

PERSONALITY PARADE.

1. ALEC "SANDY" CAMERON.
2. "DINNY" HAMILTON.
3. BOB "BROLGIE" ELGEY.
4. BOB GARDNER.
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8. "SKINNER" MAXWELL.
9. MAX TALBOT.
10. JACK RYAN.

NOTE TO READERS:

Practically all club records and official files before 1950 have been lost or destroyed.

To compile this history reference has been made to newspaper files now available.

Great care has been taken by the author to check details but there may be omissions.

Any reader with additional and authentic information please contact the Secretary, c/- 'Rosebud House' so any additions may be included in the next edition.

ALEC "SANDY" CAMERON

A galley poll among supporters would probably declare Cameron as "the greatest Rosebud of them all".

That is a high tribute but a worthy one to a grand sportsman, player, administrator and citizen.

Born in the North of England, he came here as a toddler and is really a 'local product'.

In all he has had association with the 'Buds' for over 50 years.

During his career, he won every representative honour from under 12 schoolboy to international.

He was born a footballer and efficiency and greater skill naturally came to him with experience. He was a ball artist who beat his opponents by sheer skill and brilliance.

He originated the 'quick burst' from the throw-in - which opened up avenues for many goals for his side. Cameron was never selfish - he used his skill to make goals for others.

His district and state caps were many. In the international field, he made his debut v China in 1927; v Czechoslovakia in 1927; v Caledonia in Noumea in 1933; v New Zealand in 1933; in New Zealand in 1936 - a total of 15 caps - An accident cut short his brilliant career.

Alec has also served the club as President - club delegate - State Director and State selector.

His father, Jake was club president for 2 years while his brother, Jim the club secretary for several years.

A great player - official and core is Alec Cameron - 'Town's Own'.

"DINNY" HAMILTON.

The phrase "the just lives by faith" sums up the football career of Dinny Hamilton who held the reins of secretary for 24 years.

The Rosebuds have never had a more faithful servant.

As an inquisitive youth, he attended the inaugural meeting of the club - later played lower grade soccer - rose to the senior ranks to win interdistrict honours.

On the field, he was a very versatile outside left, a quick burst of speed and remarkable ball control.

Years ago, soccer scribe Jim Black wrote in the 'Sydney Morning Herald', "...Hamilton is an artist - beat his defender by skill and trickery - his side step is the best I've seen - he should soon win his 1st interstate cap".

In the 1903 - 04 - 05 - 06, Hamilton completed 4 seasons without missing a match. Hamilton's ability to select from the seniors the best prospects for the seniors made him a superb talent scout for the 'Buds'. Within a few years he signed on Peter Doyle, Peter Lambert, Bob Pollock, Frank Hayes, Jim Beddow, Fido Stewart, Fido Stewart, Harold Johns, Alec Cameron, Garvin Russell, Allan Dunne, Jack Bush, Lawson Bailey, Alf Smith, Dave McAllister, Vin Turnbull, Tom Harris, Claude Watt, Nip Connelly and Billy Morgan - what an array of talent.

In 1950, the club honoured him with a testimonial dinner and hundreds gave him a wonderful ovation.

For years he was always on hand to serve the 'Buds' finally being their office programme seller.

Then in 1955, 'the grand old man' at the age of 84 years, passed the divide into everlasting silence.

BOB "BROLGIE" ELGEY.

Perhaps the greatest player produced by the club prior to World War I was Bob Elgey - a goalkeeping ace.

As a small youth fresh from Minmi, he watched the round all game and made up his mind to play.

And play he did, for in those far off days he won fame far and wide for his fearless goalkeeping.

For his inches, he was powerfully built and well he knew

He quickly became highly efficient in all keeping arts and won district and state honours only after 3 senior games.

So seriously did he regard his job as 'last line of defence' that he soon became the terror to forwards in close-goal struggles.

A Sydney critic called him "the leaping and clawing panther", for he virtually won game after game by his vigilance and skill.

In the days when goalkeepers were 'open targets' for all players, Elgey never flinched. He had punch in either fist to clear yards while his kicking was long and accurate.

Years ago in 1906, Elgey was the first Aussie to use the long throw in clearing his line.

He also excelled at handball and cricket.

Later after playing 289 games with several clubs he retired after World War I developed.

Later he coached hundreds of local juniors and schoolboys.

There must be still living quite a legion of these lads who used to say "Thanks Bro!"

BOB GARDNER.

After serving with the A.I.F. (World War I) Bob Gardner was not enough of soccer whilst overseas to realise its value as a team sport. On his return, he foresake his junior rugger yearning and joined the Adamstown Rosebuds. Soon his leadership was realised and he became Club President - a position which he held with distinction until his health forced his retirement. Bob lead the club in a period when the premiership competition became very keen and internal organization was a must. He was one of the founders of the soccer league in 1944, when the games control had fallen into bad days. A keen judge of a young player, he was directly instrumental in bringing to the club quite a galaxy of stars, who won fame at Adamstown Park. Personal bitterness never existed in Bob Gardner's day for he had that gift to get his co-workers to march in step for the advancement of the game. His 2 sons, Jack and Max were great soccer men while his only daughter, Joyce was once crowned the Soccer Queen of the North - helping to pour hundreds of pounds into the club when a financial crisis had developed.

