

Difficult seas lay ahead both for the Adamstown Club and for the code generally.

Interest in the senior grade reached rock bottom and it was only the growth of the juniors that saved the code from total extinction. The moving "over the mountains" of miners to Heddon Greta, Kurri, Weston, Abermain, Neath and Cessnock soon saw the round game established there.

Senior players moved to gain promotion in the mining industry. Club organisation in the North was generally inefficient and quarrels among district officials did not improve matters.

At one stage a split did occur and two senior competitions were in full swing - one headquarters at Newcastle and the other at Wallsend. Both were weak and crowds dwindled in an amazing fashion.

State officials in Sydney completely ignored the North in its trouble. The harsh treatment handed out to Adamstown in 1896 still lingered in the minds of both sets of officials. The Sydney officials showed their parochial outlook when they limited entries in Gardiner Cup to the top four teams in the Metropolitan Premiership in 1903-04-05 seasons.

This was a hard body blow to clubs such as Adamstown, West Wallsend, Wallsend and Minmi who needed this interdistrict cup series to retain interest in the game in their localities.

A spirited attack by Adamstown leading official Dinny Hamilton brought country teams back into the Gardiner Cup in 1906.

"Rosebuds" won the Northern title by beating near rivals, Marewether Advance by 2 to 1 in the final.

In the first round of the Gardiner Cup, "Rosebuds" held Balmain to a 3 all draw in Sydney.

After the match, the game was listed for Adamstown but on the Monday night, the Sydney officials switched the tie back to Sydney.

Special preparations were well in hand by Secretary Hamilton but to Sydney went the replay.

Adamstown went down by 2 to 1 after a gruelling match in which goalie Elgy played like a Trojan, twice in 12 minutes he saved penalty kicks, with 5 minutes left Adamstown's whole eleven joined in the attack and a high cross was headed into the net by George - disallowed for hands!

So incensed were the crowd that an ugly scene was avoided when the referee signalled full time. The Sydney press roasted the official for his one-sided rulings - Balmain went into the second round.

Adamstown officials protested heatedly at the next meeting - the meeting ended abruptly to save a display of fisticuffs. There was dismay in the "Rosebud" camp ten days later when it was officially announced that the club would be barred from the 1907 series.

Adamstown official, C. George went to Sydney to protest against this 'harsh and unwarranted' penalty but was soon "gagged" and put out of the meeting. One Sydney sporting paper listened to George's bitter condemnation of the State officials.

The paper in its next issue wrote "Who do the State Executive think they are - Why are they in office - To kill Soccer not only in the Country areas but in Sydney itself?!"

"If their treatment of the "Rosebuds" Club is a yardstick of their achievements - then they have failed miserably and should vacate the job".

George fought back again and inserted a challenge in the next issue of the paper.

FOOTBALL

CHALLENGE

Adamstown Rosebuds Senior XI issues a challenge to any Senior XI in New South Wales for stake of £100.0.0 or more.

Neutral referee and neutral ground.

Extra time if necessary.

Signed
C.J. GEORGE.

A youthful Sydney official and schoolmaster, Steve Lynch appeared on the football scene and soon harmony was restored.

I must retrospect and make mention of local happenings in 1905 the year when local interest was kept alive with the "Rosebud" and "Shanrock" clashes.

In the badge semifinals, Rosebuds beat Merewether (5-0) while Shanrocks caused a major upset to K.O. Wallsend by 3 to 1.

Well, the all Adamstown final drew a crowd of 800 to see a real crowd pleaser.

Ten goals for 6d was the result - with Rosebuds getting home by 7 - 3.

Brolgy Elgy was the player of the match. Despite rough handling by the opposit on, it was his majestic defence that won the medals for the "Buds". His brother, "Brickie" was in goals for the opposition.

Perhaps the names of the teams are worth a place.

"ROSEBUDS"

Elgy, Nix, Doyle, Watt, George, Hamilton, S.Russell, D. Russell, Clarke, Maxwell, Jennings, W. Harris, Cameron, Bartley.

"SHANROCKS"

Elgy, Moore, Turpin, Jack Harrison, Tom Harrison, Waites, Sparkes, Roach, Neill, Bone, Gilpin, Jones, Beddow, Bailey, Seidercamp.

The 1907 season opened and a few wise heads around Bryant St. nominated a practically unknown team for the Gardiner Cup - just to beat the one eyed Sydney ban. The team was really Adamstown playing under new colours - that of Broadmeadow. The scheme succeeded for Broadmeadow brought the State Championship back to Newcastle.

Read through the names and you will see a strong Adamstown flavour about it - just 11 of 11 players were from Adamstown plus Broadmeadow officials.

