

CHAPTER 7.

The coming of peace brought new life to all sporting activities and the return of the A.I.F. rekindled interest in Northern Soccer.

In 1919, senior entries produced a lively competition.

Adamstown entered the semi-finals to be beaten by Hamilton 3 to 1. The team in that match was Elgy, Lambert, Rushton, B. Myers, Cunningham, T. Patterson, P. Doyle, F. Hayes, T. Davis, W. Jones and Jack Dunne. Players Doyle, Jones and Hayes won interdistrict honours - it showed that a new generation of players was now graduating through the junior ranks.

The spirited leadership as Northern Secretary of Larry Tamlyn was infectious and club enthusiasm spread like wild fire. Senior Competition was the best ever. Adamstown line for 1920 included - A. Smith, J. Davis, F. Hayes, R. Pollock, A. Lambert, P. Doyle, D. McAlister, Myers, J. Cameron, Middleton, Patterson, H. Johns, C. Nix, T. Pease, J. Thorpe, R. Wilson.

In this season, Adamstown won great popularity on the training ground, the mecca for soccer elite. In fact the Gardiner Cup tie Adamstown V. Hamilton won the first senior game on this ground.

Wearing red and green, Adamstown lost by 3 to 2 to West Wallsend in a later tie. In the Premiership semi-final, Adamstown beat West Wallsend 4 to nil and later won the final against Wallsend. The winning Rosebud XI was Smith, J. Davies, Lambert, Pollock, Gregg, Doyle, W. Davies, Patterson, J. Cameron, Middleton, Robinson.

In the Gardiner Cup series, Adamstown, after a bye in the first round, lost to Minmi Rangers by 3 to nil.

Let's stop for a moment to notice that the great Brology Elgy passed from the playing scene. He was one of the club's greats - and for years he coached the local schools and Junior teams.

Elgy and the writer were keen opponents as school coaches. I got to know him quite well and interviewed him at least a dozen times on soccer's past.

It is my intention to now reproduce a letter which I received from him in my quest for knowledge of the game years ago.

He gave his opinion on Rosebuds best teams in 3 distant eras:

The 1921 season saw 9 senior teams in opposition.

Despite a sound team, Adamstown did not get among the honours. In the Gardiner Cup, it beat Weston 1 to nil but went down to Pymont by 1 to nil in the second round. In 1922, Adamstown missed the top 4 but its seconds won the title by beating Killingworth by 1 to nil in final. Players, P. Doyle, A. Lambert, A. White, J. Cameron won representative honours. In the Gardiner Cup, the "Rosebuds" beat Cessnock 3 to 1, Thirroul 4 to nil but went out to West Wallsend by 2 to 1 in the third round.

The 1923 season, saw the promotion of a really classy junior in Alex Cameron, whose later deeds would fill a book both as a player and administrator. Adamstown had a stabilised eleven which included A. Smith, J. Stewart, J. Beddow, P. Doyle, A. Lambert, L. Bailey, D. McAllister, D. Bush, J. Stewart, J. Cameron, A. Cameron, H. Johns, E. Wilson, D. Williams, G. Coates, E. Gilbert, J. Bush.

During this season, the clubs veteran secretary Dinny Hamilton notified the committee that he intended resigning as secretary. At the end of 1923 Dinny had completed 20 years of faithful service.

Dinny, however, carried on as a committeeman for years.

Several years later the club gave him a testimonial - when hundreds crowded into the local Hall to pay homage to an efficient official, a keen sportsman and above all a worthy citizen whose main love for years was Soccer. Speakers came from Sydney, South Coast, Cessnock, Kurri and Weston to pay tribute to this fine official, player, sportsman and gentleman.

The team's life in the Gardiner Cup was a short one being knocked out in first round by West Wallsend by 4 to 1.

In the Ellis Cup, Adamstown reversed this decision by beating the "Bluebells" by 1 to nil after a three all draw. However, in the final, Weston downed them by 3 to 2.

In 1924, Garvin Russell and A. Dunne, E. Bush were promoted from the juniors. The seniors entered the semi-final but went down by 2 to 1 to West Wallsend. In the Kerr Cup Semi-final, Adamstown beat Weston by 4 to nil but once again bared the knee to West Wallsend by 3 to 1 in the final.

In the Gardiner Cup - after beating Neath by 1 to nil, Adamstown went down to Kurri Kurri in the second round by 2 to 1.

The team had really become established as a potent force in Northern Soccer. Great deeds were accomplished in 1925 - when the team beat Kurri by 1 to nil in the Premiership Semifinal to lose to Cessnock by 2 to 1 in the final.

However, after beating Cessnock by 4 to nil, in the Kerr Cup Semifinal, the "Rosebuds" went on to brush Weston in the final by 9 to 2. The elevation of a solid defender in A. Harris gave the eleven a perfect balance.

But the greatest honour was the winning of the Gardiner Cup - its second success in the club's history. Adamstown's series of successes in this state title were - beat Granville 1 to nil, beat Neath 3 to 1, beat Corrimal 3 to 1, and beat Balgownie 2 to 1 (semi-final).

In the final V Cessnock at the Tramway Ground, the following players took the field; A. Smith, A. Harris, A. Lambert, L. Bailey, E. Bush, P. Doyle, H. Johns, A. Cameron, G. Russell, D. McAllister, A. Dunne - a team of "local grown products".

Adamstown led by 2 to nil at half-time and showed defensive strength to retain this lead to the end against a series of onslaughts. It was an animated scene when Mr. Andy Stirling presented the cup to the skipper, Peter Doyle.

In 1926, the team did very well but injuries to key players at crucial times did not help the team in its quest for honours. In the Premiership S.F. Adamstown fell to West Wallsend by 4 to 3. However, in the Kerr Cup S.F. it accounted for Weston by 5 to 2 and went on to lash old rivals, West Wallsend by 5 to nil.

In the Gardiner Cup, the team entered the final by beating Granville 9 to 1, Weston 6 to nil and in S.F. beat Holmesville by 3 to 2.

The final at Hobart Park produced another hectic struggle between old rivals, West Wallsend and Adamstown. The teams were locked together 1 all at half time. Only minutes before the end, G. James scored the winning goal for the "Blues" - a bitter blow to a fine "Rosebud" eleven, which perhaps deserved a better fate.

Season 1927, came with rumblings of discontent among players and constant mention of the State League. Adamstown entered the Premiership Final by beating Aberdare 3 to 2 after a 2 all draw. However, in the final they went down to Cessnock by 2 to nil. The great goalie, Arch Smith had retired and was missed but served the club in many capacities for many years.

In the Gardiner Cup, Adamstown once again fell to West Wallsend by 2 to nil in the second round.

However, Turnbull, Watt, Connelly won permanent places in the top club circle, a trio which later gave yeoman service to the "Buds".

Strange to relate the Rosebuds always found spirited opposition from West Wallsend. Every clash between these old rivals not only produced excellent soccer but a big enthusiastic crowd and rival barracking became the order of the day:

"Blue!" "Blue!" "Blue!"

with the counter call of:

"Town!" "Town!" "Town!"