Rob Gardner's deeds were great and many and he was one of the club's best presidents.

ALLAN JOHNS.

No. 5

What a great asset the Johns family have been to the Manstowm club - Allan, Harold and Doug.

First father, Harold won fame as a winger in the 1920's and won a place in the Newcastle XI v England in 1925.

But his son, Allan has left a greater name in the Club's history. He has served them for 32 years and more to come as a player, official and supporter.

Allan joined the club from the local school and Newcastle Junior High - where he became known as the 'greatest schoolboy player since Camcron'.

Playing through the junior ranks, he developed an elegant and graceful style which in time won him every honour possible - and like a true sportsman he now hopes to put back into the game some of his gifts.

He played seniors first in 1943 and made 310 senior appearances, when he retired in 1959.

Allan's first test honours came in 1948 v New Zealand. In New Zealand - 5 tests v Yugoslavia in 1949 - toured South Africa in 1950 with 4 appearances - played 2 tests v China in 1953 - he also played 18 games for the State and 15 for the North.

Since his retirement he has served terms as team's coach, selector, committeeman and president.

A truly great achievement!

GARVIN "MASSA" RUSSELL.

When a cove stays with a club for nearly 50 years he can be termed a "true blue". Such is 'Massa' Russell, one of the most striking forwards ever produced by the club.

Born at Dudley, he played soccer with the Adamstown School and later as a junior. As an Under 18 years player he scored over 50 goals in a season and was a real prospect. Promotion to the senior ranks did not alter his taste for goals - for goals wins matches.

In his senior career, he scored over 400 goals and played over 300 senior games.

He toured Java with the Australian team in 1931 while he also gained State caps and interdistrict honours.

Fiery on the field as in debate, he is a soccer fanatic and the round ball game is his religion.

Since retiring he has served the club in many jobs - team manager, vice-president, selector, committeeman and President of 'Rosebud House'.

If Massa Russell has a motto it must surely be 'Nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm'.

BILLY LEDDON.

No. 7

Few soccer centres have produced a footballing family as accomplished as the Leddons - the father of Billy was a player in his day and lived long enough to see four of his sons write their names with credit on Northern Soccer - Jack - Billy - Ken - Ron.

But of the quartette, Billy was the best crowd pleaser.

As a centre, his lack of inches did not deter his determination to score goals. Sharp as a needle with astute ball control, he lurked around the penalty area ever ready to pilot the pill into the net. When one reviews his results, he was definitely unlikely not to have won both State and International honours. In the depression years employment took him to Sydney but he was a happy fellow when he rejoined the "Rosebuds". He retired in 1945 with 130 senior appearances. When his playing days were over, he served the club and club as an administrator. For quite a period he was president, selector, manager and delegate. A self taught debater he argued with enthusiasm and always a friend of the players.

"SKINNER" MAXWELL.

Supporters of the red and green in the years before World War I never fail to sing the praises of W. "Skinner" Maxwell, whose footballing skill became proverbial.

A local product Maxwell entered the senior ranks in 1904. In 1905, he was chosen for the North v Metropolitan and was called 'the find of the season'.

His versatility was shown when in 1909, he played in four representative games in four different positions - right half, centre-half, left half and centre forward. He played against New Zealand and West Australia with great success.

But his greatest achievement was in the 1909 Gardiner Cup final replay v Pyrmont, Maxwell completely took charge in the last 12 minutes to score 2 goals - giving Adamstown a 3 to 1 win. A contemporary player, Bob Elgey described him 'Maxwell was a great player - a club man - whose never-say-die spirit was an asset to any team. His untimely death robbed the club and the code of a real champion.'

Within the short space of 5 years, Max Talbot has proved himself one of Soccer's outstanding administrators.

Although he played junior soccer with Mayfield and Adams-
before graduating into second Division with Whitebridge.

After retiring, he became Treasurer of the Adamstown Club.

Three years later, he became Secretary-Manager of Rosebud
and the Soccer Club when both clubs were amalgamated.

When he took over the year's profit was \$3510 and after
years effort this rose to \$26,056.

In 1968 he became Secretary of the Northern Federation and
revealed exceptional promotional field. He soon moved on to the
Australian Soccer Federation Council and has become the Nation's No.
keyman as far as the juniors. Only months ago the A.F.C. gave
the special task of assessing the needs and potential of the
juniors.

JACK RYAN.

During the past decade, Jack Ryan has proved himself a progressive leader for the club in the days when there was a switch from Association to Federation control.

Born at Adamstown he always had a love for the round ball game and played as a junior. Jack served with the R.A.A.F. during the second World War.

Jack's father was a former player and keen supporter of the Old Minmi Club when soccer reigned as King in that mining centre.

Jack joined the Adamstown club as a committeeman and gradually rose to the high position of Club President. Under his guidance the club adopted modern methods in training while more emphasis was placed on team coaching.

A keen debator at Federation meetings, Mr. Ryan has proved himself an asset to the club and to the game.