The winning team was R. Elgy, J. Doyle, W. Harris, W. Maxwell

In the replay, T. Jones replaced S. Harris on the left wing.

Broadmeadow's sequence of cup wins included: Royal Navy 5 to nil. Woonoona 5 to 1, and in Senior final, beat Petersham 3 to 1 after, 1 all draw.

Scorers in the final were, Doyle, Maxwell and Russell.

Locally the 1908 senior season was disappointing with only 3 entries. After beating Cessnock by 3 to 1 in the semi-final, the "Rosebuds" were due to meet Broadmeadow Royal in the final. However, Broadmeadow forfeited and Adamstown concentrated on the Gardiner Cup. In the early rounds, it beat Woonoona (4 to nil) Ultimo (3 to 1) and played a 1 all draw with Pymont. Again the replay was played in Sydney and the "Rosebuds" were knocked out by Pymont by 1 to nil.

In the premierships only 2 Adamstown teams entered and the Rosebuds took the title.

In the Ellis Cup "Rosebuds" beat Broadmeadow by 1 to nil after a 2 all draw. In the final the "Rosebuds" beat Merewether by 3 to 2.

In the Gardiner Cup, Rosebuds beat Helensburgh by 4 to nil after a scoreless draw.

In the second round, it beat Sydney by 3 to nil and knocked Roselle out of the semi-final by 2 to 1.

The final was against old rivals, Pymont listed for Sydney. A titanic struggle, with Elgy the man of the match, ended in a scoreless draw.

In the replay on a rain soaked pitch Adamstown took out its first state title by 3 to 1 after 1 all at half-time. In extra time Maxwell gave the "Buds" the lead while A. Jennings put the issue beyond doubt with a second goal. State President, M. Wellore presented the cup to skipper, R. Elgy, who was chaired off the field for his superb display of keeping.

It was the "Rosebuds" greatest hour - the victory rekindled interest in the code in all parts of the North - so much so that in 1910 there were record entries namely, 5 in seniors, 5 in 2nd grade, 15 in 3rd grade, 16 in 4th grade, 10 in a Lodge competition, while 9 schools entered the Saturday morning competition.

In the senior final in 1910, "Rosebuds" beat Wallsend Royals by 2 to nil - the winning team comprised; Elgy, George, Wallwork, W. Harris, J. Watts, L. Warburton, D. Bone, N. Lee, W. Maxwell, D. Russell, S. Hopton, and W. Harris scored 2 goals.

In 1910, Adamstown won the second grade final by beating West Wallsend 1 to nil.

In 1911 saw the split in control and Adamstown ceased to play as a senior club. Elgy, Wallwork, Maxwell, Lee Price and Stewart joined Wallsend in a mass exodus.

A deputation from the State body in Sydney came North and persuaded the fractures to re-unite. Alderman A. Neale of Wallsend "chaired" the unity conference and won personal admiration for his interest and persuasive efforts.

There was renewed energy in the premierships of 1919 but Adamstown was beaten in the semi-final by Cessnock by 3 to 1 - the Coalfields went on to take the 1st premierships honours in soccer to that area.

In 1913, the "Rosebuds" did not enter a single team but many players rallied to stage a successful testimonial for player, W. "Skinner" Maxwell - one of the cleverest players to wear the club's colours.

Despite efforts by Dinny Hamilton and Elgy, the Rosebuds only entered 4th grade and Under 18 years teams.

Under Elgy, a strong junior team was moulded and contained Jack Dunne, Jack Strick, Dodger Winiwood, Adamthwaite, C. Lewis, Ben Turnbull, Joker Sneddon, Stan Bush, Frank Hayes, George Pollars, Tom Pease, Cocky Ryan, Charlie Nix and Arch Smith.

Sound coaching produced sound players.

In 1915 - war clouded interrupted usual competitions but the "Rosebuds" entered second grade, third grade, fourth grade and Under 18 years teams.

The second lost the final to Weston by 5 to 2.

However, the club had a blank in 1916-1917, the Merewether club took over soccer activities in the southern sector of the city.

In 1918, the senior team was resuscitated by Elgy and the following players were registered: Elgy, Smith, Myers, D. Williams, Anderson, Lake, Durrant, Nix, Hayes, Mitchell, F. Williams, Stewart, Davis, Wilks, Butterwell, Cunningham, Sneddon, Doyle.

The team was successful and beat West Wallsend in semi-final by 3 to 1 after a 1 all draw. In the final, Wallsend proved too good for the "Rosebuds" and won 4 to nil.

One of the club's lads in khaki, George Pollard won the Military Medal and a former club president, Major Hugh Connell won the Military Cross.

Later he returned to become a local member of Parliament.

For years, he always did the round ball game and in 1934, a Hugh Connell Memorial Shield was instituted for the Under 14 years State Championship.