

A HISTORY OF WINDSOR FOOTBALL CLUB 1891 – 1990.

INCORPORATING WINDSOR LEAGUES CLUB LTD 1973 - 1990

COMPILED BY MR. BARRY GREEN

The first report of football of any description being played at Windsor was recorded in the Windsor and Richmond Gazette on Saturday the 6th June 1891, and would have been played under the rules of Rugby Union. This is supported by a photograph, which is displayed in the Windsor League's Club to-day, the original supplied by Mrs. Stan Little of Richmond. The Players named in the Gazette are H. Hill Captain, C. Mortley, R. Stubbs, J. Chandler, W. Tout, W. Buckley, G. Hull, G. Freeman, C. Cornwell, J. Greaves, T. Eather, C. Rein, J. Murray, W. Dalton, F. Collinson, C. Hagger, J. Pender, A. Drew.

The Competition was the Sydney Rugby Union "Badge" Contest. McQuade Park was the home ground for Windsor, and other teams competing were as draw.

May	30 th 1891	Windsor	V	Waverley / Albion
June	6 th	Windsor	V	Parramatta Union
June	13 th	Windsor	V	Grosvenor
July	4 th	Willoughby	V	Windsor
July	11 th	Randwick Jnr's.	V	Windsor
July	18 th	Windsor	V	Leichhardt
July	15 th	Windsor	V	Manly Waratahs
August	1 st	Summer Hill Oaks	V	Windsor
August	15 th	Windsor	V	Ormonde Juniors

This last game against Balmain's Ormonde team erupted into an all in brawl between players and spectators alike and was brought to an end by police intervention (see report 22/8/1892).

The game continued to be played through to 1909, when 2 teams were fielded. These two teams being, "The Windsor District Football Club" and "The Windsor Wallabies". Some of the notable names to represent the teams were:

"The Windsor District Club" - B. Hall, W. Buttsworth, A. Eather, F. Dunn, R. Eather, P. Chandler, M. Mullinger, C. Liddle and K. Beveridge.

"The Windsor Wallabies" - T. Cambridge, F. Allen, P. Molloy, S. Cuppit, L. Cobcroft, T. Collison and O. Arnold.

In 1910 Windsor boasted at having 4 Clubs.

At the conclusion of the 1910 season a meeting was held to form a Rugby League Club, this became known as the Windsor District Football Club (the name continues to this day), to play in the newly formed "Western Districts Rugby League Competition".

A local report of, the 8th June 1912 season mentions a match being played against Richmond under Rugby League rules. Names mentioned were: R. Scholer, V. Masters, J. Hartigan, J. Chandler, B. Maguire, H. Buckton, O. Arnold, C. Gibson, R. Hall, S. Hudson, C. Slater, F. Molloy, F. O'Brien, H. O'Brien, C. Callaghan, L. Phillips, R. Allen, O. Farlow and T. Turnbull.

No records exist for 1913. However a local report from 17th April 1914 mentions a meeting at the "Fitzroy Hotel", where it was decided to reform the Windsor Football Club.

A committee was elected with Mr. Brinsley Hall M.L.A. being patron, and Mr. R.H. Judd President. The colours were to be Royal Blue with the clubs initials' on the left side. It was decided here to join "The City and Suburban Rugby League Competition" (Western Districts).

A further meeting was conducted in April 1914 at the "Railway Hotel" where a second club was formed, "The Newtown Waratahs (South Windsor) Football Club". Mr. Brinsley Hall M.L.A. was again elected Patron and Mr. H.J. Phillips President, and the new colours were all White with a Red Waratah on the left side.

The Colours of the Windsor District Football Club had to be changed to Royal Blue with a Green waistband so as not to clash with a previously registered club (unknown).

Mr. G.O'Cass the publican of the "Commercial Hotel" offered the use of his old billiard room to both clubs free of charge as a training gymnasium. These clubs later in 1914 decided to amalgamate – however several players from Newtown Waratahs refused to register with the Windsor District Club (name continues) and were known as "The Windsor Magpies".

No Play was competed during W.W.I 1915 – 1918, with the club again being reformed during 1920 and entering competitions in "The Western District Rugby League".

