

The dual success of 1894 made Adamstown Rosebuds the talk of the Soccer World.

The Annual Meeting of 1895 was a very happy one and a record number of 71 members crowded the Municipal Chambers to hear Mr. G. Nichols present his annual report.

Officers elected were:

PRESIDENT: J. Embleton.
TREASURER: W. Waugh.
SECRETARY: G. Nichols.

The balance sheet revealed both record income and expenditure with a balance of £15.0.0.

The Secretary's report contained 2 recommendations of note:

1. That a Grand Ball be held to present the medals and trophies for the Badge series and the Ellis Cup.
2. That Adamstown enter a team in the Gardiner Cup or State Championship.

Before the meeting ended W. Waugh speaking for both officials and players moved that a Gold Medal be presented to G. Nichols at the Ball for his services both as Secretary and trainer. This was agreed on with prolonged acclamation.

The quest for the State title caused great enthusiasm among players, officials and supporters.

The Secretary contacted both Minmi and Wallsend re this Competition. Minmi decided to enter but there was apathy at Wallsend. Adamstown's entry was received and the team was drawn at home against Sydney Thistles - listed for 29th June, 1895.

Rumours were spread on several Pit-tops that four of Wallsend's star players had accepted an offer to play for Thistles.

The rules of the Gardiner Cup allowed players of any club not entered in the State championship, to offer their services to any club participating. It was said that several Sydney officials had invited Wallsend in mid-week and offered Arch Jackson, Jim Jackson, Lucky Miller and Jock Martin for £1.0.0 per game to play for the Sydneysiders.

There was so much press publicity about the tie that Mr. Banike of Granville was sent from Sydney to referee.

Perfect weather attracted over 2000 to the Adamstown ground, where ropes had been placed in position 5 yards from the touch lines to keep the crowd back.

Adamstown's XI for this historical match was:

L. Clayton, W. Waugh, J. Waugh, Simmons, Lynch, W. Wilson, Filby, George, A. Galloway, Martin, Embleton.

The appearance of the visitors caused quite a stir. Eggs and rotten fruit were thrown at the 4 Wallsenders and they were hooted every time they touched the ball.

There was a mighty roar in the 13th minute when Galloway with deft body swerve cut past Miller to score. This gave the "B" confidence and in the 19th minute...

control to weave his way past 5 defenders to make it 3 to nil at halftime.

The second half was scoreless despite the fact that Embleton and Miller received cautions for exchanging blows in midfield. The streets of the suburb were full of jubilation following the locals big win in their first Gardiner Cup tie - but on Wednesday it turned to anger and disgust when news from Sydney indicated that the State Association had declared it "no match".

A report from the State Secretary said that both Adamstown and Minmi Secretaries had failed to provide the referees with a list of all individual players. Hence the "outcry" of the 2 Northern contestants. Adamstown Club decided to appeal and sent its secretary, Mr. G. Nicholls to Sydney for a special meeting. He pointed out that the State Secretary was at error - not his club, as he had not forwarded the new conditions to clubs outside the Sydney area.

The executive listened to Nicholl's eloquent appeal and after 5 hours debate, decided to lift the disqualification.

However, matters did not end there, for at a full delegate meeting of Sydney clubs - it was decided that Adamstown and Minmi be disqualified for the season. This was a priceless piece of mal-administration, so often allied with Sydney Soccer.

It was reported that one Sydney club delegate remarked "We don't want the Newcastle Clubs in our cup games".

Both Adamstown and Minmi requested the return of the 36/- admission fee but this was refused.

These strange happenings - off the field of play - certainly had an adverse affect in the club games which followed.

In his report secretary G. Nichols stated "To do injustice is more disgraceful than to suffer it."

Alderman A. Edden in a letter to the daily press concluded a critical review of the State Association's action with the quotation:

"Nothing that lacks justice can be morally right".

Before the curtain closed in the North, Adamstown met Minmi Rangers in the Ellis Cup Final.

The first clash ended in a scoreless draw - the Rosebuds
It was -
Clayton, W. Waugh, J. Waugh, W. Wilson, Lynch, Simmons, George,
Embleton, Bailey, Martin, Galloway.

The crowd was estimated at 1100 on the old Cricket Ground.

The replay attracted 1540 and it again ended in a 1 all draw.

In this game, Filby and Jennings replaced Embleton and Bailey, Filby was the scorer.

The second replay was on the Rugby Union ground - as the handling code had completed its seasons fixtures and 2000 crowded around the arena to see Minmi run out winners by 3 to 2. Filby and George being Adamstown's scorers.

Despite the disappointment of this set-back, brighter clouds blew over the following week when Adamstown beat Wallsend in the Badge final by 2 to nil - Martin scoring both goals.

The contesting teams were:

ADAMSTOWN:

Clayton, J. Waugh, W. Waugh, P. Lynch, J. Jennings, J. Embleton, Bartley, Gillard, Martin, Filby and Galloway.

WALSSEND:

Duguid, A. Jackson, W. Harrison, Brooks, J. Jackson, Cherry, White, Prideau, J. Harrison, D. Jackson, J. Miller.

Over 2500 saw a hard but clear game. The combined Merewether and Adamstown Bands played selections during the afternoon.

Years later, the writer asked the referee H. Bryant about this final.

He remarked "What a sight, when I blew the final whistle - the bands played the tune, 'See the Conquering Heroes Come', as hundreds dashed across the open field to cheer their players. I have never seen a better defence than Clayton and the Waugh brothers - how they held the Reds in the second half was unbelievable". During this season, the club entered for the first time teams in the senior, second grade and juniors, the last mentioned being an innovation in the district.

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