4 to 2 in the Semi-final. However, to achieve their 1st double, 3 hard games against Minmi Thistles were needed. In the 1st, a 1 all draw resulted Wilson scoring for the Rosebuds - in the replay Thistles won by 2 to 1 (Wilson again scored). However, a replay was ordered as the Thistles had included 2 Rangers players in their eleven.

In the replay on the Cricket Ground Adamstown played excellent Cup tie football to win by 3 to 1 - Lynch, Waugh and George being the scorers.

Scorers for all games during the season were: J. Waugh 7, C. Wilson 4, D. Wilson 3, George 3, Lynch 3, Blythe 2, Filby 2, Walsh 2, Dempsey 1, Martin 1.

So the Clubs first double achievement - due to Nicholl's insistence on regular training.