1922 appears to be Windsor's 1st major success as reported in "The Windsor and Richmond Gazette" of the 6th October 1922, when Windsor became the "B Grade Premiers", defeating Auburn 9 – 5 at "The Sydney Sports Ground". Windsor's, Dick Parnell, scoring all their points. One story I heard during a much later discussion was that Parnell was selected to play for Australia on his performances that season, however his name does not appear in ARL records.



Clearing the Leagues
Club Block by Tony Buckpit
Dozer supplied by JK Williams
August 1981



1923 was again a successful year with Windsor losing the final to Wentworthville 8 – 4, at Riverstone. Windsor's colours at this time were Black and White hoops. See Premiership photos, 1922 and 1923, taken outside Windsor Primary School.

The Flag (W.F.C.) was last seen by me during the 1960's and is thought to have been thrown out when the late Jack Kelly (a past secretary) was moved to a retirement home.

I have not been able to locate any records of the club during the 1930's. But it is well known that times were particularly hard with a general depression taking place and I feel that no competitions existed during W.W.2 1939 – 1945.

With the inclusion of Parramatta into 1st Division in 1947, Windsor moved from Western Districts Rugby League to Parramatta Junior League and again competed with varying success and dramas. During the 1961 season the club lost all its points while leading the competition, due to playing unregistered players (Joey's). All Sydney 1st Grade in this era was played on Saturdays with many of these players turning out for the junior clubs on the Sunday. Several Windsor Officials including the Secretary, Horrie Wayling were suspended for life.

Another good story of interest that I read in a Gazette report occurred during a match against Parramatta when Windsor was paired with Riverstone in the Parramatta Junior Rugby League.

Riverstone fielding the "A" Grade and Windsor the "A Reserve" grade team. Parramatta was undefeated and favoured strongly in the betting (which was then a popular sideline). Windsor defeated Parramatta and was hotly pursued to the dressing shed where they had to lock themselves in to escape the local crowd who were not happy with losing the game and their money. The Windsor players were only able to gain their freedom due to the intervention of Mr. Bill Teale of Riverstone, who at the time was a professional boxing champion.

Penrith Club entered 1st Division in 1967, with Windsor moving to the Penrith Junior Rugby League. It was here that Windsor achieved its first ever "A" Grade Premiership in 1969. The team was coached by Rod Paine and led by Windsor stalwart, Front Rower Bob Monahan. Windsor defeated Mt.Druit Ghost's 10 - 5 at Penrith Park. The team being:- Bob Monaghan, Keith Sunderland, Graham Hill, George Demattia, Kai George, Joe Power, Gary Medina, Gary Lee, Terry Glover, Col Ramm, Dennis Gavin, Bill Knobs, Dooley Main, Tony Twible, Gil France and Colin Venn.

Windsor again reached the 'A' Grade Grand Final in 1973 and for the first time in 80 years of competition against Richmond met them in the decider. Richmond won the match 10 – 8 in one of the very best games I ever saw. Windsor's team on this occasion was :- Robin Grove, Lance Stevens, Steve Jacek, Colin Tate, Ted McLeod, Garry Sanday, Gil France, Ross Coomber, Chris Walker, Vaughan Humphries, Dennis Gavin, Steve Morris, Brian Kennedy. This team was coached by Brian Norman with Bernie Boyle as President.

Windsor saw another change in 1974 when the club entered two teams into the Metropolitan Rugby League Competition while still fielding all teams in the Penrith Junior League from "A" Grade down to the under "7's". With Barry Green as President, the club performed strongly including premiership wins in 1974 and 1975 in 2nd Grade, under Captain/Coach Gilbert France, with a narrow loss in 1975 in 1st Grade under Captain/Coach Merv Heywood. This competition ceased to operate after 1976. Windsor found the expenses to operate at this level were just too demanding and returned to put all its efforts into competing in "The Penrith Junior Rugby League".

A great social atmosphere existed at the club in this era and annual presentation Balls had to be relocated from Windsor to Blacktown so as to cater for over 400 people.

It was during this period 1973/76 with ever increasing expenses that it was decided attempt to build a licensed club. At the AGM of Windsor Rugby League Football Club of the 12th December 1973, and after a public meeting, Windsor Leagues Club was formed with nine foundation directors were approved and appointed.

These directors were:- Ray Rawson, Pat Buttsworth, Terry Saunders, Harry Khouri, Bob Monaghan, Bill Stevens, Bernie Boyle, Rod Hinchey (Chairman) and Barry Green Deputy Chairman).

