

SOCCER

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Mr. Harry Minns,
750 Gilbert Road,
Richmond, B.C.

Interviewed October 27, 1973.

At 17 years old, first played soccer, 41 years ago, when he was in school. The league then came under organization of the Richmond Athletic Club.

There were 5 teams under Richmond Athletic Club, site of present day Minoru Pavilion. These were Brighthouse, East Richmond, Delta, Ladner and one other.

This league played in Greater Vancouver Athletic Soccer Association. At that time Harry was a spare. The league played Powell Street grounds and at Cambie Street grounds, Vancouver. They played against a Chinese team, and a city police team.

Richmond players he remembers on one team are:

Horace Hampson
Rod Ashcroft
Stan Licorish
Ed London
Charlie McCullough
Charlie McNaught
Jack Trevors

Playing on another team were:

The May boys
Jack Hunter
Stan Licorish also played second team.

When eventually the team went into the Vancouver Association, Jim Mulholland, an Old Country coach did the coaching. Harry was a spare then.

In pre - WW2 Richmond soccer personnel lined their own fields. Turn out to watch was good. Location of original field was Old Brighthouse Park. In social connection: odd dance held through the winter at Cambie Gym, through arrangement of Richmond Athletic Club. Membership in the Club was 25 cents a piece at one time.

Sponsor for the team was Brackman Kerr Feed Co.

There were gravel pitches at the Powell Street and Cambie Street grounds, Vancouver.

Soccer was played at school then in Richmond. Harry recalls playing against teachers at Bridgeport School. He remembers the old style soccer boots, laced high up the ankles with cork studs in the bottom.

After WW2 Dennis Hedges asked him to coach a Richmond team.

Harry was posted to physical training when he joined the Canadian Army. He organized soccer when stationed on the west coast. He played Victoria, also played in eastern Canada, and in Dundurn, Saskatchewan.

After WW2 in Richmond.

Dennis was a top goal keeper in Vancouver, Senior Soccer Division 3. Harry then became trainer and manager in Richmond. Then Jim Carpenter came in as trainer. John Bealey was playing coach then with the team. Soccer names at that time included: Jack Hampson, John Bealey, Dennis Hedges, Gordy Warren, Joe Paller and Bud Thornton.

Harry was interested in taping up his own ankles, knees and wrists when playing, took an interest in First Aid, enrolled in medallion course of St. John's Ambulance Society, Vancouver. He gained the reputation as "miles of tape" man. He was often called on weekends to either tape players or advise.

One incident he recalls is where a player Gordie Warren would never play unless Harry taped his ankles. Then he felt comfortable. Harry thought taping had a psychological effect. He taped fractures and some serious injuries to handle cases until they could reach Vancouver General Hospital. No hospital then in Richmond. Players then were a hardy type.

Harry was with soccer and lacrosse for a long time. When hockey started here eight years ago, Harry became involved with it as coach, trainer.

His interest: in sport was to help others in some way, but he was not interested in star role.

Callister Park: soccer championship played there Harry remembers. It was across from the old Exhibition Grounds on East Hastings. Mission was another place soccer teams from Richmond went, to play for the Pack-enham Cup.

Awards and plaques won by Harry are on exhibit in his living room. These include:

- 1968 - 69 Richmond Intermediate Hockey League plaque.
- 1970 First Richmond Review award as Sportsman of the Year.
- 1970 A Kiwanis plaque for Girls Softball as annual Sports award for outstanding contribution.
- 1971 Good Citizenship Award. A silver tray.
- 1971 RCMP silver engraved mug for his work as trainer in "all police" hockey team tournament.

At present, (1973) Harry is coaching 13 year olds in Division 4, soccer.

His son Dennis also has awards in hockey.