With the assistance of the Windsor Council, the Leagues Club Ltd., and the Windsor J.R.L.F.C, a decision was made to look for land to purchase so as these developments may take place. Council offered to construct the playing area at the present location at Rifle Range Road, and made available 2 acres of land adjacent for the amount of \$4000.00 for the Leagues club to purchase. As the Club had no funds a \$500.00 loan was obtained from the Football Club to become registered and to organise fund raising functions. The first of these was a Black Tie Gambling Function/ Dinner held at the Scheyville Army Barracks. The evening was a major success with enough money being raised to complete the land purchase and repay the Football Club. This was no mean feat in 1974.

Construction began on the playing complex and an application was made to the Australian Government for a grant under the "Red Scheme" for the construction funding of the dressing sheds and amenities block. This application was successful with a grant of almost \$40,000.00 being made available. Unemployed Labour was found and the project was controlled by Bob Monaghan (Builder), Barry Monaghan (Plumber), Barry Green (Electrical) and Harry Khouri (Accountant). The ground was opened in 1975 with a Sydney Metropolitan Cup game against The University of N.S.W.

During the years 1975 – 1983 many functions and fund raising events were conducted. However the club was having a problem with our original licensing advisor in getting into the court system. On advice, a decision was made to join "The Registered Leagues Club's Association", and upon our acceptance into the group at a meeting at North Sydney Leagues Club we received almost instant success in this avenue.

In 1980 new legal representatives were appointed, we had advice from the N.S.W. police Superintendant of licensing, our books and membership records were submitted, and a date of hearing was granted. After a short hearing at Windsor Court House a conditional licence was granted, which required an annual renewal. Now the hard work began.

The board decided that to raise the funds required a Debenture Issue should commence. This direction proved quite successful, and really "Took Off" when Member, Mr. Dick Woods invested the substantial amount of \$10,000.00, which created great confidence in the clubs future.

During 1983, the then Secretary Barry Green located a Steel Portal Building Frame the size required by our plans, approx 30 x 18 meters for \$25,000.00. This building had previously been the Streets Ice Cream factory at Alexandria and was due for demolition. The Secretary negotiated and purchased the frame for \$5000.00 which included the dismantling and loading onto our transport for delivery to Windsor. Final building approval was received and work got under way with the assistance from Volunteer Members and local sub-contractors when required.



Windsor Complex
1st Game on new oval
-v- Uni of NSW



After more than twelve years of hard working boards the Windsor Leagues Club opened for business on Thursday 3rd April 1986 for an “unofficial trial run” at the bar was Eddie Mendham with volunteers Eiren Green and Leanne Gallon. The official opening was conducted by Chairman Malcolm Frost and Executive Director of the Australian Rugby Leagues Mr. Ken Arthurson on Saturday the 19th April 1986 (a plaque is in the Club’s entry foyer).

!988 saw the last premiership win for Windsor “A” Grade in my time with a strong 24 – 12 win over St. Mary’s. Windsor’s team was:- Gary Wolf, Jamie Pannowitz, Neil Wolfe, Ken Wolfe, Tim Lemon, John Perry, Danny Gough, Val Debono (Captain), Grant Muscat, Peter Horne, R. May, J. Hurst, A. Horne, D. Flood, Andrew Dunn, with coach Ron Coskerie.

Windsor “C” Grade were Premiers of Western Districts Rugby League in 1934 (see photo) with the only other appearance of a “C” grade team in a grand final in 1971, with Windsor coached by Jack Sanday, being defeated by Blacktown Workers.

The derivation of the term “**WINDSOR WOLVES**”

This was first used in 1972 when growing numbers of junior players made it necessary to register 2 teams in the under 11years age group. The 1st division team was coached by senior player and school teacher Jack Sanday and the 3rd division team was coached by Colin Marsh. So as to distinguish between these teams, the 1st Division team came up with the term “The Windsor Wolves”,

and included players Tony Bice, Clayton Norman, Neville Jacket, Darryl Shearer and Mark Shelley. The Emblem was designed by Ross Shearer.

The Term Wolves, was not used widely until the amalgamation of the Windsor Junior Rugby league Football Club and the Windsor Leagues Club Ltd., during the 1990's and was then adopted by all teams and the club generally.



Windsor Complex
from George St
May 1988

Original Bar
and Premiership
Trophies
1988

